

The seeds are the basis for success in the agribusiness

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Parable of the Sower

A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold.

Luke 8:4-8

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This material is provoked by our pain that in many plants on the market during the past 10 years, the seeds made in Bulgaria has disappeared. Where are the native potatoes, sunflower, lentils, pepper, even tomatoes, etc. As though we "get used" with the "modern" European method to stake on the foreign seeds. The deep traditions in the agriculture and in particular in the grain producing teach us how successfully to "fight against the land" using our own seeds. The taste properties of the native varieties are irreplaceable all over our lands even they are a foetus of our current selection. The traditional for the nation preferences and taste requirements to the different nutrition and spices are unique because they are a result of the native conditions and soils for centuries. And this is an elementary truth that we have already forgotten?

The gain of more and more qualitative wheat is the purpose of the agriculture producing. All begins from the seed, if it is good the yield will be good too. This old wise saw is not accidental. It is created from centuries and it is very objective. The seed producing is a specific activity for which it is worth to consider, writing and analyzing in details. In the next lines we will try to describe the most important principle moments in the native production of seeds which unfortunately is a little forgotten during the past years of the century.

1. The seed producing is the base of the agriculture: The seed producing is the basic activity in the agriculture practice. In the remote past the farmers selected their seeds and took a great cares for them. Thousand years ago the humanity understood that the seeds take exclusively big part in the success during the cultivation of each culture. This is valid especially for these plants that we use as a food. Today the seeds are business by which it is impossible to achieve high yield results at each group of cultures: field, vegetable, fruit, fodder, exotic, etc.

2. The seeds are the key to success in the agribusiness: The current requirements to the seeds are very high over all chain from the cultivation of seed plots through field studies, to cleaning, billet and qualification of the seeds. This whole activity is a process which is specific for each culture. Otherwise a normative base has been created which regulates the whole gamma of activities connected to the seed producing and trading. This is all done to the purpose seeds that have a possible highest genetic yield potential to be produced depending on the human interest to every used culture.

3. The seed usage is a good agriculture practice: Basic field cultures in our country are the wheat, barley, maize and the sunflower. Every year near 22-24 millions decares are sowed. For the cultivation of this field 320-350 thousand tonnes of seeds are necessary every year. These are huge quantities for which in the past in the country were organized and worked actively dozens of seed "factories", spread all over the country to cover the farmers' needs. At the present these factories do not works with very small exceptions but their capacity is insignificant comparing to the county's need. There are several private seed "factories" which have so limited capacity that it is no matter whether they will exist in the front of this which worked 25 years ago. Our country has urgent need to build factories for this activity which will produce seeds according the high current requirements for this activity.

4. A unique national selection: The selection is a science and by its efforts the last word in the science of the yield is adopted directly by the created varieties, hybrids, branches and so on. By this reason this activity must be stable in time, orderly as human efforts and at the same time dynamic as approaches and methods. It takes advantages from the native and international science and at the same time it is directly connected to concrete conditions of the climate in the country. As a result of this every year interaction between the biology and genetics of set culture and the cultivation conditions create unique combinations of signs and characteristic, useful to the maximum for the person in particular region. Complexes consisting of wholesome nutrition ingredients have been collected in vegetable and fruit species which are unique for our country and should not be replaced by similar with foreign origin. This refers to all groups of culture and it is a problem with national importance.

In our country new varieties /hybrids from field cultures (means seeds) are an achievement not only to Scientific Institutes from CCA but to a private selection companies which have worked in this sphere at least 20 years. In the progress of the seeds production activity, they take care for the maintenance of the unique Bulgarian genetics, which allows from these products to be gained high and stable results by seasons. All of them are created in the conditions of the native climate and in this connection they are the most adapted and economical profitable. Furthermore the seeds produced by the native products are significantly easier available and cheap for the farmers. The great genetic diversity of varieties and hybrids at all cultures in our country which is a foetus of long efforts made by generation of selectionists does not use rational. One of the reasons this activity not to be stimulated and it is separated to national and private. If there is a benefit for the Bulgarian farmer, this innovative activity should be stimulated properly to European country as R. Bulgaria. The similarity between the conditions of the Balkan Peninsula is a precondition the new varieties (hybrids) to be cultivated successfully in the neighbour countries which makes perspective the seed business in our country for future times.



5. Main activity at National importance: To be the selection activity successful, all producers have genofond on which basis new products are created for the production. On this point of view the State Departments are privileged because only they are granted to support their genofond. The genetic diversity of the plants in our country for a long time is not only a national activity and this should be taken into consideration by financial aid to all acting in this business companies or enterprises. The seed producing is an activity that is important to the Bulgarian economics because it provides seeds to the mass in the country food and other cultures. By this reason the subject of the business nor state or private should be without matter when enough people are occupied.

6. Perspectives for development

Many things over the seed business might be a subject to analysis. During the last 10 years we passed through many new moments in this activity. Slowly and painfully, on waves we have succeeded to change the regulation on the native laws to work objectively for the business independently what it is - state or private. During this time destructive processes are passed for selection activity contraction in the Research Institutes. The black business was still "young" to take fully their function but the Regulation was in a mess in relation to the objective requirements of the alteration in the society relations. Gradually the selection and the connected seed business have developed as a private interest. Several steps are required to organize effective seed production. They are compulsory for the native agriculture because relating to the seeds we should be at European and International level. This is our only chance to observe the Bulgarian varieties for the future generations.

1. Factories should be built up as soon as possible to clean, billet and qualification of seeds. By this way the traditions of the old Bulgarian agriculture will be reborn which agriculture depends on its own seed production. By this way the seeds will be provided on territory principle, the producers will be more accessible and cheap.

2. The creation and working of laboratories connected to the seed business and property analyses of the production to be speed up. By these way bigger quantities of seeds will be efficiently qualified and certified for the short time of a month – two depending on the species of the culture – spring or winter.

3. The use of Bulgarian seeds to be permitted and rehabilitated at some cultures where the market has been lost. Furthermore this seed property should respond to the highest international standards. By this way the Bulgarian seed business will set against to the cruel international rivalry.

4. All companies that participate in the selection and the variety supported activity should be granted for concentration and storage of genetic diversity in possibly more cultures. The changing of the climate on the Earth makes the sensible people to think that we can "stand" the same plants against the changing in the nature which plants the nature has already given to us. Of course a little changed in our favour in moderate. The genetic diversity which is created by the selection should very sensibly be "exploited" in the future. The only way in native conditions to provide yielded varieties is to propagate ours on a large scale every year.

In conclusion we can say that the usage of proper seed material is a key element in the efforts of the farmer to gain more and qualitative yield. We do not discover again elementary truths well-known to our grandparents since the remote past. **"We think for the future today"** and we believe that our motto in the Company's logo expresses the most comprehensively the philosophy of our efforts to the native production of seeds and grain.