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Indo-German Cooperation Seed Sector Development

Bilateral Cooperation Project

The Project

The availability of new plant varieties with characteristics such as increased yields, pest and disease resistance as well as adaptability to changing climatic conditions are key elements for a sustainable enhancement of agricultural productivity. Top-class, certified seed is contributing towards providing the population with food and also supplying high quality fodder.

However, farmers in India frequently lack access to high quality seed of improved varieties. Inadequate germination or seed purity can significantly reduce the quality of marketed seed. The conditions for the production and marketing of high quality seed thus need to be improved in order to strengthen the competitiveness of the seed sector. In addition, it is important to adapt varieties better to the conditions of the local agriculture.

The current two-year intensification phase (2017-2018) of the project “Indo-German Cooperation on Seed Sector Development” builds on the expert dialogue that has been conducted at the national level since July 2013. Selected pilot measures will be implemented in the southern Indian state of Telangana. Telangana is a semi-arid area. Favourable natural conditions (climate, soil etc.) make the region suitable for seed production. Currently, more than 400 seed companies are located in Telangana. The federal state of Telangana with its capital Hyderabad has developed into a “seed hub” of India.



Project Objectives and Fields of Action



The objective of the bilateral cooperation project on seed sector development is to identify and describe the potential for improving the politico-legal framework and for augmenting production, processing and marketing of high quality seeds in India. In the federal state of Telangana, the aim is to test concrete approaches for optimising all stages of the seed production chain.

In particular, the expert dialogue will deal with plant variety protection, seed marketing including certification of seeds as well as technical processes and methods for the registration and identification of seed varieties.

At the same time, the project will take the needs of the informal seed sector into consideration and promote the preservation and use of plant genetic resources.

Project activities include

- Consultation and technical training by German experts in India;
- Exchange of information and lessons learned through seminars, workshops and studies;
- Training and study tours of Indian experts to Germany.

Target groups for the exchange of expertise are in particular representatives of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority as well as staff of state seed examination and certification authorities, state agricultural universities, representatives of seed companies and their professional associations. These activities will benefit farmers who use quality Indian seed.

Project Partners and Cooperation

Political partners are the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare/Department of Agriculture, Co-operation and Farmers Welfare (MoAFW/DAC&FW) in New Delhi and the Government of Telangana/Department of Agriculture and Co-operation (GoT/DAC) in Hyderabad.

The consortium charged with conducting this project consists of the Sortenförderungsgesellschaft mbH (SFG; lead), the ADT Projekt 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 Seeds Development Corporation Ltd. (TSSDC)
- Prof. Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University (PJTSAU)
- Seedsmen Association Hyderabad

Other project partners in Germany include the Federal Plant Variety Office (BSA), the Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK), the German Plant Breeders' Association (BDP) and the Julius Kühn Institute (JKI).

