

## **Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the Standing Committee to review applications for commercial release of Bt cotton hybrids expressing approved events under 'Event based approval mechanism (EBAM)' held on 12th March, 2010 at CICR, Nagpur**

The 3rd 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 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2010 at CICR, Nagpur under the Chairmanship of Dr. P. Balasubramanian, Professor, Centre for Plant Molecular Biology (CPMB), TNAU, Coimbatore. The list of participants is enclosed at Annexure-1.

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

Dr. P. Balasubramanian, Chairman, Standing Committee extended a formal welcome to all members of Standing Committee for the 3rd meeting and initiated the process of the meeting.

### **Leave of Absence**

The Committee noted that Dr. K. K. Tripathi had informed that he would be not be able to attend the meeting on account of some official meeting at US. Leave of absence was granted to Dr. Tripathi.

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

Member Secretary distributed the Action Taken Report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Standing Committee meeting held on 15-5-2009. It was informed by the Member-Secretary that necessary follow up action was taken on the recommendations of the Standing Committee in its 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting and letters were issued to State Agriculture Departments/applicants.

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

Dr. Kranthi drew the attention of the members and informed that several applicants whose Bt cotton hybrids were recommended under EBAM in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> meetings of the Standing Committee neither complied with the stipulated condition of sending one packet of 450 gm of seeds of each of the recommended hybrids to the referral laboratory i.e. Central Institute of Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur for testing nor deposited the prescribed fee of Rs.10,000/-. The State Agriculture Departments had also not forwarded the recommended hybrids for testing. CICR, Nagpur had already written to M/s. JK Seeds and M/s. Nath Seeds twice asking for seed samples and depositing the fee along with the event specific primer sequence details for scientific scrutiny and verification of the claims submitted along with the affidavit/s furnished to the Standing Committee. He also informed that some companies are sending very small quantity of seeds in loose packets. Leaf samples have also been submitted by some companies for testing. The Committee deliberated on the issue and unanimously agreed that hybrids of all those erring companies should be put on hold and CICR may send a reminder to these companies asking them to send one packet of 450 g of the seed sample of each recommended hybrid along with primer details in the case of JK and Nath seeds and prescribed fee immediately. The Committee also unanimously agreed that their applications should be deferred till they comply with the stipulated conditions of Standing Committee. It was also agreed that this restriction is applicable for post released hybrids in the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Standing Committee meetings.

The Committee also decided that in future CICR will depute some technical person to collect seed samples of recommended hybrids from open market for scientific scrutiny and verification

of the claims of the applicants and the applicants should deposit the fee with CICR and get the fee receipt for record. The applicants/agriculture Departments are not required to send samples separately for event testing/confirmation henceforth for the fresh applications.

### **Recommendations of the Bt cotton hybrids to referral laboratories**

Various applications submitted by the applicants were considered by the Standing-Committee taking into account the TOR (Terms of Reference) of the Committee. The Committee observed that there is no uniformity in submission of DUS descriptors even though the detailed guidelines are available on the public domain i.e. at PPV&FRA website. The Committee directed the Member Secretary to inform all applicants that they should recheck their applications and submit DUS descriptors as per PPV&FRA guidelines by April 15, 2010. The Committee also recommended that original NOC and LOC should be submitted along with the applications. In future, all applications should be submitted with the affidavits duly signed by the Notary.

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

1. The Committee considered the request from various seed companies for inclusion of South Rajasthan (Banswara region) in the Central Zone for release of Bt. Cotton hybrids approved for commercialization. It was observed that Member Secretary had already written to GEAC twice to consider the matter and communicate the final decision and the reply is awaited. The Committee directed the Member Secretary to send a reminder to GEAC with a request to put up the matter before the GEAC in its next meeting.
2. The members deliberated on the request from M/s. Nuziveedu Seeds Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad and M/s. Prabhat Agri Biotech Ltd., Hyderabad for inclusion of Orissa in the approval letter granted for commercialization of their Bt cotton hybrid seeds in Central zone and observed that the applicants have already confirmed that by oversight they did not include Orissa in their application. Since GEAC has already included Orissa in the Central Zone for EBAM, the Committee agreed to their request for inclusion of Orissa in the approval letter issued to them earlier.
3. The Committee also looked into the request of M/s. Vikram Seeds Pvt. Ltd., Ahmedabad to issue revised recommendations for commercial release of Bt cotton hybrids expressing approved events as the status of the company has been changed from M/s. Vikram Seeds Ltd., Ahmedabad to M/s. Vikram Seeds Pvt. Ltd., Ahmedabad w.e.f. 23.07.2009. Since the company has submitted necessary documents, the Committee agreed to its request.
4. The Committee considered the applications at Annexure-III for renewal of approval for commercialization and observed that the matter comes under the purview of GEAC.
5. Regarding the application of M/s. Kohinoor Seeds for Co-marketing of Bt cotton hybrids, the Committee remarked that the applicant should submit the NOC from the technology provider for commercialization of their hybrids. The Committee also observed that Co-marketing is not under the purview of Standing Committee.

The members discussed on the preparation of guidelines to review applications for commercial release on Bt cotton hybrids expressing approved events under 'Event Based Approval Mechanism (EBAM)'. Members also remarked that one year SAU trial data is necessary and the TOR for the Standing Committee should be revised accordingly.

The Committee also deliberated on the issue of transferring the responsibility of the Standing Committee to State Agriculture Departments and strongly endorsed the same.

It was decided to hold the next meeting of the Standing Committee at the CICR Regional Station, Coimbatore.

With the above, the meeting ended with thanks to the Chair. The Chairman as well as members thanked Dr. Kranthi for organizing the meeting at CICR.

The minutes approved by e-mail.

Sd/-  
(P. Balasubramanian)  
Chairman, Standing Committee &  
Professor, CPMB, TNAU, Coimbatore

Members:

1. Dr. Dilip Monga  
Head, CICR, Sirsa
2. Dr. N. Gopalakrishnan  
Head, CICR, Coimbatore
3. Dr K. R. Kranthi  
Director, CICR, Nagpur
4. Mrs. Rajalakshmi Muralidharan  
Scientist-D, DBT

Place: Nagpur  
Date: 12.03.2010

**List of Participants:**

1. Dr. P. Balasubramanian  
Chairman, Standing Committee &  
Professor, CPMB TNAU, Coimbatore.
2. Dr. Dilip Monga,  
Head, CICR, Sirsa.
3. Dr. N. Gopalakrishnan  
Head, CICR, Coimbatore.
4. Dr. K. R. Kranthi  
Director, CICR, Nagpur
5. Mrs. Rajalakshmi Muralidharan  
Scientist D, DBT