



CROP AND VARIETY SELECTION

WHAT IS A HIGH QUALITY SEED?

IT IS IMPORTANT TO USE HIGH QUALITY SEEDS. YOU CAN EXPECT A BETTER UNIFORMITY OF THE CROP, AN INCREASE IN YIELD AND QUALITY OF THE PRODUCTION FIT FOR A HIGH-END MARKET. THEREFORE, IT SHOULD GENERATE A HIGHER INCOME.



THE 4 MAIN FACTORS DETERMINING THE SEED CHOICE

SEED SOURCE

Two main sources: commercial vs. farmer saved seeds

- Farmer saved seeds: selected from the previous season. No guarantee about quality/characteristics but free!
- Commercial seeds: more expensive but certified, meaning quality seeds. Information available on the package. Need to be bought at a reliable input dealer.

SEED QUALITY

- Describing the potential performance of a seed lot.
- Good quality seed leads to good quality product and reduces the crop management effort.
- Various factors to consider:
 - Damages to seeds
 - Germination (rate and uniformity), seed vigour
 - Purity, Pest and disease presence
 - Moisture content
 - Ability to develop in uniform and healthy seedlings and plants

SEED STORAGE

Seeds should be stored in specific conditions to maintain a good quality overtime: low light, cool temperature, dry conditions.

VARIETY TYPE

- OPV: Produced under uncontrolled (random) conditions/pollination
- Hybrids: Produced under strictly controlled conditions.

VARIETY CHARACTERISTICS

- Depending on the market demand (crop, volume, quality, color, shape, pungency, etc.), experience and finance.
- Consider factors such as yield, fruit size/ shape/color, pest or disease resistance or tolerance, etc.

| | Hybrid | OPV |
|----------------------|---|--|
| Advantages | - Uniformity | - Cheaper seed price |
| | - Resistance or tolerance to certain pest/disease/virus | - Less impact of sub optimal growing conditions on performance |
| | - Higher yielding characteristics | |
| Disadvantages | - Better agronomic and economic performance due to uniformity | |
| | - More expensive seed price | - Less uniform growth and maturity |
| | - Sub optimal performance under poor crop management and harsh environment conditions | - Difficult in crop management due to non-uniform maturity and performance |
| | | - Lower yielding characteristics |