



Seed Festival 2025

Why in News?

The four-day-long **Beej Utsav (Seed Festival) 2025**, held in the tribal tri-junction of **Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat**, celebrated the cultural and ecological significance of **indigenous seeds**.

- Indigenous **seeds are produced in a certain climate and location**, and they are often managed by a group of local people.

Key Points

Major Highlights of the Seed Festival

- **Events & Recognition:**
 - The festival featured indigenous seeds of grains, pulses, vegetables, and fruits, including several rare and forgotten varieties.
 - Traditional fruit seeds included **wild mango, Aakol and Timru**, while traditional grains included **Doodh Mogar (native maize)**, and the **paddy varieties** of **Kali Kamod and Dhimri**.
 - Recognition through **awards such as Beej Mitra and Beej Mata to seed-preserving community members**.
- **Participation:**
 - Tribal women and children actively engaged, learning **techniques of seed preservation** for multiple crop cycles.
- **Institutional Support:**
 - Community-led institutions, including **Krishi Evam Adivasi Swaraj Sangathan, Gram Swaraj Samooh, Saksham Samooh, and Bal Swaraj Samooh** were instrumental in organising the festival.
 - They were **supported by Banswara-based voluntary group Vaagdhara, which works on tribal livelihood issues**.

Note: Vaagdhara is a **non-profit organisation** that operates under the **Rajasthan Societies Registration Act, 1958**.

- The name Vaagdhara is derived from its working area, **Vagad, which is the tribal region of Rajasthan** bordering Gujarat, and **Dhara, meaning stream**.

Significance of Indigenous Seeds in Sustainable Agriculture

- **Seed Sovereignty:** Empowering farmers to retain control over seeds, reducing dependence on expensive, chemical-intensive **hybrid seeds**.
- **Climate Resilience:** Indigenous seeds are often better adapted to local agro-ecological conditions, ensuring **crop sustainability amid climate variability**.
- **Cultural Identity:** Seeds like **Kali Kamod rice, Doodh Mogar maize, and karingda melon** hold **cultural and nutritional value** in tribal food systems.

- **Low-Input Farming:** These seeds require fewer chemical inputs, promoting eco-friendly and **cost-effective agriculture**.

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