

No. BT/01/013/2009-PID (NORTH)

Dated: 25.05.2009

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Recommendation of the Standing Committee for Bt cotton hybrids expressing four approved events namely Event MON 531 (*cry1Ac*); Event MON 15985 (*cry1Ac* + *cry2Ab*), GFM (*cry1Ab* + *cryAc*) and JK Event 1 (*cry1Ac*) eligible for commercial release by the State Agriculture Departments in North zone.

The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) established under Rule-4 of the Rule-1989 has adopted Event based approval mechanism (EBAM) in respect of Bt cotton hybrids expressing approved events in its meeting held on 02.04.2008 and subsequently a new procedure under the EBAM was adopted by the GEAC in its 91st meeting held on 14.01.2009. Details of the new procedure adopted under the EBAM is available at GEAC website i.e. http://www.envfor.nic.in/divisions/csurv/geac/geac_home.html. In accordance with the decision taken by GEAC in its meeting held on 14.01.2009, the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoE&F) had constituted a 'Standing Committee' to review the applications for commercial release of Bt cotton hybrids expressing approved events vide O.M. No. 13/39/2007-CS-II dated 17.04.2009. The Standing Committee in its 2nd meeting held on 15.05.2009 considered applications received from various seed companies for their eligibility for commercialization of Bt cotton hybrids expressing 4 approved events as subjected above.

2. The applications were scrutinized by the Standing Committee as per new procedure for commercial release of Bt cotton hybrids vide Revised O.M. No. 13/39/2007-CS-II dated 17.04.2009 issued by MoE&F for the following:

- Confirmation of gene/ event through molecular characterization by the licenser that the gene/s which is being used is one of the approved events;
- Level of protein expression in green house and field trials;
- Morphological characters using DUS descriptors;
- Bio-efficacy data generated in laboratory conditions;
- Authorization certificate/ No Objection Certificate (NOC) from technology provider in case of sub-licensee.

3. Based on the above new procedure, the Standing Committee has recommended the following Bt cotton hybrids for commercial release in the north zone (Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan) by the State Agriculture Departments subject to terms & conditions laid down by the respective State Department of Agriculture as adopted for conventional (non-Bt) cotton seeds/hybrids or truthfully labeled seeds as per the State Governments procedures.


Sr.No.	Company	Zone	Event/gene	Name of Hybrids
1	Nandi Seeds Pvt. Ltd.	North	<i>cry1Ac</i> & <i>cry2Ab</i> genes (MON 15985)	SDS-27 BGII, SDS-6003 BGII, SDS234 BGII
2	Namdhari Seeds Pvt. Ltd.	North	<i>cry1Ac</i> & <i>cry2Ab</i> genes (MON 15985)	NAMCOT-616 BGII, NAMCOT 617 BGII

3.	Amar Biotech Ltd.	North	<i>cry1Ac & cry2Ab genes (MON 15985)</i>	ABCH- 1299 Bt (BG-II), ABCH- 2099 Bt (BG-II), ABCH-4899 Bt (BG-II), ABCH- 7399 Bt (BG-II)
4.	Amar Biotech Ltd.	North	<i>cry1Ac gene (MON 531)</i>	ABCH- 3083 Bt, ABCH-3483 Bt, ABCH-1857 Bt
5.	Amar Biotech Ltd.	North	<i>cry1Ac & cry2Ab genes (MON 15985)</i>	ABCH- 143 Bt BG-II , ABCH- 146 Bt BG-II
6.	Amar Biotech Ltd.	North	<i>cry1Ac gene (MON 531)</i>	ABCH- 172 Bt, ABCH- 173 Bt, ABCH- 174 Bt, ABCH-177 Bt, ABCH- 178 Bt
7.	Amar Biotech Ltd.	North	<i>cry1Ac & cry2Ab genes (MON 15985)</i>	ABCH- 181 Bt BG-II, ABCH- 182 Bt BG-II, ABCH- 191 Bt BG-II, ABCH- 192 Bt BG-II
8.	Krishidhan Seeds Ltd.	North	<i>cry1Ac & cry2Ab genes (MON 15985)</i>	KDCHH- 541 BGII
9.	Krishidhan Seeds Ltd.	North	<i>cry1Ac gene (Mon 531)</i>	KDCHH- 507 BG-I

4. Both the seed companies and State Agriculture Departments would separately forward one packet containing 450 gm of seeds of each of the recommended hybrids and send to the referral laboratory i.e. Central Institute of Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur. The CICR, Nagpur would do the testing of 10% samples randomly selected from the samples received. Rs. 10,000/- has been fixed as the fee per hybrid which may be deposited to CICR, Nagpur by the seed companies. The company should also provide the event specific primer sequence details to CICR, Nagpur for scientific scrutiny and verification of the claims submitted along with the affidavit/s furnished to the Standing Committee.

5. In case any applicant/ company intends to co-market their hybrid(s), they may approach GEAC for necessary permissions.

Kindly acknowledge the receipt of this letter.



(Rajalakshmi Muralidharan)

Member-Secretary, Standing Committee &
Scientist-D, DBT

To

1. The Agriculture Commissioner/
Secretary (Agriculture),
Department of Agriculture,
Punjab State, Chandigarh.
2. The Agriculture Commissioner/
Secretary (Agriculture),
Department of Agriculture,
Haryana State, Chandigarh.
3. The Agriculture Commissioner/
Secretary (Agriculture),
Department of Agriculture,
Jaipur, Rajasthan.

Copy to:

1. The Chairman, GEAC, MoE&F, Paryavaran Bhawan, C.G.O.Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi-110 003.
2. Member-Secretary, GEAC & Director, CS Division, MoE&F, Paryavaran Bhawan, C.G.O.Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi-110 003.
3. The Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi - 110 001.
4. Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi - 110 001.
5. The Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab, Chandigarh.
6. Director of Agriculture, Government of Punjab, Punjab State, Chandigarh.
7. Director of Research, Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhaina-141004, Punjab.
8. The Chief Secretary, Government of Haryana, Chandigarh.
9. Director of Agriculture, Government of Haryana, Hissar, Haryana.
10. Director of Research, Choudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (CCSHAU), Hissar- 125 004, Haryana.
11. The Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan, Jaipur.
12. Director of Agriculture, Rajasthan State, Jaipur.
13. Director of Research, Rajasthan Agricultural University (RAU) Campus, Bikaner (Rajasthan) - 334 006.
14. Director of Research, Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture & Technology, Udaipur, Rajasthan-313001.
15. Director, Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Post Box No.2. Shankar Nagar Post, Nagpur-440010 (Maharashtra)
16. Dr. P. Balasubramanian, Director, Centre for Plant Molecular Biology, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore - 641 003.
17. Dr. D. Monga, Head, Regional Station, Central Institute of Cotton Research, Sirsa, Haryana.
18. Dr. K.R. Kranthi, Principal Scientist, Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Post Box No. 2, Shankar Nagar P.O., Nagpur - 440 010.
19. Dr. N. Gopalakrishnan, Project Coordinator, All India Cotton Crop Improvement Project (AICCIP), Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.
20. Dr. K.K. Tripathi, Scientist-G & Member Secretary- RCGM, DBT, New Delhi.
21. Guard file.


(Rajalakshmi Muralidharan)
Member-Secretary, Standing Committee &
Scientist-D, DBT



No. BT/01/013/2009-PID (NORTH)

Dated: 03.09.2009

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Recommendation of the Standing Committee for Bt cotton hybrids expressing four approved events namely Event MON 531 (*cryIAc*); Event MON 15985 (*cryIAc* + *cry2Ab*), GFM (*cryIAb* + *cryAc*) and JK Event 1 (*cryIAc*) eligible for commercial release by the State Agriculture Departments in North zone.

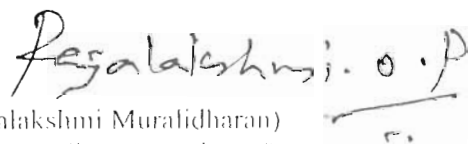
The undersigned is directed to invite your attention to this Department's O.M. of even number dated 25.05.2009 on the above-mentioned subject. It is informed that in connection with a representation received from M/s Seedsmen Association requesting for waiver of the clause "In case any applicant/company intends to co-market their hybrid(s), they may approach GEAC for necessary permissions" stipulated by the Standing Committee in its recommendations, Member Secretary, GEAC vide D.O.No.C-12017/62/2009-CS-III dated 6.8.2009 has informed that the issue of co-marketing has been earlier considered by the GEAC in its meetings held on 1.6.2006 and 29.5.2007 wherein the committee has conveyed its 'no objection' subject to compliance of the following conditions:

- i) The name/number of the hybrid as approved by the GEAC should be prominently displayed on the label and the trade name may be indicated in parenthesis.
- ii) The parent Company who has obtained approval of the GEAC would be liable for any violation or misinformation under the provisions of the EPA/Seed Act.
- iii) In future, the Companies may indicate the different brand names under which they propose to sell the Bt cotton seeds in their original application itself.
- iv) The matter being a State subject, the State Govt. may take a final view on the issue taking into cognizance the provisions of the 'Trade Mark Act'.

In view of the above, and based on the e-mail received from Chairman, Standing Committee dated 31.08.2009, Para 5 stands deleted from this Department's O.M. of even number dated 25.05.2009 on the above-mentioned subject:

All other information/ terms & conditions given in the original O.M. dated 25.05.2009 will remain the same.

Kindly acknowledge the receipt of this letter.



(Rajalakshmi Muralidharan)
Member-Secretary, Standing Committee &
Scientist-D, DBT

- To
1. The Agriculture Commissioner/
Secretary (Agriculture),
Department of Agriculture,
Punjab State, Chandigarh.
 2. The Agriculture Commissioner/
Secretary (Agriculture),
Department of Agriculture,
Haryana State, Chandigarh.

3. The Agriculture Commissioner/
Secretary (Agriculture),
Department of Agriculture,
Jaipur, Rajasthan.

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3. The Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi - 110 001.
4. Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi - 110 001.
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7. Director of Research, Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana-141004, Punjab.
8. The Chief Secretary, Government of Haryana, Chandigarh.
9. Director of Agriculture, Government of Haryana, Hissar, Haryana.
10. Director of Research, Choudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (CSHAU), Hissar- 125 004, Haryana.
11. The Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan, Jaipur.
12. Director of Agriculture, Rajasthan State, Jaipur.
13. Director of Research, Rajasthan Agricultural University (RAU) Campus, Bikaner (Rajasthan) - 334 006.
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15. Director, Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Post Box No.2, Shankar Nagar - Post, Nagpur- 440010 (Maharashtra)
16. Dr. P. Balasubramanian, Director, Centre for Plant Molecular Biology, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore - 641 003.
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19. Dr. N. Gopalakrishnan, Project Coordinator, All India Cotton Crop Improvement Project (AICCP), Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.
20. Dr. K.K. Tripathi, Scientist-G & Member Secretary- RCGM, DBT, New Delhi.
21. M/s Seedsmen Association, Flat No.901, 9th Floor, Babukhan Estate, Bashirbagh, Hyderabad-500 001
22. Guard file.



(Rajalakshmi Muralidharan)

Member-Secretary, Standing Committee &
Scientist-D, DBT