



What does the draft seeds Bill entail?

Published On: 26-11-2025

Background and Rationale

The original **Seeds Act, 1966**, was enacted during the Green Revolution when the public sector dominated seed development. India's seed sector has since evolved with the entry of the private sector, advancements in biotechnology (like Genetically Modified or GM seeds), and commercial seed processing.

The need for a new law stems from:

- **Modernizing Regulation:** The 1966 Act is inadequate to deal with new scientific and commercial realities, including hybrid and transgenic seeds.
- **Quality Assurance:** Ensuring the supply of high-quality, cutting-edge seeds to farmers to enhance productivity and profitability.
- **Protecting Farmers:** Curbing the sale of spurious or sub-standard seeds, which cause significant financial losses to farmers.

Key Provisions of the Draft Bill

Feature	Provision in Draft Seeds Bill
Registration of Varieties	All varieties of seeds for sale must be compulsorily registered and meet prescribed minimum standards (germination, genetic purity, etc.). Transgenic varieties require clearance under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 .
Central Seed Committee	The Bill provides for the reconstitution of a Central Seed Committee to implement the provisions and advise the government on seed policy and regulation.
Exemptions for Farmers	Farmers are exempted from compulsory registration for varieties developed by them and are allowed to sow, exchange, or sell their farm-saved seeds without meeting minimum prescribed standards. Crucially , they cannot sell

Feature	Provision in Draft Seeds Bill
	any seed under a brand name .
Price Control	The Central Government is empowered to fix prices of selected seed varieties in case of "emergent" situations like seed shortage, abnormal price increases, or monopolistic pricing.
Compensation	If a registered seed variety fails to give the expected performance under "given conditions," the farmer may claim compensation from the producer, dealer, or distributor, often under the Consumer Protection Act .
Registration of Stakeholders	Seed producers, processors, dealers, and fruit nurseries (in some drafts) must register with the relevant authorities.