

**Minutes of the 5<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)' held in DBT, New Delhi on 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2010**

The 5<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 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2010 in Department of Biotechnology, New Delhi 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 5<sup>th</sup> meeting and initiated the process of the meeting.

**Leave of Absence**

The Committee noted that Dr. Dilip Monga had informed that he would be not be available due to some prior engagements. Leave of absence was granted to Dr. Monga.

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

Member Secretary distributed the Action Taken Report of the 4th Standing Committee meeting held on 7.5.2010. It was informed by the Member-Secretary that necessary follow up action was taken on the recommendations of the Standing Committee in its 4th meeting and letters were issued to State Agriculture Departments/applicants.

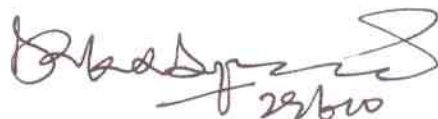
**Remarks/Views by the Members**

The Committee expressed that approximately more than 600 hybrids have already been released under EBAM but many of these hybrids are not available in the market. The committee also observed that about 80% of the total cotton cultivation is covered by about 20 Bt cotton hybrids. Since availability of the hybrids released by the EBAM in open market has been a constraint to obtain random samples for event testing to be conducted by the CICR, the Member Secretary was requested to seek information from the seed companies regarding the districts wherein the EBAM released hybrid seeds would be available for sale, so as to facilitate random sampling by CICR. The committee also remarked that the details of DUS descriptors of parental lines as per PPV&FRA should also be provided by the applicants along with their application in future for easy documentation. The DUS descriptors of the parents and the hybrids already released by the EBAM, must be submitted by the seed companies as a mandatory requirement, if not provided earlier.

**The applicant should also provide the SAU trial data zone wise.**

The Committee deliberated on the issue of non-compliance of the stipulated conditions by technology providers and sending the event specific primer sequence details to CICR for scientific scrutiny and verification of the claims of the applicants. The Committee noted that no response has been received from M/s. Nath Seeds/ M/s. Global Transgenes Ltd. Aurangabad. The Committee directed the Member-Secretary to issue the permission letters for the recommended hybrids of M/s. Nath Seeds/ M/s. Global Transgenes Ltd. Aurangabad and its sub-licensees only after confirmation of complying with the stipulated conditions by these applicants. The Committee also reiterated that as recommended in the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, CICR will depute some technical person to collect seed samples of



  
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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 should also send the event specific primer sequence details to CICR for event testing/confirmation alongwith prescribed fee.


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

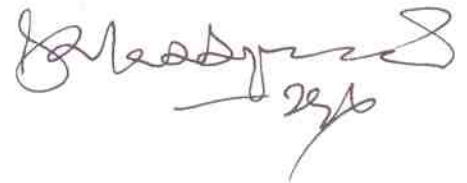
Various applications submitted by the applicants for commercialization in South Zone were considered by the Standing-Committee taking into account the TOR (Terms of Reference) of the Committee. The Standing Committee kept in view the following parameters for evaluating and deciding the commercial release of the Bt, Cotton hybrids expressing four approved events under 'event based approval mechanism (EBAM) while making recommendations for the consideration of the different State Agriculture Departments with information to GEAC:

- a) Confirmation of gene/ event through molecular characterization by the licensor that the gene/s which is being used is one of the approved events;
- b) Level of protein expression in green house and field trials;
- c) Morphological characters of the parents and the hybrids using DUS descriptors as per PPVF&RA guidelines;
- d) Bio-efficacy data generated in laboratory conditions;
- e) Authorization certificate/ No Objection Certificate (NOC) from technology provider in case of sub-licensee;
- f) One year field trial data from concerned SAU of the particular hybrid; and
- g) The Standing Committee shall lay down rules and procedure for submission of application and conduct of the meetings.

Based on the stipulations of GEAC, the Standing Committee recommended different hybrids in South Zone for their biosafety clearance.

The requests from M/s Nuziveedu, M/s Prabhat Agri & M/s Pravardhan Seeds Ltd. for commercialization of their already recommended hybrids by the GEAC and Standing Committee in previous meetings in other Zones without zonal restrictions as per the GEAC OM dated 27.11.2009 and also for commercialization of Central Zone released hybrids in Orissa and Rajasthan was discussed in detail. Thus for all applications have been made only for the specific zones, namely south, central and north zones, which have different agro-eco climatic in seasonal conditions. The GEAC O.M. dated 27.11.2009 states that "By the same logic, there is no zonal restriction with the adoption of the EBAM. Applicants may request for release of Bt cotton hybrids for any region" which entitles the seed companies to submit individual applications of a specific hybrid for the three different zones separately.


  
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The committee also discussed the applications submitted by M/s. Mahyco and M/s. Pravardhan Seeds for release of Bt cotton hybrids under EBAM in U.P. under North Zone. The Committee noted that GEAC has already been requested to provide information whether any Bt cotton hybrid has already been released in UP under North zone. Information from GEAC is still awaited, and a final decision on the matter would be taken based on the clarification from the GEAC.

With the above, the meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.


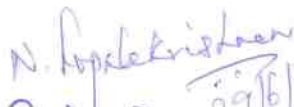
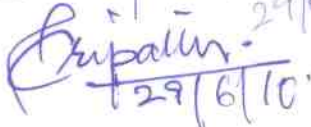
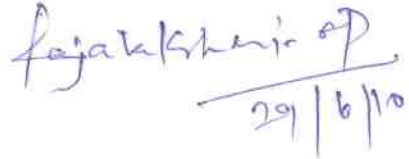
The minutes approved.



(P. Balasubramanian)

Chairman, Standing Committee &  
Professor, CPMB, TNAU, Coimbatore

Members:

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

Place: New Delhi  
Date: 29.06.2010

**List of Participants:**

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