

Dated: 31.08.2016

To:

**The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Haryana  
Civil Secretariat, Chandigarh.**

**Subject: Urging the State Government to ensure that GM mustard is not approved by Government of India**

Dear Sir,

**Namaskaar ! We would like to bring to your kind attention** the fact that various media reports & some other reports from reliable sources indicate that the Government of India is about to approve GM mustard for cultivation by farmers. A sub-committee within the apex regulatory body called Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) in the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change has apparently given a go-ahead with regard to the biosafety clearance of the 3 GMOs in question – a GM mustard hybrid and its two transgenic parental lines.

As you know, mustard is an important crop for farmers of the state. We are one of the larger producers of the crop in the country. Mustard is also a main resource for honey production, and for the presence & activities of honeybees. In such a crop, the deployment of genetic modification technology, that too with male sterility & herbicide tolerance traits introduced by the introduction of 3 bacterial genes is unacceptable and objectionable. It is objectionable because other technologies for hybridization are available like non-GM CMS hybrids. It is not as if farmers' livelihoods will get improved by this GM based hybridization technology with the bar-bamase-barstar complex of genes – there are no additional benefits here, given that well-performing hybrids and varieties of mustard are already available for farmers. There are also several other agronomic improvements possible through which mustard yields can be increased and there is solid evidence emerging of the success of these approaches in several states, by adoption of methods like System of Mustard Intensification.

In fact, there are all indications that farmers, agricultural workers as well consumers will all be adversely impacted if this GM mustard is allowed. Farmers will lose their seed sovereignty and diversity; agricultural workers are likely to lose their employment opportunities given that this GM mustard is herbicide tolerant, where if a particular herbicide is sprayed, the crop will survive & the weeds will get killed – a technology that will be found convenient by farmers but with its adverse impacts on labourers; further, consumers will have no choices left since segregation of GM mustard from non-GM mustard is not possible. Organic farmers will be particularly affected given that regulation has zero tolerance for GM contamination with organic produce, whereas contamination is inevitable.

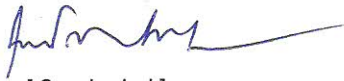
You have clearly articulated your concerns against GM crops on various occasions in the past. You have also not allowed GM food crop trials in the state in the last few seasons. We welcome this stand by the government, which is pro-people and pro-environment. To continue to uphold this policy of the state government which is in the best interests of its citizens, we now urge you to urgently write to the Government of India, to the Prime Minister and the Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change urging them to stop any approval of GM mustard by the regulators. This GM mustard is clearly unneeded, unwanted and unsafe.

The state government will not be able to escape the consequences of this technology if it is approved by the Centre, even if it takes a stand that it will not allow the same in the state. GM mustard Seeds and mustard related products are still bound to come in from other states. It is therefore an imperative on the state government to urge the Centre not to approve.

We also urge the state government to come out with a clear statement on the matter & take a policy stand for GM mustard free Haryana.

Thanks & Warm Regards

Sincerely,



[ Sunder Lal ]

Dr. Mahavir Narwal ,Former Professor & Head , Plant Breeding ,CCS Agriculture University , Hissar

Mr. Gurnam Singh, President , BKU , Haryana

Dr. P.K.Kahare, President , Nature Care , Gurgaon

Dr. Neelima Dahiya, Former Professor , MDU Rohtak

Dr. Alok Deep, Former Professor [ Educationist ] President, Haryana Mahila Kalyan Samiti , Faridabad

Dr. Rajeev Agarwal, Medical professional, Palwal

Col. M.S. Dahiya , Social Activist , Sonapat

Dr. Ramnik Mohan, Former Assistant Professor – English & Secretary, 'Socially Active People's Theatre, Art and Cultural Group' (SAPTRANG).

Dr. V.P.Goel, Deputy Director [ Retd.] Horticulture Department , Haryana

Prof. Ranbir Singh, Former Professor [ Educationist ] Secretary Dakshini Haryana Vikas Lok Manch ,Rewari

Dr. Ram Kumar, Former faculty , CCS Agriculture University, Hissar & Socio-Political Activist

Mr. Jagjit Singh, Deputy Director - Retd. , Planning Department , Haryana & President , Dakshini Haryana Vikas Lok Manch,Rewari

Mr. Arvindpal Dahiya, Kudrati Kheti Abhiyan & Vice President, National Confederation of Officers Association – NCOA of CPSUs

Dr. Chhotu Ram, Department of Applied Science & Engineering, IIT - Roorkee

Dr. Vinod Beniwal, Agriculture Scientist

Dr. Mahinder Singh, Agriculture Scientist

Mr. Vijay Singh, Ex. Official of Cooperative Department ,Haryana & Presently District Convener RTI , Rewari

Mr. Rajinder Kumar, Ex . Bank Official & President , Nihalgarh Yuvak Mandal , Bhiwani District

Mr. Raman Mann, Mani Majra, Chandigarh

Mr. Ramkishan Mehlawat , President , BKU [T] Rewari District

Ms. Bimla Devi, Organic Farmer, Rewari District

Mr. Parkash Arya, Social Activist , Mahendergrah District

Mr .Ibrahim Khan, Farmer & Social Activist, Nuh District , Haryana

Mr. Bhawneet Singh, Organic Farmer, Kamal

Mr. Manjeet Singh ,Organic Farmer, Jind

Ms. Rekha Devi, Organic Farmer, Rewari District

Mr. Ravinder Jhakhar, Art of Living , Rohtak

Ms. Mohmadhi , Ex. Member Zila Parishad , Nuh District , Haryana

Mr. Parvinder Pal, Kudrati Kheti Abhiyan , Haryana & Director Sutra Handicrafts Private Limited

Dr. Santosh Mudgil,Retd college Principal , Rohtak

Mr. Bheem Singh, Convener,Kudrati Kheti Smooh, Khand Mathanhail, Jhajjar District

**Communication Contact :**

1.Sunder Lal , Khorl 123101, District Rewari , Haryana [ Email – [sunder.khorl@gmail.com](mailto:sunder.khorl@gmail.com) ] [ Phone 9996022534]

2. Dr. Rajinder Chaudhary , Advisor, Kudarti Kheti Abhiyan, Haryana,Residence:# 904, Lane opposite Vaish Public School, Sector 3, Rohtak 124001 ,Haryana] Email – [rajinderc@gmail.com](mailto:rajinderc@gmail.com) ] [Ph: 09416182061]