



The Future of Food: Globalizing Access to Technologies for CROP MUTATION BREEDING

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Mutation Breeding



Introduction:

- Muller demonstrated mutagenic effect of X-ray in 1928.
- Staedler experimented in Maize and barley.
- Mutation breeding refers to the method of using artificial mutagenesis to obtain new biological cultivars.

Advantages:

- Accelerate process of developing new varieties
- Facilitate obtaining mutant traits hardly got under natural condition
- Increase genetic variation and biodiversity
- Effective genetic improvement of vegetatively propagated crops



Number of mutant varieties released in top



20 countries till 2020





Source: Mutant varieties database, IAEA accessed on 10th September, 2020.

Cereals: 26		
Pulses: 40		
Oilseeds: 32		
Horticultural Crops: 23		
Fiber Crops: 3		

- ✓ Accommodates even 4 crops in a year
- ✓ Eradicated Monga (Seasonal starvation)
- ✓ Tripled rice production

Cobalt-60 and cesium-137-based technologies have been extremely successful for the past 65 years



MAJOR CONCERNS





- Cobalt-60 has major environmental and security issues
- **Cobalt-60** is not available easily
- * Cannot be switched off
- * 12% loss every day due to natural radioactive decay
- * Cobalt-60 cannot be transported easily
- Today, it is more expensive to build, maintain and replenish a cobalt-60 facility compared to a commercial scale eBeam facility





Advantages of Electron Beam

- New technology
- Radiation emission only on operation
 state
- Required dose rate is much lower than gamma
- Double strand break (DSB) is 5.7 times higher than gamma

Crop	LD50 (Gy)		Muta	ation
			Freque	ncy (%)
	Gamma	eBeam	Gamma	eBeam
	ray		ray	
Rice	300.00	275.05		
	300.03	286.45		
Rice	280-350	290-330		
Chickpea			8.64	17.82
Blackgram			6.6	9.6
Mungbean			1.343	1.967
Cowpea			13.38	23.38





THANK YOU