

RRA Program

PROPOSAL FOR SEED BANKS

Purpose :

To establish an **institutional system** to make **quality** seed of locally preferred **diverse** crops and varieties available to farmers before the on-set of rains for rainfed agriculture. Over time the Seed Banks would also ensure availability of seed for contingencies like repeat sowings or contingency crops.

Institutional Mechanism:

Seed Banks will be established in a cluster of approximately 5 villages to serve about 1000 acres of crop area. A village organisation in the **host-village** will establish the seed bank with one women representative from each of the cluster villages. The village organisation identifies three women who will provide year long services in maintaining the seed bank.

The seed bank will :

- a) Will get seed indents from the farmers in the cluster villages through the representative.
- b) Ensure availability of the indented seed through the following :
 - a. From the stocks maintained within the seed bank
 - b. Bulk indenting and sourcing from the Department of Agriculture (for e.g., groundnut seed)
 - c. Bulk purchase form the seed companies/ shops
 - d. From seed produced from the Seed Village Programs or through seed multiplication
- c) In addition the seed banks will take up multiplication of seed (foundation and certified seed) sourced from research stations under the Seed Village Programs with a buy-back/ procurement arrangements.
- d) Also works to conserve and improve indigenous / locally adapted seed material
- e) It can encourage seed production (starting with self-pollinated crops) and moving towards hybrid seed production; particularly under tie-ups. Seed Bank will be an aggregating agency.

The seed bank will operate in a business mode, with the returns form the transactions paying adequate remuneration for the women who maintain it. It will take Seed Licence and operate within the legal provisions; mostly sells truthfully labeled seed.

The Seed Bank is envisaged to be an Extended Ark of the Department of Agriculture in matters of attaining seed sufficiency like the SHGs are for Banks for credit. For the cluster of villages the seed bank is servicing the Seed Bank can be the anchor for all DoA programs including Seed Village Program and subsidized seed distribution.

PROCESS:

- The seed banks are formed with the required institutional mechanisms.
- Seed Banks access Seed Village Program – to multiply the seed that is locally in demand (crops, variety of seed etc., identified from the seed indents)
- Agreement with the Department of Agriculture to route any subsidized seed through the Seed Bank (like in the case of Groundnut under CMSS in Anantapur).
- The Seed Bank will be given a corpus amount (given to the host Village Organisation) as per the estimates based on seed indents. This will be rotated and earned.
- The Managers of the seed bank and the village representatives be trained intensively on seed storage, seed selection, conducting germination and seed purity tests etc.
- Organize seed producer farmers’ trainings.
- Initially the seed bank operates from a rented house for storage and will have its own storage place with appropriate seed storage structures in course of time, when its viability is established. This needs to be a grant to the Seed Bank.
- Record keeping and business management training.

Budget:

S.No.	Details	Source	Costs	Amount Rs.
a)	Training: 10 trainings over a period of one year on different aspects. These are for the seed bank operators/managers and farmers.	ATMA	10 trainings @ Rs.5000 per training	50,000
b)	Seed Village Program: as per the guidelines – one per seed bank to deal with the major crops i.e. groundnut, rice, green gram and pigeonpea.	Seed Village Program (DoA)	For 6 villages	82500
c)	Startup Capital for the Seed Bank as a revolving fund (given to the host VO/farmers’ cooperative):	(IWMP)	This can be @ Rs.25,000 per village	100,000
d)	Infrastructure support of Rs. 25,000/- for purchase of stands, bags, drums etc. (IWMP)	IWMP		25,000

e)	One facilitator ∴ The person be paid from the proceeds of the seed bank from year-2	IWMP	@ Rs.2000 per month for one year	24,000
	Total			1,99,000
	For 3 seed banks (in 3 clusters)			5,96,000