Seeds Act and Allied Regulations

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance*

Why in News?

Recently, the Government informed the Rajya Sabha about measures to regulate seed quality and prevent spurious seeds.

- **Aim –** To regulate seed quality, prevent sale of spurious/sub-standard seeds, and protect farmers' rights and traditional varieties.
- **Objectives –**
- Strengthen enforcement against fake seeds.
- Ensure traceability and transparency in the seed supply chain.
- Protect farmers' and traditional seed varieties.
- Promote availability of quality seeds at affordable prices.
- **Key Features –**

Domain	Aspects	Provisions
Enforcement and Regulation	Seed Inspectors	• State Governments can appoint Seed Inspectors to inspect seed outlets and draw samples.
	Enforcement Action	• Cancellation of licences, seizure of stocks, stop-sale orders and prosecution against violators.
Digital Traceability	***SATHI Portal***	• SATHI stands for Seed Authentication, Traceability and Holistic Inventory. • End-to-end digital traceability of seeds across the supply chain to prevent spurious seeds.
Farmers' Rights	Farm-saved Seeds	• Farmers have the right to save, use, sow, re-sow, exchange, share or sell their own farm-saved seeds.
Traditional Varieties Protection	Conservation Laws	• Provisions under the ***Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001 and the Biological Diversity Act, 2002,*** for conservation and sustainable use of traditional varieties.
Support under the National Food Security and Nutrition Mission (NFSNM)	Seed Subsidy	• Distribution at 50% cost.
	Production Incentives	• Rs. 1000/quintal (cereals & millets). • Rs. 2000/quintal (pulses & oilseeds).
	Community Seed Banks	• One-time assistance of Rs 50 lakh.

IP Protection & Incentives	Registration	• Farmers' varieties registered with IP protection.
	Awards	• Plant Genome Saviour Awards, Farmer Rewards and Recognitions.
	Financial Support	• Up to Rs. ***15 Lakh for conservation of traditional varieties from the National Gene Fund.***
Seed Business Regulation	Seed Dealer Licence	• Mandatory seed dealer licence under *Seeds (Control) Order, 1983.*
	Nursery Regulation	• Horticulture nurseries registered and regulated under State Nursery Acts.
Cotton Seed Price Control	Price Regulation	• *Cotton Seeds Price (Control) Order, 2015* fixes maximum sale prices of Bt. Cotton seeds are annually under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.
Research & Infrastructure	Financial Assistance	• Financial assistance to • Indian Council of Agricultural Research Institutes, • State Agriculture Universities Public sector for seed research and infrastructure.
	Variety Development	• Since 2014–2025-26, more than 3000 seed varieties have been released (2996 climate-resilient).
Affordable Seed Availability	Government Schemes	• Support for breeder seeds, quality seed distribution, and free minikits is given under - *National Food Security and Nutrition Mission,* - *National Mission on Edible Oils–Oilseeds* - *Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana*

Reference

PIB | Seeds Act and Allied Regulations

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