

International Attachment Training Course on “Organizing and Implementing an effective National Seed Quality Control System”

Seed is vital input of agriculture; seed security can usher & assure food security and can carve a rightful niche in international seed domain. In a bid to harness coherent synergies and expertise of Indian seed research and quality control with ASEAN countries, training programme entitled **“Organizing and Implementing an effective National Seed quality Control System”** is being conceptualized by ASEAN India Working Group on Agriculture and Forestry in May 2013. Subsequently Department of Agricultural Research & Education, Ministry of Agriculture, India entrusted the same upon Directorate of Seed Research to organize the training programme on National Seed Quality Control System. Referred training programme was organized from 27th Jan. to 8th Feb. 2014 in order to facilitate in institution of seed quality control system in ASEAN countries.

Indian agriculture in general and seed sector in particular have varied resemblances with ASEAN countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand & Vietnam) viz., quality seed production, seed processing and quality enhancement, testing and quality assurance. Aforesaid training programme was conducted with an objective to enhance participants' knowledge and skills in instituting an effective national seed quality control system in respective seed domains. Special emphasis was given to acquaint participants with Indian seed certification system and seed legislations, as most of the ASEAN countries are in process of enacting seed laws to regulate seed quality in respective countries. Lectures on diverse themes viz. global scenario of seed quality control; comprehensive outlook on seed legislations and regulations; essentials and new dimensions of seed certification system; basic principles of quality seed production & standard operating procedure (emphasis on Rice, Maize and Vegetable crops), plant variety protection, exposure on seed testing, and acceptable procedures in conformity with ISTA were organized. Visits to National Seeds Corporation, State seed certification agency (KSSCA), Central referral laboratory (NSRTC, Varanasi), seed health management unit, Mysore; Division of Seed Science and Technology, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Syngenta pvt. Ltd. and Gubba ultramodern cold storage facility were structured as part of

course curriculum in a bid to cover the whole gamut of seed quality control system. To impart firsthand knowledge of seed testing protocols on the lines of international standards of seed testing such as ISTA, AOSA and OECD, visits to ISTA accredited laboratories (Namdhari Seeds and Indo American Hybrid Seeds at Bengaluru) were organized under this training programme. In most of the ASEAN countries, vegetable seed production is largely depends upon seed imports from other countries and facing a serious challenge to ensure quality of these imported seeds. This training programme catered practical exposure on vegetable seed production and maintenance of field and seed standards for the same. Different aspects of seed technology viz., hybrid seed production, genetic purity testing using molecular tools, seed quality enhancement and seed health management were taken care of. Referred training programme was prearranged across length and breadth of the country in diverse locations viz. Bengaluru, Mysore, Hyderabad, New Delhi, Varanasi and Mau to enable practical exposition on seed quality control system of the country. This training programme facilitated in enabling interaction of participants with Dr. S. Ayyappan, Hon'ble Secretary DARE & DG, ICAR on 06th Feb. 2014 in order to forge linkages in diverse areas relevant to seed domain to promote knowledge exchange in sphere quality seed, which will augment the share of ASEAN – India seed sector in world front.

Directorate of Seed Research organized referred training programme in an effort to address challenges in seed quality control system of the region and to facilitate in institution of acceptable procedures of seed quality assurance (seed testing, seed standards & certification system) among ASEAN member countries. In future thrust may be given upon long duration and specific skill and human resource development in seed quality control viz. standard operating procedures, acceptable procedures in tune to ISTA, policy regulations of seed quality assurance in conformity with global standards.



Interactive session with Dr. S. Ayyappan, Hon'ble Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR on 06. Feb. 2014 at Bengaluru



Training programme on 08. Feb. 2014 at DSR, Mau