

cauliflower in Himachal Pradesh to produce quality seed economically. Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal and Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar are carried out research work to develop technologies for vegetable production in saline soils and are also trying to select vegetable varieties which can grow at different soil pH level. Besides this, only sporadic attempts were made before 1970, except a few reports on studies on nutritional aspects.

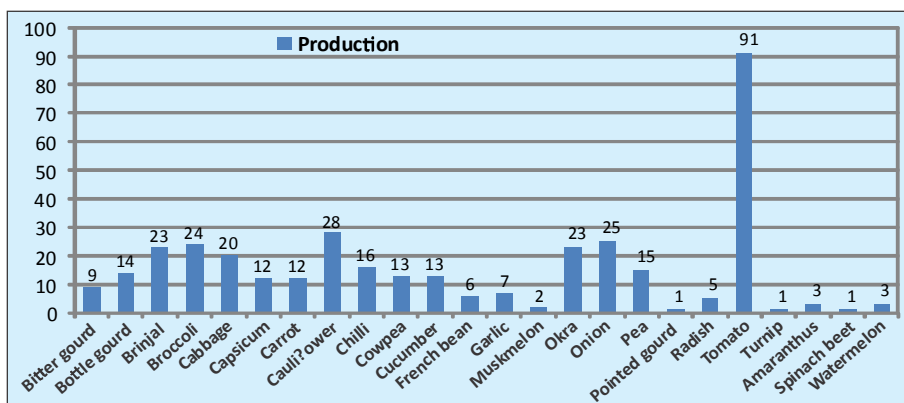


Fig. 11: Production Technologies Developed from 1971-2014

Systematic research work on agro techniques was undertaken in the research programmes of All India Coordinated Vegetable Improvement Project from 1971 onwards. As a result of this, a total number of 367 vegetable production technologies have been developed in different vegetable crops from 1970-71 till date (Fig. 11). Now the major emphasis is being given to the management of water, fertilizers, organic matter, crop geometry and weed control.

(D) Vegetable Seed- a vital input

Seed is the most important input for production of agriculture commodities. The significant advances that India made in agriculture in last four decades, has come through the active role of the seed sector. Providing good quality seeds is one of the most important and easiest means to accelerate the productivity of vegetables in the country. Total requirement of seeds in our country is 48,000 tonnes and less than one-third of this is met by public and private sector undertaking.

Although, India is second largest vegetable producing country in the World, it ranks 8th among the sixteen countries listed in seed trade globally. In recent years, a lot of emphasis is being given to improve the quality of seed and planting material in view of globalization of the world trade which had opened ample opportunities for the export of quality seed. Enjoying the diversity of agroclimatic conditions, strong seed production infrastructure and market opportunity, India holds significant promise for export of seeds. In past few years, India has emerged as a potential exporter of seeds and planting materials.

To improve the productivity of any crop, use of quality seeds is essential. Presently, a majority of

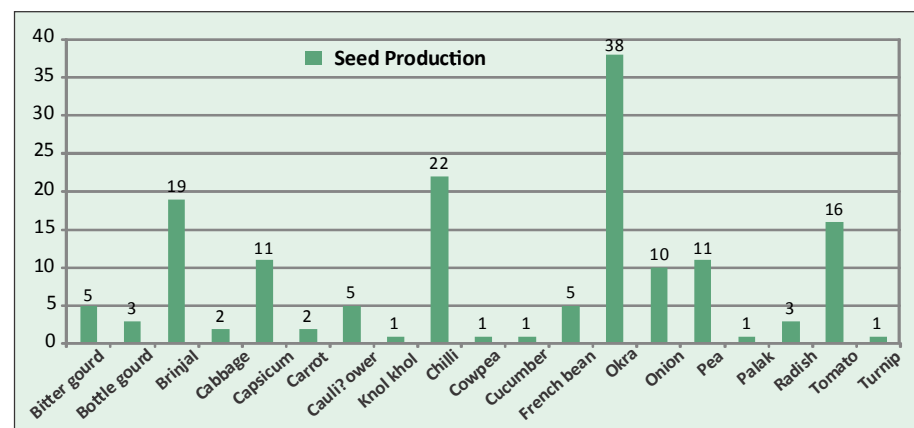


Fig. 12: Seed Production Technologies developed from 1971-2014

vegetable varieties grown on farmers' fields are the results of AICRP efforts. Among the identified varieties/hybrids, share of open pollinated varieties (OPVs) is high, although the yield potential of OPVs is lower as compared to that of hybrids. The replacement of hybrids is quicker than of the OPVs, mainly due to the involvement of seed industry. Resistant varieties of major vegetables have also been identified, which have