

SEED POLICY/INTERVENTIONS FOR RAINFED AGRICULTURE

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- Ensure adequate seed of good quality, in time, at reasonable cost.
- Strengthen seed saving of farm saved seed by training in better seed storage
 - Seed drying,
 - Moisture free storage
 - Pest control using both traditional and modern technologies

- Organize seed production in Seed Villages to multiply
- Foundation Seed
- Farmer vars. and seeds from PPB
- Produce cereal, oilseed, legume, vegetable, seeds

- Set up Seed Village networks across region to ensure enough planting material
- Access seed under NFSM.+NHM for multiplication

- Source and multiply planting material of special crops
 - Tubers & rhizomes
 - Golden sweet potato
 - Golden cassava,
 - Ginger, turmeric

- Establish participatory plant breeding programs
 - For locally adapted new crop varieties
 - Add farmer selections to seed repertoire

- Revive Coops/Farmer Groups/
Panchayat level organizations for
cleaning, grading and quality testing of
seeds from Seed Village
 - Establish SRI to raise yields of
traditional rice varieties with traits
like disease resistance, drought
tolerance ...

- Maintain Seed Banks + Grain Banks for rice credit /loans
- Set up rural godowns (under RKVY) for seed and grain storage

- Agro biodiversity Conservation and Use
 - Collection, characterization and scientific conservation of traditional crop varieties
 - Document farmer knowledge of crop varieties & IK of agric practices

- Characterize varieties according to standard descriptors so breeders can evaluate and use the material
- Conservation should be done scientifically so that the collection is viable germplasm, not a museum of interesting specimens

- Establish networks of community led Zero Energy Gene –Seed Banks in diversity rich regions
 - Low moisture storage
 - Ultradessication for ambient temp storage
 - Enable barter access to seed (1:3)

- Establish network of Fodder Banks
 - Seed of fodder grasses
 - Seed of green manure plants

- Multiply & Stock seed/planting material for contingency crops
 - For 2nd sowing (under drought and flood conditions) ,
 - Irregular monsoon pattern, early withdrawal...

- Registration of FV to claim rights and benefits under NGF/PPVFR
 - Research on trait/gene identification
 - Attach economic value to genes
 - Gene trading with benefits going to common farm fund ? NGF?

- Research facilities to screen genetic material of traditional crop varieties for desirable traits like disease resistance, drought , heat and salinity tolerance, high CO₂ concentration
- Special focus on traits for climate adaptation

- Evaluate commercial seed and its suitability for rainfed agriculture
 - Hybrid Rice – High input cost, High risk, uneven performance, loss of supplementary foods
 - Hybrid vegetables – better performance, lower risk

Evaluate Seed...

- Select seeds region wise for max local adaptation
- Evaluate GM seeds on suitability, safety, benefit to farmers
- Seed policy to favor true breeding varieties, not hybrids
- Hybrids only if HV is unambiguous

- Intervention on seed related policy
 - Seeds Bill
 - PPVFR
 - Seed Exchange Program, spp in Center of Origin

Policy Intervention

- Crop /Weather Insurance
- National Policy on Agriculture Credit
- **Cash for Cultivation** – Restructure subsidy fund for direct farmer payment

Put seed choice back in farmers' hands, to ensure well adapted seed and higher productivity