

## **Minutes of the 12th Meeting of the Standing Committee to evaluate applications for commercial release of Bt cotton hybrids expressing approved events under ‘Event based approval mechanism (EBAM)’ held in DBT, New Delhi on 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2014**

The 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee to review applications for commercial release of Bt cotton hybrids expressing approved events under ‘Event based approval mechanism (EBAM)’ was held on 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2014 in Room No. 727, Department of Biotechnology, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Dr. N. Gopalakrishnan, ADG (Commercial Crops), ICAR, New Delhi. The list of participants was as under:

### **A. Members**

1. Dr. Dilip Monga, Head, CICR Regional Station, Sirsa, Haryana
2. Dr. Punit Mohan, Principal Scientist, CICR, Nagpur
3. Dr A.H. Parakash, Project Co-coordinator (Cotton), AICCIP, CICR, RS, Coimbatore
4. Prof. Ramesh Gumber, Addl. Director of Research & Head, Plant Breeding, PAU, Ludhiana
5. Dr S.J. Rahman, Principal Scientist & Head, AICRP on Biological Control, Agri. Research Institute (ARI), ANGRAU, Hyderabad
6. Shri R. K.Mishra, Director (Seeds), Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi
7. Dr. S R Rao, Member Secretary, RCGM & Scientist-G, DBT
8. Mrs. Rajalakshmi Muralidharan, Member Secretary, Standing Committee & Scientist-E, DBT

### **B. Special Invitees**

1. Dr. Nitin Jain, Scientist-D, DBT
2. Dr. Amit Parikh, Scientist-C, DBT
3. Sh. Sunil Naik, JA, DBT

Shri R. K. Mishra, Director (Seeds), Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi did not attend the meeting.

### **Welcome Remarks by the Chairman**

The Chairman, Standing Committee extended a formal welcome to the members of the Standing Committee and initiated the process of the meeting.

### **Remarks/Views by the Members**

No general remarks/views were expressed by the members.

### **Action taken report by the Member- Secretary**

Member Secretary informed in brief about the action taken on the recommendations of the 11th meeting of the Standing Committee held on 24.3.2014. She also informed that necessary follow up action was taken on the recommendations of the Standing Committee

in its 11th meeting and letters were issued to State Agriculture Departments/applicants under intimation to the GEAC.

### **Recommendations of the Bt cotton hybrids to State Agri. Departments**

The Committee scrutinized the applications received against the 'Call for Applications' for Central and South Zones taking into consideration the TOR of the Committee stipulated by GEAC and the parameters mentioned in the 'Call for Applications' published on the DBT Biosafety Website.

The Committee considered the following parameters while making recommendations for commercial release of the Bt. Cotton hybrids expressing four approved events under EBAM for the consideration of the different State Agriculture Departments in Central and South Zones under intimation to the GEAC:

1. Confirmation of gene/ event through molecular characterization by the licensor that the gene/s which is being used is one of the approved events (LOC in original)
2. Level of protein expression in green house and field trials
3. Morphological characters using DUS descriptors as per PPVF&RA guidelines
4. Bio-efficacy data generated in laboratory conditions
5. Authorization certificate/ No Objection Certificate (NOC) in original from technology provider in case of sub-licensee
6. Affidavits duly signed by the Notary on Stamp Paper
7. Field trial data of the particular hybrid at least for one year from one SAU per State of the particular Zone keeping in view of the rainfed/irrigated regions; besides yield parameters, the data on quality aspects as well as reaction of test hybrid against insects and diseases as recorded under AICCIP; Seed cotton yield should be significantly superior to the best check.

The Committee decided that Bt cotton hybrids giving statistically significant yield than the best performing BG-II check, in the SAU/ICAR trial, should only be recommended for commercial release to the respective State Agriculture Departments in Central & South Zones, and not for the entire Zone, under EBAM.

Based on the SAU/AICCIP-ICAR reports, the Committee recommended the Bt cotton hybrids for commercial release in respective States for rainfed/irrigated areas in Central & South Zones. The Committee directed the Member Secretary to issue the recommendation letters to different State Agriculture Departments in Central & South Zones, for irrigated/rainfed areas State-wise, for recommended Bt cotton hybrids under intimation to GEAC, on the same lines as in the previous meeting.

### **Other items with the permission of the Chair:**

1. **Representations received from JK AgriGenetics Ltd, Hyderabad; Kohinoor Seed Fields India Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi; Rasi Seeds Pvt. Ltd., Coimbatore & Ankur Seeds Pvt. Ltd., Nagpur for reconsideration of the decisions taken on their applications in the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee held on 24.3.2014**

The Committee considered the representations and re-examined the respective applications. The Committee reiterated the earlier decisions on these representations taking into account of statistically significant superiority of the hybrid over the best performing check as shown in the SAU/AICCIP-ICAR reports.

**2. List of Bt cotton hybrids recommended for withdrawal from commercialization**

The Committee noted that as per the TOR received from Ministry of Environment & Forests, New Delhi vide OM No. 13/39/2007-CS-II dated 20.2.2014, the Standing Committee should put in place a procedure for review of the Bt cotton hybrids approved by the Standing Committee, and based on the review, recommend to the GEAC, the list of Bt cotton hybrids whose approval may be withdrawn. The Committee noted the list of Bt cotton hybrids recommended by the applicants, voluntarily, for withdrawal at Annexure-III. The Committee directed the Member Secretary to send the list of Bt cotton hybrids recommended for withdrawal, voluntarily by the applicants, to GEAC for consideration.

The Committee observed that the tenure of the Committee is going to be expired on 16.6.2014. The members unanimously expressed their sincere thanks to GEAC, DBT and ICAR for the support extended and confidence reposed in the Committee during the past 3 years. The Committee requested GEAC to constitute the Standing Committee consisting of new members with necessary expertise at the earliest for considering the EBAM applications henceforth with renewed TOR and guidelines along with earlier suggested parameters, if found suitable, for evaluation of Bt cotton hybrids of approved events. The Committee advised the Member Secretary to compile various recommendations made by the Committee in its previous meetings to GEAC for inclusion in the TOR.

With the above, the meeting ended with thanks to the Chair. The minutes are approved with incorporation of suggestions and modifications.

**Sd/-**

(Dr. N. Gopalakrishnan)

Chairman, Standing Committee &  
ADG (Commercial Crops), ICAR, New Delhi

Place: New Delhi

Date: 02.06.2014