

The Agriculture Department mainly consists of four executive wings namely, Directorate of Agriculture, Directorate of Horticulture, Directorate of Soil Conservation and Watershed Development Mission. Besides these, a number of autonomous bodies like Odisha State Seeds Corporation (O.S.S.C), Odisha Agro Industries Corporation (O.A.I.C.), Agriculture Promotion and Investment Corporation of Odisha Limited (APICOL), Odisha State Seed and Organic Products Certification Agency (OSSOPCA), Institute on Management of Agricultural Extension (IMAGE), Odisha Cashew Development Corporation (O.S.C.D.C) and Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology (O.U.A.T.) are also working under the Department. Of the first three, the Directorate of Agriculture is the oldest, which started functioning from 1945 onwards as the Directorate of Development, subsequently renamed as the Directorate of Agriculture and Food Production, Odisha from which the other two Directorates got separated in the years 1977 and 1978. The mandate of the Directorate is development in agriculture sector through transfer of technologies, timely supply of agricultural inputs to the farmers, capacity building of the extension personnel and farmers, increasing agricultural production & productivity and overall economic development of the State.

Among all the agricultural inputs, seed is the most important basic and critical input required for sustainable agriculture. The responses of all other inputs depend on quality seeds to a large extent. The use of certified/quality seeds alone can raise the productivity of crops by about 15-20%. The use of modern improved varieties or hybrids in particular in some cases may even increase yield to still higher level. The state has diversity in agro-ecology with ten different agro-climatic zones. Cropping needs of different ecologies differs basing on the landform, topography, soil, climate and crop adaptability. Paddy, Wheat, Maize, Finger millet, Green gram, Black gram, Pigeon pea, Chick pea, Field pea, Groundnut, Mustard, Sesame, Sunflower, Niger, Sugarcane, Jute are some of the important agricultural field crops of the state. Many varieties have been developed for these crops, by research institutes of the state and national level and released in the state of Odisha for cultivation suiting to the need of the famers and the diverse agro ecologies of the state. Due importance is given in the State Agriculture Policy to increase the seed replacement rate through production and distribution of seeds. Both public sector organizations and private seed entrepreneurs in the state are actively engaged in seed production, processing, storage and distribution of seeds.

This site, Odisha Seeds Portal (<http://odishaseedsportal.nic.in>), is the need of the hour and an initiative of Department of Agriculture, Govt. of Odisha which aims to provide single window platform on Management Information System (MIS) about various aspects of seeds such as seed production, distribution, and certification etc. of agricultural field crops only, with reference to Odisha. The site provides information for farmers, scientists and extension personnel as listed below:

- Information about farmers' variety of the state, registered with PPV & FRA.
- Information about varieties developed by OUAT, CRRI & other research institutions and released for the state of Odisha by State Seed Sub-Committee for Agricultural Crops. The same will help farmers in choosing right variety suiting to their agro-ecology.
- Details of legislation and enforcement on seeds.
- Dealers can obtain afresh and renew seed license through the online seed licensing system.
- Real-time information of progress on seed certification in the state.
- Information to track seed production and distribution in the state through this portal.
- Provides seed price, resource materials, seed statistics, orders/circulars, success stories and other various aspects of seed.
- Many other information pertaining to seeds.