



Federal Ministry
of Food
and Agriculture



Indo-German Cooperation: Seed Sector Development

Bilateral Cooperation Project

The Project

India's secure supply of agricultural products is increasingly becoming a challenge due to the continued growing population. Among other things, the decline in agricultural land per person and the increasing effects of climate change are clearly noticeable for the densely populated country. The availability of high-quality seeds and seedlings, which are adapted to the local environment, is of paramount importance. About 20 to 25% of productivity in crop production is determined by the seed used.

The project "Indo-German Cooperation on Seed Sector Development" has been dealing with this challenge since July 2013. During a first phase of the project, an expert dialogue at the national level was established with partners from the seed sector. As part of a second phase of the project (intensification phase), which started in January 2017, this expert dialogue continued and was extended with complementary activities to improve the production, certification, processing and storage of seeds in the southern Indian state of Telangana as a pilot region. Telangana has become a "seed hub" of India in recent years.

The current 3-year consolidation phase of the project (July 2019 to June 2022) builds on the achievements so far. The positive approaches from the cooperation so far are to be consolidated and extended in order to increase the impact and scope of the project.



Project Objectives and Fields of Action



The objective of the bilateral cooperation project is to strengthen the Indian seed sector and to consolidate cooperation. The improvement potential and fields of action regarding the legal and political framework conditions of the Indian seed sector that were identified in previous phases will be pursued further and additional measures for the production of quality seed will be carried out. Implementation of concrete approaches for optimization along the seed production chain will be carried out in Telangana and other selected federal states.

Topics of the expert dialogue are in particular: plant variety protection; seed production and trade, including seed certification, storage and processing of seeds; technical procedures for DUS testing (distinctness, uniformity and stability) of plant varieties and VCU testing (value for cultivation and use) as well as the latest methods of identifying plant varieties.

The project activities include:

- Consultation and technical training by German/international seed experts in India, including follow-up and post training activities to support application of advanced practices;
- Exchange of information through seminars, round table discussions, workshops and studies;
- Elaboration of information material on best practices in seed production and processing;
- Training and study tours for Indian experts in Germany /Europe.

Direct target groups of the exchange of expertise are representatives of Indian seed authorities as well as employees of seed certification offices, agricultural universities, representatives of state and private seed companies as well as their professional associations. These activities will benefit Indian farmers who use high-quality seed.

Project Partners and Cooperation

Political partners are the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare/Department of Agriculture and Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare (MoA/DAC&FW) in New Delhi. The Government of Telangana/Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (GoT/DAC) in the southern Indian state of Telangana is another significant supporter of the project.

The consortium charged with conducting this project consists of the Sortenförderungsgesellschaft mbH (SFG), ADT Project Consulting GmbH (ADT) and the German Plant Breeders' Association (BDP).

Partners in New Delhi are:

- Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPV&FRA)
- National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR)
- National Seed Association of India (NSAI)

Partners in the southern Indian state of Telangana are:

- Telangana State Seed & Organic Certification Authority (TSSOCA)
- Telangana State Seed Development Corporation Ltd. (TSSDC)
- Prof. Jayashankar State Agricultural University (PJTSAU)
- Seedsmen Association Hyderabad (SMA)

In Germany, the Federal Plant Variety Office (BSA), the Leibniz Institute for Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK), the German Plant Breeders' Association (BDP) and the University of Hohenheim are involved in the project.



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