

Govt launches seed minikit programme to boost production of pulses, oilseeds

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Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar recently launched a seed minikit programme by distributing high yielding varieties of seeds of pulses and oilseeds to farmers.

The minikits are being provided by the central agencies National Seeds Corporation (NCS), NAFED and Gujarat State Seeds Corporation and wholly-funded by the Centre through the National Food Security Mission.

Key Highlights

- The Seed Minikit Programme was launched by the agriculture minister by distributing seed minikits (higher yielding varieties of seeds) to farmers, an official statement said.
- Tomar said the Centre, in collaboration with states, has been implementing various activities to enhance production and productivity of pulses and oilseeds under the National Food Security Mission.
- From the year 2014-15, there has been a renewed focus on increasing the production of pulses and oilseeds, the agriculture ministry said.

- Oilseeds production has increased from 27.51 million tonnes in 2014-15 to 36.57 million tonnes in 2020-21. Pulses output has increased from 17.15 million tonnes in 2014-15 to 25.56 million tonnes in 2020-21.
- Though trends in area, production and productivity of oilseeds and pulses are encouraging, the minister said there was a need for further acceleration.
- The distribution of seeds will continue till June 15, 2021 so that the seeds reach the farmers before the Kharif sowing commences.

SOURCE: *The Indian Express*