



ALL INDIA KISAN-MAZDOOR SABHA (AIKMS)
A.P. STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
అఖిల భారత రైతు - కూలీ సంఘం (AIKMS)
ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్ రాష్ట్ర కార్యవర్గం

Marx Bhavan - Vidya Nagar, Masjid Road, 7th Line, HYDERABAD - 500 044
మార్క్స్ భవన్ - విద్యా నగర్, మజిద్ రోడ్, 7వ లైన్, హైదరాబాద్ - 500 044

Dist. Office: Neelam Ramchanraiah Bhavan, Kotagally, Nizamabad Mandal & Dist. .A.P. INDIA

Date: 5 November, 2012

To:

The Hon'ble Justices Mr. SWATANTER KUMAR,
Supreme Court of India.
New Delhi

Respected Justices of the Supreme Court,

Ref: Case of Aruna Rodrigues Vs. Union of India (Writ Petition No. 260 of 2005)

Sub: Report of Technical Expert Committee on GM field trials

I Bakaram Gangadhar @ Gangareddy S/o Gangaram, age 48 years, Occu: Agriculture, R/o Ramadugu Village of Sirikonda Mandal, Nizamabad Dist. A.P. India.

I am the farmer and cultivating agriculture lands and raising crops i.e. paddy, maize, turmeric and jawar etc. and I am also member of All India Kisan Mazdoor Sabha (AIKMS).

I am submitting few lines as under.

I would like to represent to the Hon'ble Supreme Court that we welcome the report of the Technical Expert Committee appointed by the Supreme Court on the issue of field trials of Genetically Modified crops in India.

I and my organization i.e. AIKMS are very concerned about the health and environmental impact of the GM crops, especially food crops. I support committee recommendation to impose moratorium on field trials of GM crops for 10 years. I am convinced that our regulatory and testing system of GM crops is highly inadequate. The reports from various scientists have shown that long-term tests and multi-generational tests are required, and the tests should be done by independent agencies instead of using the company's own test data.

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I and my organization i.e. AIKMS condemns false propaganda of the biotechnology industry and their attempts to pressurize the government and the judiciary to not accept the expert committee recommendations, and to make sure that GM crops are welcomed in the country without proper regulations. I also reject the argument that Indian farmers cannot produce adequate food for the growing population without Genetically Modified crops. Experiences have shown that the GM crops benefit the companies more than farmers, especially the small farmers. Thousands of Bt cotton farmers are committing suicide every year, but the seed companies are making hundreds of crores of profit.

I and my organization i.e. AIKMS also strongly supports the recommendation that technologies like herbicide-tolerance need to be thoroughly reviewed for their impact on health, environment and socio-economic considerations of farmers, and their suitability in Indian context. Until this is done with all stakeholders, there should be a moratorium on all field trials on herbicide-tolerant GM crops, as recommended. I believe that the herbicide-tolerant technology is fundamentally harmful to the Indian farming community. On the one hand, it will lead to huge increase in use of harmful herbicides like glyphosate (Monsanto's Roundup) which has very bad effects on health; on the other hand, it also leads to displacement of agricultural workers from their crucial role in weed-control. I believe that this technology is mainly to benefit the companies like Monsanto and Bayer, which produce both the herbicides and the GM seeds to squeeze profits from farmers on both products.

As recommended by the committee, such field trials should be done only in specific designated sites which have certified mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation. The field trials should never happen in the fields of farmers, even if they are leased by companies.

The biosafety concerns should be given highest importance. As recommended by the Parliamentary Standing Committee, a comprehensive Biosafety Law should be put in place through a legislation. Only then, proper testing and regulatory mechanism for GM crops can be ensured in our country.

In the interests of farming community, I support the report of the Technical Expert Committee and hope that the Supreme Court will fully accept the recommendations, and the Government of India will also accept the recommendations instead of opposing them in Court.

Yours sincerely,



Bakaram Gangadhar @ Gangareddy
S/o Gangaram,
Ramadugu Village
Sirikonda Mandal,
Nizamabad Dist.
A.P. INDIA.
Cell: 9441728383