

Minutes of the second meeting held under the Chairmanship of Dr. J.S. Sandhu, DDG (CS), ICAR to consider commercial release of Bt cotton hybrids/ varieties for Central Zone on 1st June, 2017 in CACP Committee Room, F Wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi

Second Meeting of Bt. Cotton proposals, with deregulated gene event (MON531 & MON 15985) by GEAC, for consideration of commercial release for Central Zone was held in CACP Committee Room, F Wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi on 1st June, 2017 under the Chairmanship of Dr. J.S. Sandhu, DDG(CS), ICAR.

The list of participants is annexed.

At the outset, D. S. Mishra, Dy. Commissioner (QC) and Member Secretary welcomed the Chairman and all the members of the Committee and informed the objective of the meeting and the responsibility assigned to the Committee consequent upon the recommendations of the Committee of Secretaries. Following their recommendations the commercial release of Bt. cotton hybrids/varieties for Kharif, 2017 with deregulated gene event has been the mandate of the ICAR-DAC&FW henceforth. He informed that earlier the release of Bt. Cotton hybrids with deregulated gene events (Mon 531 & Mon Event 15985) with *cry1Ac* & *cry2Ab* stacked genes was through Standing committee constituted by GEAC.

Thereafter, Dr. J.S. Sandhu, DDG(CS), ICAR and the Chairman briefly highlighted the responsibility entrusted to the present Committee for the commercial release of Bt. Cotton hybrids / varieties developed by private and public sector both. He specifically requested the Project Coordinator (Cotton) to add any specific points to be considered for finalising the criteria for Bt. cotton release proposals for consideration in the present meeting or the Committee may like to follow the same criteria which was followed in the North Zone while considering the Bt. cotton release proposal.

Dr. Prakash, Project Coordinator (Cotton) informed that the criteria already followed in the North Zone may be adopted for clearance with a minor change that the cotton seed yield of 2000 kg. and 1500 kg. in the irrigated and rainfed condition respectively as the benchmark for considering the Bt. cotton hybrid approval for the Central Zone in both conditions. Besides, he also mentioned that out of 140 proposals of 35 companies the proposals getting through are very less on the basis of the old criteria. However, this criteria may be enhanced to 12% from the existing level of 10% maximum limit in Bollworm damage as on this limit maximum proposals are not cleared.

It was also decided that many companies who have not furnished the vital information like fiber quality and protein data from field trials of accredited lab the same may be deferred subject to furnishing the requisite information within a week time. These companies if provide the information within the prescribed time frame then their proposals may also be considered favourably for recommending in the Central Zone for cultivation.

In addition to above, it was also decided that the proposals having reported as early maturity within 150 days in place of usual majority of 180 days may also be considered favourably if the cotton seed yield is not significantly reduced with the normal maturity cotton hybrids. The Member Secretary explained that for considering the above criteria the companies are supposed to provide the factual information on the maturity period of their hybrids indicating the date of sowing and date of last picking to have clear cut information on maturity which is not available in the present cases. In view of the above, this cannot be



