

No. 12-13/2018-SD.IV (Pt.I)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare  
Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare

F/211, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi  
Dated the 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2020

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Subject:- Threat of Unsolicited/Mystery Seed Parcels from unknown Sources – Kind Attention – Reg.**

The undersigned is directed to say that it has come to the notice of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare that threat of unsolicited/suspicious seed parcels with mislabeled packages from unknown sources was reported in many countries like US, Canada, UK, New Zealand, Japan and some European nations. Since the last few months, thousands of such suspicious seed shipments have been reported across the world. The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) termed it as '**brushing scam**' and '**agricultural smuggling**' and also reported that the unsolicited seed parcels may contain seeds of an alien invasive species or an attempt to introduce pathogens or disease that may pose serious threats to environment, agriculture ecosystem and national security.

Above unsolicited seed parcels can be threat to bio-diversity of our country; therefore all States Department of Agriculture, State Agriculture Universities, Seed Associations, State Seed Certification Agencies, Seed Corporations, ICAR vis-à-vis their crop based research Institutes are directed to be vigilant about the suspicious seed parcels.

  
(Dr. Dilip Kr. Srivastava)  
Deputy Commissioner (QC)  
Tele.: 011-23386236

To

1. Departments of Agriculture (All States)
2. All State Seed Corporations and NSC
3. All State Seed Certification Agencies
4. NSAI/FSII/Northern Seed Association of India
5. All State Agriculture Universities
6. DG, ICAR, Krishi Bhawan – with request to circulate this O.M. to all institutes of ICAR.
7. Director, Plant Protection, GoI, DAC&FW, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.

Copy to:

1. Sr. PPS to Secretary, AC&FW
2. PPS to JS (Seeds)