

Seeds

8.47 The National Seeds Policy 2001, provides the framework for growth of the Seed Sector. It seeks to provide the farmers with a wide range of superior quality seed varieties and planting materials. The production/distribution of certified/quality seeds since 1997-98 is given in Table 8.17.

8.48 The Seed Bank Scheme introduced in 1999-2000 with the basic objective of making available seeds for meeting any contingent requirement is currently implemented through National Seeds Corporation, State Farms Corporation of India and 12 State Seeds Corporations. During 2002-03, the Seed Bank had a physical target of maintaining over 133200 quintals of Certified Seeds and 9000

quintals of Foundation Seeds of various major crop varieties, besides 11,000 quintals of Certified Seeds for the North Eastern States.

Protection of plant varieties and farmers' rights legislation

8.49 The Protection of Plant Varieties & Farmers' Rights Legislation has been passed by the Parliament and Gazette notification has been issued. The objective of this Legislation is to provide an effective system for the Protection of Plant Varieties & Farmers' Rights which will also stimulate investment for research and development both in public and private sector for development of new plant varieties by ensuring appropriate returns on such investment.

Table 8.17 : Production and distribution of quality seeds

Type	Unit	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02*	2002-03**
Breeder Seed	Qtls	46,134	38,994	51,131	42,690	47,021	49,000
Foundation Seed	'000 Qtls	684	675	466	591	550	600
Certified Quality Seed Distribution	'000 Qtls	7,879	8,497	8,798	8,627	9,100	9,300
*Expected	**Target						
Source : Ministry of Agriculture.							