

Promotion of National Maize Hybrid Seed

Local Hybrid Seed of Maize

- Import bill of maize hybrid seed is around 0.8 billion rupees
- Low Yields of conventional varieties (OPVs)
- Adaptability problem in Imported hybrids
- Maize is the major autumn crop of northern areas and AJK.
- It is grown on 0.267 million acres of high wet to moderate mountain and foothill of plateau.
- Northern irrigated plains.

Why local maize hybrid production

- National hybrid development expertise available
- More than 80 parent lines developed over the last 15 years
- Yield compatibility of national verses multinational hybrids established
- Lower yield of OPV's in AJK and northern area
- High cost of imported hybrid seed
- Adaptability problem in Imported hybrids
- Improved Production Technology to increase yield

Issues/challenges

- Intellectual Property rights of national hybrids not in place
- Limited land and water resources available at NARC
- Limited technical manpower
- Isolation problems in parent lines seed multiplication
- Seed distributors charge higher margins
- Low technical know how of farmers
- Lack of well adopted white maize hybrids.

Implementation Strategy

- IPR and breeders right act promulgation
- Identification of isolated sites for hybrid seed production
- Public-private partnership development
- Technical manpower recruitment
- Training of scientists/technicians
- Regulations for quality seed availability

Benefits

- Cheap availability of local hybrids
- Decrease in import bill of hybrid seeds
- Enhanced local production
- Private sector entrepreneurship
- Employment generation
- Popularization of hybrid technology in the country
- Increase maize productivity and production in northern areas