

PADDY SEED PRODUCTION SCENARIO IN ODISHA

Prepared By:

Er. RADHESHYAM NAYAK

Partner cum- Head, Marketing & Productions



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Reasons behind operation of large number of seed producing agencies in Odisha:

- Paddy covers around 69 % of cultivated area in Odisha.
- Favorable climatic conditions for production of Paddy.
- Facility for marketing of Paddy Seeds by/ through Govt. Agencies like OSSC, OAIC etc.
- State Government subsidy towards establishment of Agro allied industries in Odisha, which extends up to 40% of the project cost excluding cost of land and limiting to a maximum of 50 lakh.

Does the number resulting in sufficient quality seed production?

The answer is NO...

1. The Seed Replacement Ratio (SRR) set by the Central Govt. is 35%. In Odisha it is only 20% till Kharif-2012.
2. As per the National Seed Standard(NSS)

1 KG. OF BREEDER SEED PRODUCES

FOUNDATION SEED		CERTIFIED SEED	
NSS	Odisha	NSS	Odisha
80 Kgs.	Less then half of NSS	6400 Kgs.	1600 kgs.

Does the number resulting in sufficient quality seed production?

3. Though the state has recorded 108 % increase in Seed Production over 12 years. Illustrated in Tables below.

Year	Total Seed Production(in lakh Quintal)	Year	Total Certified Seed Production (in %)
1999- 2000	2.14	2006-07	6.4
2010- 2011	4.45	2010 -11	17

The State Government had a target to supply 6 lakh Quintals of Seed to farmer's in Kharif- 2012, but they could only provide 4.88 lakh Quintals.

Reasons for the above:

1. The Seed producing agencies in Odisha does not have the right intentions to produce quality Seed.
2. The Odisha State Seed Certification Agency is not capable enough to inspect and ensure production of good quality Seed. They are lacking both in manpower and infrastructures.
3. Seed Growers and Producers are not educated enough to produce quality Seed.
4. Seed entrepreneurs are not willing to sale their product in open market & compete with other players. They just want to produce Seed(of any quality) and expecting the Govt. agencies to purchase those.
5. Seed producers are allowed to produce seed without proper infrastructures and Grading machineries installed. The certification agency and the State Govt. are also allowing them to operate with the same.

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6. The Subsidy release system in Odisha is not at all transparent. The farmer is not getting benefitted. Even some of the farmers are not aware about the subsidy they are getting from the Government, which is allowing the Seed producers to avail unjustified profit.
7. We are not maintaining Seed producing resources that we have. The state of the OSSC plant at Bargarh is an example of that.

What can be done to improve the situation.

1. We have to understand and enact.

“Seeds are not only Grains, instead they are the seed for the farmer’s prosperity.”

A whole season of a farmer gets ruined due to poor quality of Seed.

2. The State Seed Certification Agency has to be strengthened. There should be some efforts to get it recognized in National/ International level.

3. The Seed Growers and the producers need to be educated about the production of quality Seed.

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What can be done to improve the situation?

4. We need to strengthen the infrastructure for Seed production. There should be a more strengthened norm regarding the minimum infrastructure that a Producing Agency should have, to produce quality Seed.

5. **“Competition drives successful business.”**

We have to be extrovert.

Apart from just expecting the Govt. Agencies to procure our Seed, we should try to sale our products in open market, by producing high quality seed.

6. We need to have a more transparent system for releasing the subsidy towards Seed, to the farmer. The subsidy amount should be directly credited to the farmer's account. This will indirectly force the Producing Agencies to produce quality seed.

Thanks