

RKVY SRR project: A boon for farmers for seed availability at subsidized rate

Background & objectives

The seed is the basic and vital input to agricultural system and without which we cannot imagine existence of Agriculture. Next revolution in Indian agriculture to meet food and feed need of the country (Food Security Mission) very much depends on SEED as quality input in agriculture sector. Thus, in agriculture, seed sector is most thriving and has great scope of employment generation due to wider difference between demand and supply of quality seeds.

Groundnut, wheat, chickpea, sesame, pigeonpea, mungbean and urdbean *etc.* are the important major crops grown under the jurisdiction of Junagadh Agricultural University. In



Saurashtra, all these crops are having high volume and low profit nature and because of these, private companies are not producing the certified seeds of these crops. The certified seeds of these crops are generally produced by the public seed

enterprises. Thus, to achieve 33 per cent ideal Seed Replacement Rate (SRR) in all these crops, there is great scope of production and marketing of certified seed of above-mentioned crops due to wider gap of what is and what ought to be for certified seed in different crops. So, to increase the Seed Replacement Rate (SRR) in these crops, the project "RKVY-Seed Replacement Rate Enhancement" was submitted by Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh during 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20.

The project is intended to provide distribution subsidy to farmers who purchase seeds of different crops from the JAU, Junagadh. This may encourage the farmers to use high quality & authentic seeds instead of using own farm saved seeds. It may increase the SRR and ultimately production and productivity of the different crops will increase. JAU, Junagadh is the only the State Agricultural University at National level submitted this project under RKVY and distributing the subsidized seeds to the farmers with an objective to provide authentic & high quality Seeds of different crops to enhance production and productivity.

Achievements

Under this project, farmers of Gujarat in general and Saurashtra in particular got the direct benefit in terms of subsidy Rs. 11844090 (Rs. 3820950 during 2017-18 + Rs. 8023140 during 2018-19) + Rs. 4407240 during 2019-20 (up to 31 August, 2019), while purchasing the quality and authentic seeds of different notified varieties of important crops. Total of quality seeds of different stages (Foundation / Certified/ Truthful) sold (2002.23 Q in 2017-18 and

2114.84 Q in 2018-19) under this project by JAU, Junagadh during two years. During *khariif* 2019-20, certified seeds (1071.42 Q) of groundnut and pigeonpea seeds sold.

With regards to SRR, university contribution in percentage increase of SRR at state level



[0.01 (castor and mungbean) to 0.71 % (urdbean) during 2017-18 and 0.01 (castor) to 1.15 % (pigeonpea) during 2018-19] and in the university jurisdiction i.e. Saurashtra, it

was [0.01 (castor) to 2.17 % (urdbean) during 2017-18 and 0.01 (castor) to 5.10 % (pigeonpea) during 2018-19].

Outcomes

Farmers of Gujarat get the seeds at affordable price, which help in keeping price of seeds at reasonable level in the market including public and private sector. The project encouraged the farmers to procure fresh seeds, which increased SRR. Use of fresh quality seeds enhanced the production and productivity of different crops. Reduction in cost of seeds reduced the cost of cultivation and increased profit margin of farmers as well as their socio-economic status.