

## 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  |
|---|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Enforcement and Regulation</b>   | Seed Inspectors            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State Governments can appoint Seed Inspectors to inspect seed outlets and draw samples.</li> </ul>   |
|   | Enforcement Action         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cancellation of licences, seizure of stocks, stop-sale orders and prosecution against violators.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Digital Traceability</b>   | <b><i>SATHI Portal</i></b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SATHI stands for Seed Authentication, Traceability and Holistic Inventory.</li> <li>• End-to-end digital traceability of seeds across the supply chain to prevent spurious seeds.</li> </ul>                     |
| <b>Farmers' Rights</b>  | Farm-saved Seeds           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farmers have the right to save, use, sow, re-sow, exchange, share or sell their own farm-saved seeds.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Traditional Varieties Protection</b>                                       | Conservation Laws          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provisions under the <b><i>Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001 and the Biological Diversity Act, 2002</i></b>, for conservation and sustainable use of traditional varieties.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Support under the National Food Security and Nutrition Mission (NFSNM)</b> | Seed Subsidy               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribution at 50% cost.</li> </ul>   |
|   | Production Incentives      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rs. 1000/quintal (cereals &amp; millets).</li> <li>• Rs. 2000/quintal (pulses &amp; oilseeds).</li> </ul>  |
|   | Community Seed Banks       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One-time assistance of Rs 50 lakh.</li> </ul>  |

|                                       |                      |   |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| <b>IP Protection &amp; Incentives</b> | Registration         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farmers' varieties registered with IP protection.</li> </ul>   |
|                                       | Awards               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plant Genome Saviour Awards, Farmer Rewards and Recognitions.</li> </ul>   |
|                                       | Financial Support    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to Rs. <b><u>15 Lakh for conservation of traditional varieties from the National Gene Fund.</u></b></li> </ul>  |
| <b>Seed Business Regulation</b>       | Seed Dealer Licence  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mandatory seed dealer licence under <i>Seeds (Control) Order, 1983</i>.</li> </ul>   |
|                                       | Nursery Regulation   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Horticulture nurseries registered and regulated under State Nursery Acts.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Cotton Seed Price Control</b>      | Price Regulation     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Cotton Seeds Price (Control) Order, 2015</i> fixes maximum sale prices of Bt. Cotton seeds are annually under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Research &amp; Infrastructure</b>  | Financial Assistance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial assistance to Indian Council of Agricultural Research Institutes,</li> <li>• State Agriculture Universities</li> <li>• Public sector for seed research and infrastructure.</li> </ul>  |
|                                       | Variety Development  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since 2014-2025-26, more than 3000 seed varieties have been released (2996 climate-resilient).</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Affordable Seed Availability</b>   | Government Schemes   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for breeder seeds, quality seed distribution, and free minikits is given under <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>National Food Security and Nutrition Mission</i>,</li> <li>- <i>National Mission on Edible Oils-Oilseeds</i></li> <li>- <i>Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

## Reference

[PIB | Seeds Act and Allied Regulations](#)