

Legislation for Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights' was enacted in year 2001. The legislation provides for the establishment of an effective system for protection of plant varieties, the rights of farmers and plant breeders and to encourage the development of new varieties of plants. The scheme is implemented by Protection of Plant Varieties and farmers' Rights (PPV&FR) Authority and autonomous statutory body corporate established under PPV & FR Act,2001 in November,2005.

The main objectives of the Scheme are to provide grants to the Authority for its operational cost and implementation of provision of the Act and financial assistance to DUS Centres for developing guidelines of identified crops for Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS) test. The functions of the Authority include registration of plant varieties to protect plant breeder's rights, which would stimulate investment for research & development for the development of new plant varieties leading to agricultural development in the country, and to protect the rights of the farmers in respect of their contribution made at any time in conserving, improving and making available plant genetic resources The Authority is accordingly, taking steps for development of new varieties of plants and protection of rights of farmers' and breeders.

The following developments are noteworthy to mention

- Registration is open for 57 notified crops namely, Rice, Maize, Sorghum, Pearl Millet, Chick Pea, Pigeon Pea, Green Gram, Black Gram, Lentil, Field Pea, Kidney Bean, Cotton (4 species), Jute (2 species), Sugarcane, Ginger, Turmeric, Black Pepper, Small Cardamom, Indian Mustard (2 species), Rapeseed (2 species), Sunflower, Safflower, Castor, Sesame, Linseed, Groundnut, Soybean, Potato, Garlic, Onion, Tomato, Brinjal, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Lady Finger, Rose (2 species), Mango, Chrysanthemum, Orchids (3 genera), Wheat (4 species), Coconut, Periwinkle, Indian pennywort, Blong Psyllium and Menthol Mint.
- DUS test guidelines of 40 New Crops / Species are under various stages of development.
- The Authority has organised / supported 268 programs related to awareness and capacity building for different stakeholders. It has published literature for creating awareness in English, Hindi and other Indian languages such as Tamil, Malayalam, Odiya, Gujarati, Marathi etc. During the year 2011-12 PPV&FR Authority has sponsored 49 training cum awareness programmes on Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights.
- Two Branch Offices of the Authority have been established and mde functional at Ranchi, Jharkhand and Assam Agriculture University, Jhorhat, Assam.
- The Authority is operating the National Gene Fund constituted by the Government of India under the Act. The Plant Genome Saviour Community Award (five awards of Rs.10 lakhs each) has been instituted and is being awarded since 2009-10, to the farming community / farmers, particularly the tribal and rural ones engaged in conservation, improvement and preservation of genetic resources of economic plants and their wild relatives particularly in the areas identified as agro-biodiversity hotspots (22 Agro-biodiversity hotspots distributed over 7 agro-geographical zones). Plant Genome Savior Community Awards for the year 2010-11 were conferred on 23rd May, 2012 to four communities. In addition seven communities were also given the recognition certificates in the same function.

- Recently, the Authority has also instituted individual farmer rewards (10 per year of Rs. 1.0 lakh each) and recognition certificates (20 per year).
- Registration certificate of 347 of new plant varieties have been issued upto 31.03.2012.
- 95 distinctiveness, uniformity and stability (DUS) test centers have been established in State Agriculture Universities, ICAR, ICFRE, CSIR & other reputed research institutes. Three referral laboratories for special tests have also been identified and supported.
- Databases on Indian Information System as per DUS Guidelines (IINDUS – 2054 varieties) and Notified and Released Varieties of India (NORV – 7419 varieties) have been developed. Varietal databases of 20 crop species including inputs from respective crop directorates / institutes under the ICAR / NARS system have been compiled.
- National Gene Bank for conserving seeds of registered varieties has been established in Delhi and Four field gene banks have also been established at Dapoli, Ranchi, Solan and Jodhpur especially for maintaining referral samples of perennial asexually / vegetatively propagated crops. Under the aegis of Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India, the Authority has signed an agreement with Netherlands on capacity building and sharing of expertise. Such bilateral programs are being evolved with Germany and Australia.
- The DARE/ICAR has allotted land to the Authority for construction of its campus in Pusa, New Delhi and the work is in progress.