

Seed and Seedling Production in Vegetables

Agriculture is a broad discipline which has many enterprises which have commercial applications like sericulture, apiary, dairy farm, poultry, vermicompost, mushroom cultivation, horticulture, and seed production. Seed production is an emerging enterprise which gives high returns per rupee investment. Seed production enterprise has the major activities like seed production, seed testing, seed processing, seed storage and seed marketing. Seed production is distinct from the crop production in terms of cultural operations, utilization, technological requirements and economics. Seed production involves the scientific production of seed right from selection of source of seed to harvesting. From the selection of seed from the source to the harvesting the seed production involves scientific principles which have to be strictly followed. Although, both public and private seed organizations in supplying quality seeds, only 25-30% of the total demand is met out. Remaining 65-70 per cent of seed used by farmers is farm saved seed which is of poor quality. The Government of India has fixed targets of seed replacement rate (SRR) for different crops to be achieved by the end of IIth Five-year Plan. To provide high-quality seed in adequate quantities to farmers and also to achieve the SRR targets, there is a need for entrepreneurship in seed sector.



Aim and Scope of the Seed Production Enterprise

A seed production enterprise should ensure timely and adequate amount of seed supply to the farmers. The enterprise should be aimed at rapid production and multiplication of the improved seeds so that farmers could benefit from the enterprise. The quality of the seed lot should also get ensured by the enterprise as it will affect the crop production into a certain limit. The enterprise will become more convenient if they can produce and market the seeds at a reasonable price which farmers can afford.