



26th April 2024 - International Seeds Day Seed is the Basic Input for Sustainable Agriculture

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Abbreviation: CPA: Coalition Provisional Authority

Editorial

Seed is the basic input in agriculture upon which other inputs are applied. A good vigorous seed utilizes all the resources and realizes a reasonable output for the grower. It is wealth to the farmer, it is yesterday's harvest and tomorrow's hope. Good seeds in good soil realize good yield. A seed is defined as a fertilized, matured ovule consisting of an embryonic plant together with a store of food, all surrounded by a protective coat. As per the Indian Seed Act (1966), seeds also include vegetative propagules like Tubers (Potato), Bulbs (Onion), Rhizomes (Turmeric) roots, Cuttings (Sugarcane), all types of grafts and other vegetative propagules of food crops or cattle fodder.

International Seeds Day 2024

Every year on April 26, we commemorate International Seeds Day. This day is devoted to promoting farmers' rights, organic food, and patent-free seeds. Additionally, this day challenges Order 81 and raises awareness of sustainable farming.

What is Order 81?

Since its inaugural celebration in 2019, International Seeds Day has grown in popularity throughout the world. It's a chance for people, groups, and communities to unite in order to spread knowledge, increase awareness, and take action in support of seed conservation and preservation. Iraq's Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) administrator,

Paul Bremer, signed "Order 81," which altered the country's agricultural methods in a number of ways. This is the rationale for the choice of April 26 as International Seeds Day.

Every year on April 26, we commemorate International Seeds Day to bring attention to the value of seeds in our lives and the need to protect seed diversity. Today is a day to honor the wonder of seeds, which are the building blocks of all life on Earth and the basis of our food systems.

The occasion acts as a reminder of the significance of seeds in our lives and the necessity to preserve and safeguard them. The viability of our agricultural systems, food security, and biodiversity all depend on seed conservation (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Community Seed Bank Initiative Traces & Restores Heritage Rice Varieties in Tamilnadu.

International Seeds Day Significance

The purpose of the ISD is to raise public awareness of genetically modified foods and their potentially harmful consequences on human health. In order to meet the capitalistic demands of mass production and consumption at the lowest possible cost, it draws attention to the detrimental effects that major agribusinesses have on agricultural land (as well as the environment generally). The purpose of the day is to inspire us to support farmers in their efforts to preserve and cultivate native seeds.

Importance of International Seeds Day

As far as we are aware, the main and most important input for sustainable agriculture is the seed. In this instance, the quality of the seed utilized determines how other inputs would affect the outcome. As a result, it is imperative to protect seed quality and health against private ownership and technological advancements that undermine sustainable agriculture. This makes it necessary to support a food production system that supports the health of the soil, the ecosystem, animals, and, of course, people in addition to encouraging the use of the highest-quality seeds. To improve the large-scale public consumption of locally and organically farmed foods and food products through increased production, packaging, marketing, and consumption. Additionally, making sure this approach doesn't just appeal to the extreme minority.

To support organic farming and to stand with those who make a great effort to supply poison-free, patent-free seeds for organic farming on a broad scale. To advance this trend in order to establish favorable conditions for innovation in the

seed industry everywhere in the world.

Raising awareness: We can increase awareness of the importance of seeds in our lives and the need to conserve them by celebrating International Seeds Day. This day offers an opportunity to enlighten and educate those who may not be aware of the value of seeds and the dangers they face.

Promoting biodiversity: To preserve biodiversity and ensure the long-term viability of our agricultural systems, seed diversity is essential. We can guarantee a variety of crops to select from and lower the likelihood of crop failures brought on by pests or illnesses by preserving and safeguarding seeds.

Supporting local farmers: The guardians of seed diversity are frequently small-scale farmers and seed savers. By aiding regional farmers and seed-saving programmes, we can contribute to the conservation of traditional knowledge and the advancement of sustainable agriculture.

Advocating for policy change: You can use International Seeds Day as a platform to support laws that support the preservation and conservation of seeds. This could involve implementing laws that safeguard seed diversity, promote the use of historic seed varieties, and assist small-scale farmers.

There are many different ways to celebrate International Seeds Day, including planting seeds, holding educational programmes, taking part in seed exchanges, helping out local farmers, and supporting laws protecting seeds. All things considered, World Seeds Day is a significant occasion to spread awareness of the indispensable role that seeds play in our lives and the necessity of protecting them for the benefit of present and future generations.