

Seed

29. Seed is a critical and basic input for attaining sustained growth in agricultural production. Certified/ quality seeds distributed to the farmers in 1996-97 was just about 7 million quintals, of which 6 million quintals were certified seeds.

30. Seed production is undertaken by a number of State and Central Government agencies. Though the private sector has begun to play a significant role in the production and distribution of

seeds particularly after the introduction of the New Seed policy of 1988, the organised seed sector particularly for food crops and cereals continues to be dominated by the public sector. Import of seeds and planting material is permitted subject to plant quarantine clearance in accordance with the provisions for Plant, Fruit and Seed (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 1989. Export of seed is liberally allowed except for certain categories of seeds and planting material .