

Dr. Kalyan B. Goswami
Executive Director



Ref. NSAI/2017/123

Date: 11.12.17

✓ To,
The Chairperson,
Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC),
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj Road, Jorbagh,
New Delhi - 110 003

To
The Chairman,
Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM),
Block 2, 8 th Floor,
Department of Biotechnology,
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi -110003

Received
[Signature]
P.A to Dr. S.R. Rao

Dr. K. Veluthambi
Chairman, Field Inspection & Scientific Evaluation Committee
Senior Professor and Head
Department of Plant Biotechnology
School of Biotechnology
Madurai Kamaraj University
Madurai-625 021

[Signature]
PPS to AS (AKM)
(S. JAYASREE)
Principal Private Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture
Govt. of India
(Dept. of Agri. & Cooperatives)
KASTURBA GANDHI MARG, NEW DELHI

Dear Sir,

Sub: Release and cultivation of unapproved HT cotton on large scale – Contamination of parent lines and hybrid seed material of genuine cotton seed producers – Need for specification of protocols for sampling, testing and identifying such unintended contamination.

Ref: Our letter addressed to Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Govt. of India, dated 14.11.2017

The National Seed Association of India (NSAI) submitted their views on this issue through the reference above. In the meantime, based on the meetings, held by the Field Inspection & Scientific Evaluation Committee (FISEC) with several State Governments, the concerned State Government officials have been drawing samples of Bt cotton seeds, testing them and finding some of the seed lots recording positive for HT gene. However, the procedure, that is being adopted, wherein a few seeds from a seed lot are being crushed and ELISA strips are being used to detect the presence of the HT gene is very crude, unscientific and therefore prone to serious errors. Even if there is a single seed with the HT gene out of the 10 or 20 seeds crushed, the sample tests positive only. This is a serious flaw in sampling and testing.

