

## Farmers' Participatory Seed Production (FPSP)

**The Challenge:** The improved varieties developed by the institute are always in high demand, but there has always been shortage of the certified seeds of these varieties, especially of wheat and maize.

**The Solution:** In order to enhance the quality seed availability to the farmers ICAR-VPKAS decided to carry out farmers' participatory seed production of wheat varieties suitable for hill and tarai region. The tarai region of Uttarakhand was selected for farmers' participatory seed production of wheat varieties as the land holdings in hills are very small and scattered which are predominantly rainfed.



Farmers' Participatory Seed Production

**The Application:** The scientists from institute were involved in providing technical backstopping and continuous monitoring. Farmers' skills were developed through repeated trainings/farm schools at field level regarding weed control, maintenance of genetic purity through maintaining isolation distance, vigorous roguing, harvesting at appropriate stage and segregated threshing and post-harvest handling and disease identification. A buy back arrangement was made to purchase the seed produced by farmers by the institute on satisfaction of the quality of the seed at 20% higher rate than the prevailing Minimum Support Price (MSP).

**The Impact:** In past eight years, approximately 19,720 ha area was covered under Farmers Participatory Seed Production of wheat crop varieties and 555.6 q seed of wheat varieties has been produced. The income gained by seed producing farmers by direct procurement of seed by the institute (at 10-15% higher price than prevalent market rate) is 5.77 lakhs rupees. The total income gained by farmers by selling part of the produce (20 per cent) as grain in local market at MSP is 1,155.5 lakhs, after keeping sufficient amount for household consumption. The income gained by farmers by selling part of the produce (5 per cent) as seed at 20% higher than MSP is 346.7 lakhs. The total economic benefit to the farmer through FPSP is 1502.2 lakhs rupees.