

## FOREWORD

The Government of India took a decision of far-reaching consequence in 1963 to set up an organisation in the public sector to organise the development of a sound seed industry in India. This was the National Seeds Corporation, which started functioning from July, 1963. In the initial stages, the primary responsibility of the Corporation was to serve as a foundation seed production, stocking and supply organisation of the released hybrids of maize. Later, hybrids of other crops namely sorghum and pearl millet (bajra) were added in the list and seed multiplication of high yielding strains of wheat and paddy was taken up besides seeds of selected vegetable varieties, fibre and fodder crops.

As the seed industry grew under the overall banner of the Corporation and progressive seed growers and seed producers in the private sector came to be associated with NSC in the seed multiplication programme, the disciplines of certification were maintained by the National Seeds Corporation alone. At this point of time, it was realised that taking into consideration the large seed requirements of India's farming community the seed industry could not be handled single handed by the National Seeds Corporation and there was need to establish a large number of seed producing and supplying organisations in the public as well as private sector.

Foreseeing this and to regulate the growing seed industry, the Government of India enacted the Seeds Act in the year 1966. The Seed Rules framed under the Seeds Act were notified in 1968. This took due care of the existing structure of the seed industry.

Based on the experience gained in the application of various provisions of the Seeds Act and the Rules made thereunder, and responding positively to the suggestions received by the Government from various concerned quarters, several amendments have been carried out in the Seeds Act and Rules from time to time. Apart from the Act and Rules and amendments thereto, the Government of India declared seeds as an essential commodity under the Essential Commodities Act 1955 (10 of 1955), and Seed (Control) Order was issued in December, 1983.

The Legislation on Seeds, with amendments so far issued, makes an interesting study since it gives in its own way a picture of the style of development of Indian seed industry. It was, however, not available so far in a compendium form.

It has been the policy of the Government of India and the National Seeds Corporation to make available literature on different aspects of seed industry and its development to serve the larger interests of the seed growers as well as the farming community. It has been my feeling that all the regulations relating to the seeds should be put together and published in the form of a manual for the guidance of all concerned.

I am happy that the manual entitled 'LEGISLATION ON SEEDS' bringing together all the seed regulations is being published by the National Seeds Corporation for and on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Government of India. I compliment the officials of the Seed Development Section of the Department of Agriculture, Government of India and the National Seeds Corporation for having done good work in compiling and producing this useful manual, the first of its type, for the benefit of the Indian seed industry.

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