



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

Dated: 28.04.2009

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* + *cry1Ac*) and JK Event 1 (*cry1Ac*) eligible for commercial release by the State Agriculture Departments in central 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 1st meeting held on 17.04.2009 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 licensor 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 central zone (**Gujarat, Maharashtra, M.P. & Orissa**) 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.

Sl. No.	Zone	Event	Company	Hybrid Number/ Name
1.	Central	cry1Ac gene (MON 531)	M/s. Seed Works International Pvt Ltd., Hyderabad	SWCH- 4428 Bt, SWCH- 4531 Bt, SWCH- 4314 Bt
2.	"	"	M/s. Bayer Biosciences Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad	SP 1136 B1
3.	"	"	M/s. Bioseeds Research India Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore	311 Bt/ MON 531
4.	"	"	M/s. Pravardhan Seeds Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad	PRCHB- 405 BGI
5.	"	"	M/s. Ankur Seeds Pvt. Ltd., Nagpur	Ankur 3042 Bt
6.	"	cry1Ac & cry2Ab genes (MON 15985)	M/s. Kaveri Seed Co. Ltd., Secundrabad	KCH-14K59 BG-II, KCH-15K39 BG-II, KCH-36 BG-II, KCH-999 BGII,
7.	"	"	M/s. Solar Agrotech Pvt. Ltd., Rajkot	SOLAR- 66 BG-II, SARJU BG-II, SOLAR- 60 BG-II
8.	"	"	M/s. Ganga Kaveri Seeds Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad	GK-218 BGII, GK 221 BGII
9.	"	"	M/s. Monsanto Holdings Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai	Brahma BGII, Krishna BGII, MLBCH6 BGII
10.	"	"	M/s. Namdhari Seeds Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore	NAMCOT 614 BGII, NAMCOT 615 BGII
11.	"	"	M/s. Pravardhan Seeds Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad	PRCH-331 Bt II, PRCH-333 Bt II
12.	"	"	M/s. Seed Works International Pvt Ltd., Hyderabad	SWCH-2 BG-II, SWCH-4708 BG-II, SWCH-4715 BG-II, SWCH-1 BG-II, SWCH- 5017, SWCH-5011
13.	"	"	M/s. Bayer Biosciences Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad	SP 1016 B2, SP 1170 B2
14.	"	"	M/s. Rasi Seeds Pvt. Ltd., Attur	RCH-608 BGII & RCH-377 BG-II
15.	"	"	M/s. Tulasi Seeds Pvt. Ltd., Guntur	Tulasi- 135 BG-II, Tulasi-144 BG-II, Tulasi- 162 BG-II, Tulasi-117 BG-II

16.	"	"	M/s. Vikram Seeds Ltd., Ahmedabad	VICH-311 BG-II, VICH-312 BG-II, VICH-313 BG-II, VICH-314 BG-II
17.	"	"	M/s. Biosseeds Research India Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore	110-2, 111-2, 195-2
19.	"	"	M/s. Ankur Seeds Pvt. Ltd., Nagpur	Jai BG-II, Ankur- 3028 BG- II, Ankur- 3034 BG-II, Ankur- 216 BG-II, Ankur- 257 BG-II, Ankur- 3070 BG- II, Ankur HB 2104 BG-II
20.	"	"	M/s. Vibha Agrotech Ltd., Hyderabad	VBCH-1511, VBCH-1516, VBCH-1519, VBCH-1520, VBCH-1521, VBCHB- 1525, VBCHB- 1526
21.	"	GFM CryIA (<i>cryIAb</i> & <i>cryIAc</i> gene)	M/s. Safal Seeds & Biotech Ltd., Jalna	SBCH- 286 Bt (Raka Bt)
22.	"	"	M/s. Navkar Hybrids Seeds Pvt. Ltd., Ahmedabad	ACH 1050 Bt, ACH 1151 Bt, ACH 1171 Bt
23.	"	"	M/s. Yashoda Hybrid Seeds Ltd., Wardha	YRCH-4 Bt, YRCH-9 Bt, YRCH-13 Bt, YRCH-31 Bt, YRCH-45 Bt, YRCH-54 Bt
24.	"	"	M/s. Green Gold Seeds Ltd., Aurangabad	GBCH-07 Bt, GBCH-09 Bt
25.	"	cryIAc Event-1	M/s. JK Agri Genetics Ltd., Hyderabad	JK- Chamundi Bt, JK- Gowri Bt, JKCH-2245 Bt, JKCHB-229 Bt, JK- Ishwar (JKCH-634 Bt)

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.

Kindly acknowledge the receipt of this letter.

Rajalakshmi

(Rajalakshmi Muralidharan)

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

To

- The Agriculture Commissioner/
Secretary (Agriculture),
Directorate of Agriculture,
Krishi Bhawan, Sector-10 A, Gandhinagar - 382 010.

2. The Agriculture Commissioner/
Secretary (Agriculture),
Department of Agriculture,
Maharashtra State, Central Building,
Pune (Maharashtra).
3. The Agriculture Commissioner/
Secretary (Agriculture),
Department of Agriculture,
Vidhyachal Bhawan,
Near Secretariat,
Bhopal (MP).
4. The Agriculture Commissioner/
Secretary (Agriculture),
Department of Agriculture,
Govt. of Orissa, Bhubaneswar,
Orissa.

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 Gujarat, Gandhinagar.
6. Director of Research, Navsari Agricultural University NAU, Navsari, Gujarat.
7. Director of Research, Anand Agricultural University (AAU), Anand, Gujrat
8. Director of Research, Sardar Kushiagar Dantiwara Agricultural University (SKDAU), Palanpur, Distt. Banaskanta, Gujrat.
9. Director of Research, Junagarh Agricultural University (JAU) Junagarh, Gujrat
10. The Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai.
11. Director of Research, Panjabrao Deshmukhrao Krishi Vidhyapeeth (PDKV), Akola, Maharashtra.
12. Director of Research, Marathwada Agricultural University (MAU), Parbhani, Maharashtra
13. Director of Research, Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidhayapeeth (MPKV), Rahuri, Maharashtra.
14. The Chief Secretary, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal, M.P.
15. Director of Research, Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidhyalaya (JNKVV), Jabalpur, M.P.
16. Director of Research, Gwalior Agriculture University, Gwalior, M.P.
17. The Chief Secretary & Chairman, SBCC, Government of Orissa, Bhubaneswar, Orissa.
18. Director of Research, OUAT, Bhubaneswar, Orissa.
19. Director of Agriculture, Government of Orissa, Bhubaneswar, Orissa.
20. Director, Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Post Box No.2, Shankar Nagar Post, Nagpur- 440010 (Maharashtra)
21. Dr. P. Balasubramanian, Director, Centre for Plant Molecular Biology, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore - 641 003.

22. Dr. D. Monga, Head, Regional Station, Central Institute of Cotton Research, Sirsa, Haryana.
23. Dr. K.R. Kranthi, Principal Scientist, Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Post Box No. 2, Shankar Nagar P.O., Nagpur - 440 010.
24. Dr. N. Gopalakrishnan, Project Coordinator, All India Cotton Crop Improvement Project (AICCIP), Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.
25. Dr. K.K. Tripathi, Scientist-G & Member Secretary- RCGM, DBT, New Delhi.
26. Guard file.

Rajalakshmi. M

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

भारत सरकार

विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय

बायोटेक्नोलॉजी विभाग

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY



ब्लॉक-2, 7 वां तल, सी० जी० ओ० कम्प्लेक्स
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Lodi Road, New Delhi-110003

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

Dated: 05.05.2009

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* + *cry1Ac*) and JK Event 1 (*cry1Ac*) eligible for commercial release by the State Agriculture Departments in **Central Zone**.

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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:

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

3. In the communications No. SBD/2542/2009 and SBD/2541/2009 dated 15.04.2009 from M/s. Maharashtra Hybrid Seed Co. Ltd. (Mahyco), Mumbai to M/s. Mahyco Monsanto Biotech (India) Ltd., (MMB) and Member Secretary, GEAC respectively, M/s. Mahyco had informed that they initiated legal proceedings and requested M/s. MMB not to grant NOC to M/s. Nuziveedu Seeds Pvt. Ltd., (NSL), Hyderabad and M/s. Prabhat Agri Biotech Ltd. (PAB), Hyderabad in respect of the hybrids similar to M/s. Mahyco's hybrid MRC-7351 and in case M/s. MMB has granted NOC, the same may be kindly revoked. It was also informed that M/s. Mahyco had filed an application under Section 24(5) against M/s. NSL under the provisions of Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Act, 2001 (PPV&FR) on the ground that M/s. NSL is conducting seed production of a hybrid cotton seed by using parental lines of M/s. Mahyco. The Standing Committee while considering the applications of M/s. NSL and M/s. PAB took into consideration the above mentioned communications received from the

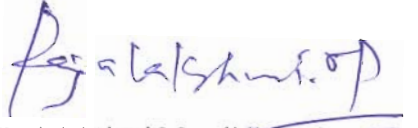
M/s. Mahyco and M/s. MMB and decided to defer the decision on the applications as the communications did not clearly indicate whether the technology provider is planning to revoke the permission in respect of PCH 883 Bt 2 or for all hybrids. Subsequent to the meeting of the Standing Committee, M/s. NSL and M/s. PAB had informed that the matter was subjudice only in respect of PCH 883 Bt 2 hybrid in the PPV&FR Authority. M/s. MMB in their letter dated 24.04.2009 had clarified that the cancellation of NOC had been issued only for PCH 883 Bt 2 hybrid and in respect of other hybrids the NOC issued to M/s. NSL and M/s. PAB remain valid. The Member-Secretary, GEAC vide letter No. C-12017/48/2009-CS-III dated 29.04.2009 addressed to Chairman, Standing Committee had requested to reconsider the applications of M/s. NSL and M/s. PAB for commercial release of Bt cotton hybrids other than PCH 883 Bt 2 hybrid in the North Zone expeditiously. Subsequent to the above communication, the Member-Secretary, GEAC vide letter No. C-12017/48/2009-CS-III dated 01.05.2009 addressed to Chairman, Standing Committee had informed that the Ministry of Environment & Forests received an order from the Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh dated 27.04.2009 in WP No. 11317 of 2009 in WP No. 8642 of 2009 filed by M/s. NSL and PAB vs UoI and Ors. directing the regulatory agencies to consider the representations of the Petitioners in accordance with relevant statutory parameters and accord necessary approval as per law, within a period of one week from the receipt of the order.

4. In view of the communications received from GEAC and the order from the Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh as mentioned above and based on the letter dated 02.05.2009 and e-mail dated 04.05.2009 received from Chairman, Standing Committee, the Standing Committee has recommended the following Bt cotton hybrids for commercial release in the **central zone (Gujarat, Maharashtra & M.P.)** 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 Government's procedures.

Sl. No.	Event	Company	Hybrid Number/Name
1.	cry1Ac gene (MON 531)	M/s. Prabhat Agri Biotech Ltd., Hyderabad	PCH-404 Bt, PCH-405Bt, PCH-407Bt, PCH-408Bt, PCH-409Bt
2.	cry1Ac & cry2Ab genes (MON 15985)	M/s. Prabhat Agri Biotech Ltd., Hyderabad	PCH-115 Bt2, PCH-881 Bt2, PCH-882 Bt2
3.	cry1Ac gene (MON 531)	M/s. Nuziveedu Seeds Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad	NCS-906 Bt, NCS-907 Bt, NCS-908 Bt, NCS-909 Bt, NCS-910 Bt
4.	cry1Ac & cry2Ab genes (MON 15985)	M/s. Nuziveedu Seeds Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad	NCS- 859 Bt2, NCS-860 Bt2, NCS-861 Bt2, NCS-862 Bt2

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.

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

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Krishi Bhawan, Sector-10 A, Gandhinagar – 382 010.
2. The Agriculture Commissioner/
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Department of Agriculture,
Maharashtra State, Central Building,
Pune (Maharashtra).
3. The Agriculture Commissioner/
Secretary (Agriculture),
Department of Agriculture,
Vidhyachal Bhawan,
Near Secretariat,
Bhopal (MP).

Copy to:

1. The Chairman, GEAC, MoE&F, Paryavaran Bhawan, C.G.O.Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi-110 003.
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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, Anand Agricultural University (AAU), Anand, Gujrat
8. Director of Research, Sardar Kushinagar Dantiwara Agricultural University (SKDAU), Palanpur, Distt. Banaskanta, Gujrat.
9. Director of Research, Junagarh Agricultural University (JAU) Junagarh, Gujrat
10. The Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai.
11. Director of Research, Panjabrao Deshmukhrao Krishi Vidhyapeeth (PDKV), Akola, Maharashtra.
12. Director of Research, Marathwada Agricultural University (MAU), Parbhani, Maharashtra
13. Director of Research, Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidhyapeeth (MPKV), Rahuri, Maharashtra.
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