

INVITED ARTICLE
**Social and Economic Empowerment of Farmers through Vegetable Seed
Production in Odisha**

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ABSTRACT

India is self-sufficient in production of flowers, fruits, vegetables but quality seeds of horticultural crops are not available to the farmers. The response of all other inputs is largely influenced by the quality of seeds, which is estimated to contribute 15–20% of the overall yield, depending on the crop, and can increase to up to 45% with effective control of other inputs. The farming community is heavily reliant on private sector for quality seeds of horticultural crops. The government of India has taken a number of progressive and reformative measures to help the country's seed industry expansion over the past three decades besides the rural youth involvement in the seed production programmes. In Odisha, Central Horticultural Experiment Station (ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticultural Research), Bhubaneswar has taken up considerable efforts for social and economic empowerment of farmers through commercial vegetable seed and is benefitting the farming community besides the rural youth and women empowerment.

Keywords : *Empowerment, Farmers, Quality seeds and Vegetable seed production*