

## Farm Operation – Seed and Seedling

*A right choice of seed and seedling enhances crop yield and hence farm profit.*



1. Farmers should look for varieties which are pest and disease resistant, heat resistant and GM-free.

2. Farmers should buy from a reliable/reputable source which sells high quality, pest and disease free seeds/seedlings. Certified seeds or seedlings produced from certified seeds should be used whenever available.

### Seed quality

3. Farmers should check for damaged, deformed or infected seeds. Signs of inferiority include mould, lack of plumpness and/or fullness, inconsistency in colour, size and appearance, signs of damage, etc.

4. Farmers should also check for impurities such as weed seeds, dirt, twigs, sand, etc.

5. Farmers may carry out a germination test with a small amount of seeds.

6. Seeds in unopened packets should be stored in a cool and dry place. Opened packets should be kept in sealed containers and stored in cool, dry and dark conditions.

### About “GAP- CROP”

The GAP-CROP provides guidelines on local sustainable production of safe, healthy vegetables and fruits. It focuses on reducing the risk of chemical contamination (e.g. by pesticide and heavy metal) at farm level. This article is the third of a series of 12 Codes of Practice (COP) making up the GAP-CROP. Farmers may voluntarily follow this COP, identify potential problems in their farms, take appropriate control/mitigation measures, and monitor the effectiveness of such measures.





### Seedling quality

7. Farmers should check that seedlings are uniform, strong and healthy, of the right size, stiff and hardy, and free of pests and diseases.

8. Farmers should examine the seedlings closely for any pest infestation and physical damage like broken leaves, cracked stems, broken tops or dead or drying leaves.

### Record keeping

9. Quality guarantee documents and other records stating the variety name, purity, batch number, etc. should be kept.

10. Records on sowing, planting/transplanting methods, rate and date, etc. should also be kept.



**Next COP:**  
Farm Operation –  
Soil Management

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