

India



Region
South and Southeast Asia

UPOV membership status
Initiated the procedure for acceding to the UPOV Convention

Participation in OECD Seed Schemes
Yes

ISTA accredited member laboratories
Yes

GM crop approval for cultivation
Cotton

Law on Plant Variety Protection
Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act 2001

Seed sector in India

A favorable enabling environment has fueled the rapid growth and development of the seed sector in India. Although the Indian seed industry is one of the most mature in the region, the private sector is secretive about its business activities.

The Government of India has played an important role in developing policies and programs that have far-reaching impacts on the progress of smallholder farmers such as Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, a government-sponsored crop insurance scheme.

The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act 2001 has increased private sector investment in R&D to develop new varieties.

There are currently two seed associations: the National Seed Association of India (NSAI) and the Federation of Seed Industry of India (FSII). The latter was set up in 2016, following controversy around patents on insect resistance traits used in cotton.

India is among the top ten countries cultivating GM crops, with insect-resistant Bt cotton covering a land area of 11.4 million hectares in 2017.

Observations

Twenty-six index companies report having a presence in India. Eight companies have their headquarters in the country. Private agribusiness companies invest heavily in R&D and technological innovation, which is evident from the extensive company activity in the country.

Of the twenty-two companies that carry out seed production in the country, more than half involve mainly smallholder farmers in such activities.

The companies that have breeding locations in the country focus on breeding both vegetable crops and field crops.

Cotton is present in the portfolio of twelve companies. Only Bayer, Nuziveedu and National Seeds Corporation offer open pollinated varieties. Cotton is listed as the main crop in the region for companies such as Bayer and Nuziveedu.

Sixteen companies report having significant extension services, with dedicated staff to deliver them.

Company activities identified in India

Company	Crops in portfolio		Company activities in country					Extension services
	Field crops	Vegetables	Breeding location	Testing location	Seed production	Processing location	Sales	
Acsen HyVeg**		●	●	●	●*	●	●	●
Advanta	●	●	●	●	●*	●	●	●
Bayer	●	●	●	●	●*	●	●	●
Bejo		●			●		●	
Bioseed**	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Charoen Pokphand	●	●	●		●		●	
Corteva Agriscience	●		●	●	●*	●	●	●
East-West Seed		●	●	●	●*	●	●	●
Enza Zaden		●					●	
Kalash Seeds**	●	●	●	●	●*	●	●	●
Known-You Seed		●		●			●	●
KWS	●			●			●	
Lal Teer Seed	●	●					●	
Limagrain	●	●	●	●	●*	●	●	●
Mahyco**	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Metahelix**	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Monsanto	●	●	●		●*	●	●	●
Namdhari Seeds**							●	
National Seeds Corporation**	●	●		●	●*	●	●	●
Nongwoo Bio		●	●	●	●	●	●	
Nuziveedu Seeds**	●	●	●	●	●*	●	●	●
Rijk Zwaan		●	●	●	●*		●	
Sakata		●			●		●	
Seed Co		●			●		●	
Syngenta	●	●	●	●	●*	●	●	●
Takii		●					●	

Other index companies are also active in the country. However, country-specific information for these companies is not available or was provided under non-disclosure.

* Company involves smallholder farmers in seed production activities

** Company headquartered in India

Other companies identified in the regional landscaping study and their activities

Company	Crops in portfolio		Company activities in country		
	Field crops	Vegetables	Breeding location	Seed production	Sales
JK Agri Genetics	●	●	●	●	●
Kaveri Seeds	●	●	●	●	●
VNR Seeds	●	●	●	●	●



Access to Seeds Index