

The background is a blue gradient. In the corners, there are white line-art illustrations of circuit boards or neural networks, with lines and small circles representing nodes.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE SEED BILL 2019

NEED FOR AMENDMENT

- The National Seed Association of India (NSAI) suggested few changes in the proposed Seed Bill 2019
- A more scientific definition of the transgenic variety, farmer rights on seeds, and including the services of the private firms for evaluating new varieties before seed registration

PITFALLS

- Definition of the transgenic variety is unscientific and vague
- Seed Act 1966 was based on the US System where the variety registration was left to the discretion of the developer
- The current bill is based on the European system where the parameters and the procedures are better defined for the release of the new varieties

PITFALLS IN LEGISLATION

- Mandatory registration of seed varieties based on VCU (value for cultivation and use), evaluation and licensing of seed producers and processors
- Provisions for price control in the event of an emergency, and monopolization
- For fast track registration of seed varieties there is a need for accreditation of seed companies by an empowered committee
- Disparity between the rights conferred to farmers as compared to that in the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmer's Rights Act