

Traditional Seeds

Livelihood Enhancement through Conservation, Multiplication and Marketing of Traditional Seeds Workshop

Kheti Virasat Mission

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by Dr. Debal Deb**

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Seed Exhibition

Region-Wise Planning for Futher Action

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Significance of Seed Diversity & Crop Characterisation by Dr. Debal Deb

For maintaining genetic purity of heirloom seeds we need to follow some criteria while planting seed. Desi seeds are photoperiod sensitive. They flower on a particular day of year, flowering does not depend on time of sowing of seed. So to prevent cross pollination between related plant species one must keep some points in his/her mind:

- * Know date of 50% flowering of crop plant in neighboring farm.
 - * Maintain Distance and Time isolation
- Plant kept for seed preservation must be grown in the centre of field. One must visit that particular selected area almost daily. Morning time lie down on ground and observe physical appearance, if you find any morphological difference in any plant, simply uproot that plant.



For eg- In rice we have 58 characteristics. Few of them to look at are:

- Basal leaf sheath colour
- Flag leaf angle
- Secondary branching patterns
- Grain length
- Grain colour
- Awn length
- Awn colour
- 50% flowering date

Breeding new Indigenous Varieties by Prakash Raghuvanshi

Focus of farmers have been shifted towards money and more quantity of yield. Ofcourse if real wealth of farmer ,i.e. his own heirloom seed is not in his hands, he will feel poor and look for money from outside. Quality of food we are getting in market is alarmingly low, not fit for human consumption. We cannot wait anymore, its already late, we need to conserve our heirloom seeds. For that we need to know how and why heirloom seeds are better.



Baranaja - Cultivating 12 crops on one land using heirloom seeds by Vijay Jardhari



Its a law in nature that one which is fittest well survive and our heirloom seeds have survived till now from the time of its existence. In comparison to this ,a hybrid seed cannot be regrown. It will loose its fertility after 1-2 generations or its qualities will be lost. But in a heirloom seed its qualities remain intact and can be regrown successfully, proof is- our ancestors have been growing it from unknown times and that too without zero external input. Soil was healthy, farmer loved soil and plants. Only manure is not a fertilizer for farm. Farmer also act as natural fertilizer for crop, his presence ,his care.

Seed Exhibition



Gallery



