

GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPONENT “ESTABLISHMENT & MAINTENANCE OF SEED BANK”

The Establishment & Maintenance of Seed Bank, a Central Sector Scheme is being implemented by this Department from 1999-2000 onwards through the National Seeds Corporation, State Farms Corporation of India and State Seeds Corporations Viz. GSSC, APSSDC, WBSSC, UAS&TDC, UPSDC, MPSS&FDC, KSSC, MSSC, HSDC, PSSC, ASC, OSSC and RSSC. The Scheme is being continued during Tenth Plan period. The objective of the scheme is to meet requirement of seeds during natural calamities and unforeseen conditions. Under the scheme for maintenance of certified and foundation seeds of identified crops, grants are provided for meeting revolving funds, maintenance cost and price differential for left over seeds as non seed. Financial assistance is also provided for development of necessary infrastructure for storage as well as setting up of a data bank and information system for facilitating faster flow of information on the availability of seeds.

There is a need to identify drought prone or flood prone areas of the State and then to identify suitable crops and their varieties that may be taken up in those areas in those conditions like after floods or drought has been experienced. Only those appropriate varieties should be kept in the Seed Bank. Thus, the State Seed Corporations in consultation with SAUs and the Department of Agriculture should immediately identify a list of such varieties for the purpose of keeping in Seed Bank. The same should be forwarded to this Department for approval of the Steering Committee and for allotment of physical targets crop-wise/variety-wise for Kharif and Rabi seasons.

1. Maintenance of Foundation Seed :

i) State Farms Corporation of India (SFCI) will be the nodal agency for maintaining the targeted quantity of foundation seed of identified crops/variety for Seed Bank in association with the NSC and other participating State Seed

Corporations. Production of required quantity of foundation seed will be organised by SFCI in collaboration with NSC and other State Seed Corporations.

ii) The SFCI will collect indents for breeder seed of identified crop/varieties from participating Seed Corporations for production of required quantity of foundation seed and placing the consolidated indent with the Seed Division of DAC for supply of breeder seed. While placing the indent for breeder seed for production of foundation seed, the availability of foundation seed of identified crop/varieties with various participating Seed Corporations should also be taken into consideration.

iii) The foundation seed produced after multiplication of breeder seed should be stored and maintained by participating Seed Corporations under hygienic storage conditions. The SFCI will allocate the quantity of seed to be stored by each Seed Corporation keeping in view the storage capacity of each Seed Corporation and submit a detailed Corporation-wise seed storage position to the Seed Division of DAC and NSC for maintaining the information in the Data Bank.

iv) The Seeds Division of DAC will allocate the quantity of seed to be supplied from the Seed Bank at the price fixed by Steering Committee constituted under the scheme based on requirement placed by various agencies. The respective agencies after supply of seed will immediately inform the Seeds Division of DAC and Data Bank for regular updating information on availability of seed.

v) At the end of season, SFCI would review stock position about availability of seed in the Seed Bank and will send a proposal to Seeds Division for replenishing the stock or for disposing of unsold stock as the case may be as per the cut off date suggested.

2. Maintenance of Certified Seed :

(i) NSC will be the nodal agency for maintaining the targeted quantity of certified seed of identified crop/varieties in the Seed Bank in association with the SFCI and other participating State Seed Corporations.

- (ii) NSC will prepare year-wise proposal for the quantity of seed to be maintained in the Seed Bank as per targets along with financial implication and submit to Seed Division of DAC for approval. After approval, certified seed production programme will be distributed amongst the Seed Corporations by NSC for producing of required quantity of seed for Seed Bank.
- (iii) State Seed Corporation in consultation with SAUs and Directorate of Agriculture in the State shall identify the crop varieties/ hybrids to be kept in the Seed Bank in prescribed proforma (para) and send it to the NSC and the Seeds Divisions so that it is finalized by the Steering Committee at the start of the season.
- (iv) Supply of certified seed from the Seed Bank and review of seed stock position etc. will be regulated in terms of provision of para 1(iii), (iv) and (v) and will be monitored on internet/website connectivity provided under Data Bank & Information System.

3. Construction of Storage :

- (i) (a) The construction of seeds godown shall be as per the CPWD or State PWD specification or any other specification laid down in this behalf. The storage godown shall be properly ventilated, shall have well fitted doors, windows and ventilators and shall be waterproof (control of moisture from floor, walls and roof, etc.). (b) The seeds godown structure shall have protection from rodents (high pucca elevated platform with wooden staircase). (c) The seeds godown shall have protection from birds (windows/ventilators with jali). (d) The openings of the seeds godown such as doors, windows, etc. shall be designed in such a manner that the seeds godown can be sealed for effective fumigation, etc. (e) The seeds godown complex shall have an easy approach road, pucca internal roads, proper drainage, arrangements for easy loading and unloading of stocks.

(ii) Although sufficient funds have already been released to the participating Seed Corporations for construction of storage/godown and most of the godowns have been completed or are under construction to become ready and utilized by some of the Corporations. Still if participating Corporations require storage facilities for seed storage under Seed Bank scheme, they may submit their proposal to DAC for seeking assistance for construction of storage for maintaining the Seed Bank. It is to be noted that the recurring expenditure for running and maintenance of the seed godown will be the responsibility of the participating Corporation. Hence, proposals may be sent accordingly. Under the Scheme there is a provision of providing grant-in-aid for construction of godown. The proposal in this regard should justify the requirement of storage along with the capacity and expenditure to be incurred on construction of storage godown within the approved ceiling.

(iii) For construction of storage godowns of seed under this scheme maximum assistance would be available for Rs. 25.00 lakh for a godown of 12000 qtls. capacity. The implementing Corporations may split this capacity into smaller godowns for practical purposes even at different locations for maintaining seeds under the Seed Bank scheme. After submission of utilization certificate of the released amount the implementing agency may approach the Government for sanction of another godown if the need is still felt.

4. Setting up of Data Bank and Information System :

(i) NSC will be responsible for creation of centralized facilities for Data Bank and Information System on availability of seed stock under the scheme. NSC has developed a software for monitoring the availability of seeds under Seed Bank of participating Seed Corporations for operational purpose after successful demonstration before the representatives of the SSCs. All the seeds Corporations have been requested to utilize the software and update the seed stocks position under Seed Bank Scheme so as to make available all the information on the website/internet at the earliest.

(ii) Necessary funds have already been disbursed for strengthening of Data Bank & Information System and necessary infrastructural facilities are available

with all State Seed Corporations. Fresh proposals will be considered for strengthening and expansion, if required. Support would be given for purchase of computer and accessories including networking.

5. Reimbursement of Expenditure incurred for maintenance of Seed Bank :

Component-wise details of expenditure admissible for reimbursement of various sub-components of the Scheme are as under :

(i) Transportation Charges :

Transportation Charges will be involved in carrying seed from production centers to storage centres and from storage centre to distribution points. It is presumed that all the quantity of seed will involve transportation once the scheme comes in its full operation. Long distance transportation will involve in distribution of seeds to affected areas. Being an all India operation, it is presumed that the average distance where the seed will have to be transferred would be about 500-600 K.M. In addition loading and unloading would also be involved. Average rate of Rs.1.00 per ton per K.M. assumed to involve in the transport and accordingly provision of Rs. 50 per quintal has been made in the proposal for calculating cost of Scheme. However fund would be released to Seed Corporations on actual basis subject to the maximum limit of Rs.100/- quintal. In order to reduce the transportation cost participating Seed Corporation will be advised to maintain to be the extent possible reserve stock of seeds of local importance varieties for meeting near by demand.

(ii) Processing and packing :

Seed produced under this scheme is to be processed and packed in standard convenient size of packing. Depending on the nature of seeds the packing would involve cloth packing as well as big size packets of jute/HDPE. The cost of processing and packing has been taken on an average basis at the rate of Rs.100/- per quintal based on NSC's cost details. However funds will be released on actual expenditure basis subject to maximum limit of Rs. 100/- quintal.

(iii) Storage Charges :

Till the storage proposed to be created under the scheme are not constructed, the foundation and certified seed will be kept in the hired storage. The storage charges of Rs.8/- per quintal per month for a maximum period of six months or actual whichever is less would be paid to the participating organization for storing the seed.

(iv) Storage Losses :

It is presumed that some of the quantity of seed will be lost during sampling, storage etc. For general storage, CWC have permissibility of storage losses upto 0.5%. However, as seed will be stored under proper storage conditions it has been presumed that losses will be lower and may be around 0.25% of the total quantity. The funds under the scheme will be released on actual basis but the loss shall not exceed the maximum prescribed limit.

(v) Insurance charges :

State Seeds Corporations have been advised to insure their seed stock against natural calamity like fire, floods, earthquake with any of the Insurance agencies and reimbursement to the insurances charges will be made @ 0.5% of the value of seed or actual basis whichever is less subject to production of supporting documentry proof.

(vi) Price differential for undistributed quantity :

(i) Since seed kept in the Seed Bank will be sold to the nearby State/Organization at normal commercial rate, there may be no chance for any beneficiary organization to get extra benefit from Seed Bank. However, there are chances because of non-disposal of seed from Seed Bank, the category of seed may be required to be down graded by the concerned organization. This may result in loss to the Corporation.

(ii) It is estimated that approximately 10% quantity of planned quantity for the Seed Bank may be left undistributed. Disposal of the same will have to be made at the commercial grain price. The leftover foundation seed will also be downgraded. Funds would be released to the participating organization on

the basis of actual loss incurred by them on this account or 10% of the quantity of seeds kept during the year whichever is lesser.

(iii) Fund involvement under various operational sub-components are tentative and based on certain presumptions. However, the amount will be reimbursed on actual basis to various agencies based on the quantity involved under these components with these agencies according to above guidelines.. The funds would be kept in a separate Head of Account.

(iv) For the purpose of price differential in respect of the left over seeds stocks declared as non-seed, the Seed Analysis Report received from the concerned State Seed Certification Agency only in respect of failed lots are essentially to be attached as evidence of non seed while seeking approval of the failed lots for price differential.

6. Constitution of Steering Committee and Monitoring Cell in DAC :

A Steering Committee will be set-up in the DAC for overseeing the implementation of Seed Bank Scheme. The Steering Committee will decide the exact quantity of seed of various crops/varieties to be maintained in the Seed Bank on year to year basis. Sale price of the seed from the Seed Bank would also be fixed as decided by the Steering Committee.

7. Cut off dates :

The Cut off date in respect of Kharif and Rabi Season seeds are to be adhered strictly by the participating Seed Corporations. For Kharif season seed will be maintained in the Bank upto 31st July before which the participating Corporations will not be able to sell these seeds on their own and clearance from the DAC will be required. After 31st July, participating Corporations will be able to sell the seeds freely as per their commercial policies. Similarly Rabi seeds will be maintained in the Seeds Bank till 30th November before which the participating agencies will be able to dispose the seeds only after getting permission from the DAC. After 30th

November, participating Corporations will be able to sell their seeds freely as per their commercial policies.

8. **Submission of Bill** :

Efforts should be made to submit the bills under this scheme within the financial year itself. The bills for Kharif and Rabi should be submitted separately so that they are processed well in time and money released to the participating Corporations within the year itself. Efforts should be made to submit the bills for Kharif crops by 31st. August and for Rabi by 31st. December.