

Dr. Kalyan B. Goswami
Executive Director



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Date: 08.11.2017

To
Shri Bijay Kumar, IAS
Principal Secretary (Agriculture)
Dept. of Agriculture & Animal Husbandry,
Dairy Development & Fisheries
Mantralaya Annex
Mumbai – 400 032

To
Shri S P Singh,
Commissioner of Agriculture,
Commissionerate of Agriculture,
Govt. of Maharashtra,
3rd Floor, Central Building,
Pune-411001

Dear Sirs,

Sub: Pink Bollworm infestation in Bt cotton – Booking of cases against seed companies and dealers – Reg.

In light of the wide spread damage due to Pink Bollworms (PBW) in cotton, there are several complaints by the farmers. Based on such complaints, we understand that cases are being booked by the police as well as the agriculture department against seed dealers and seed companies in Maharashtra. In this regard, we submit the following facts for your consideration.

1. There are more than 300 Bt cotton hybrids which are being sold in Maharashtra by various companies under the provisions of Seeds Act, 1966, Seed (Control) Order, 1983, Environment (Protection) Act and Cotton Seeds Price (Control) Order, 2015 (CSPCO).
2. Bt cotton traits expressed by single gene or two genes are approved by GEAC on Event Based Approval Mechanism (EBAM) under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act (EPA). After a trait is approved for biosafety, the breeders use the trait for developing several new hybrids which are again approved by either GEAC or from 2017 by the Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India. The seed companies are responsible for maintaining gene purity.

