

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 | <u>SATHI Portal</u> | • 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 <u>Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001 and the Biological Diversity Act, 2002</u> , 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. |

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| IP Protection & Incentives | Registration | • Farmers' varieties registered with IP protection. |
| | Awards | • Plant Genome Saviour Awards, Farmer Rewards and Recognitions. |
| | Financial Support | • Up to Rs. <i>15 Lakh for conservation of traditional varieties from the National Gene Fund.</i> |
| Seed Business Regulation | Seed Dealer Licence | • Mandatory seed dealer licence under <i>Seeds (Control) Order, 1983.</i> |
| | Nursery Regulation | • Horticulture nurseries registered and regulated under State Nursery Acts. |
| Cotton Seed Price Control | Price Regulation | • <i>Cotton Seeds Price (Control) Order, 2015</i> 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 - <i>National Food Security and Nutrition Mission.</i> - <i>National Mission on Edible Oils-Oilseeds</i> - <i>Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana</i> |

Reference

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