

Draft Seeds Bill, 2025

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Why in news?

The draft of the Seeds Bill, 2025, recently released by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

- The draft bill seeks to replace the existing **Seeds Act, 1966 & Seeds (Control) Order, 1983**.
- **Objective** - To regulate the quality, sale, import, and export of seeds; ensure availability of quality seeds to farmers; and promote private sector participation.

Key provisions

- **Mandatory Registration** - All seed varieties for sale must be registered, and all seed producers, processors, and dealers must also be registered and licensed to operate.
- **Quality Control** - It ensures that all seeds meet minimum standards for germination, purity, traits, and health as per **Indian Minimum Seed Certification Standards**.
- **Import & Innovation** - The Central Government can allow the import of unregistered seed varieties for **research & trial purposes** (such imports must meet specific conditions set by the government).
- Liberalized import norms to promote access to global seed varieties & technologies in India.
- **Implemented by** - It defines the constitution and roles of **Central & State Seeds Committees** to oversee implementation.
- **Validity** - The initial registration for a new seed variety is valid to encourage innovation -
 - **15 years** for annual and biennial crops.
 - **18 years** for long-duration perennial crops.
- **Penalties** - 3 categories of offenses -

- **Trivial** - Involve procedural lapses like delayed registration renewal; penalized with warnings or small fines to ease compliance.
- **Minor** - Include mislabeling or non-disclosure of seed data; attract moderate fines or suspension of registration.
- **Major** - Cover serious violations like selling spurious seeds or fraud; subject to heavy fines and possible imprisonment (maxi punishment - Fine up to Rs. 30 lakh, Jail term up to 3 years)
- **Deregulation** of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) - would **remove their sole authority** over approving crop variety trials, allowing other accredited entities to participate in the testing process.
- **Farmer Rights & Exemptions** - The Bill protects a farmer's right to save, use, exchange, or sell their own farm seeds **without registration**, provided they do not sell them under a brand name.
- **Appellate Authority** - The **Central Government** will establish **single or multi-person authorities** to handle appeals regarding disputes over licensing, registration, cancellation and potential compensation claims.
- **Compensation** - If seeds fail to perform as expected, a farmer can claim compensation, potentially through a new speedy dispute resolution mechanism.

References

1. [The Hindu | The Centre releases draft Seeds Bill, 2025](#)
2. [Indian Express | Centre releases draft Seeds Bill, 2025](#)