

No. Agcs-12027(31)/14/2017  
Dated: -02-2018

O/o Special Commissioner of Agriculture  
Andhra Pradesh, Guntur

**MEMO**

**Sub:** Seed Regulation Cell – GOI guidelines on unapproved HT Cotton-  
Communication to Districts- Reg

**Ref:** D.O.No.13-134/2017-SD.IV dated: 29/01/2018 from Ministry of Agriculture  
& Farmers Welfare, Dept.of Agriculture & Co-op,New Delhi.  
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It is to inform that vide reference cited the GOI stated that the HT Cotton is not approved by the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) for commercial cultivation in India. Therefore, the sale cultivation and seed production of HT Cotton seed is punishable offence under Seeds Act,1966 Seeds Rules, 1968 and Seeds (Control) Order, 1983 vis-à-vis under Environmental Protection Act, 1986 and Environmental Protection Rules, 1989.

Further and also to inform that the GOI requested the state Government to conduct rigorous inspection of cotton seed production fields, ginning plants and suspicious seed godowns to control and curb the illegal cultivation, sale and processing, packaging and storage of the unapproved HT Cotton seed for next sowing and initiate ***Criminal proceedings as per provisions of Indian Penal Code.***

In view of the above as per the marginal endorsement of the Special Chief Secretary of Agriculture, GOAP it is requested to give wide publicity on to control and curb the illegal cultivation, sale and processing, packaging and storage of the unapproved HT Cotton seed for next sowing to all District Collectors, Joint Collectors, Revenue Divisional Officers (RDOs), District Joint Directors of Agriculture, all Seed Inspectors, and Seed Men Association.

Further the JDAs are instructed to take appropriate action at their level in curbing the HT Cotton seeds.

1. The prevalence of the HT Cotton status needs to be monitored and subsequent follow up to restrict its frequent and rapid occurrence.
2. There is need to have a continuous monitoring on the HT Cotton with the commercial crop, Seed production plots ,markets, dealers and in the fields by the Seed Enforcement Authorities (Seed Inspectors/ Mandal Agricultural Officers).
3. It is also suggested that the district wise status report should be sent on HT Cotton growing area through the Department of Agriculture and allied department.
4. Effective monitoring is required on the cotton seed production activities, if any; HT multiplication is taking place in the state.
5. The Govt.of A.P has issued GO.Rt.No.69 dated 09-02-2018 on imposition of restriction of usage of Glyphosate formulations and safe guards for Agriculture, Horticulture, Human and Domestic animals. The Glyphosate (Glycel) herbicide is

only recommended for uncropped areas not for cropped area. Hence the JDAs have to review the usage of Glyphosate and action is to be taken on the sale of Glyphosate in the Districts through MAOs and public campaigns etc. Glyphosate (Glycel) herbicide is reported as Carcinogenic and it affects human and animal health besides influencing on soil health, biodiversity and ecology.

6. Further, the stringent monitoring of sales and supplies of HT Cotton seed and also its production need to be controlled in each district, if the lots of suspected samples for HT trait are found, those quantities of seed stocks may be detained and they should send samples to DNA Fingerprinting lab, Guntur for further testing. Any samples are found positive for HT trait in DNA Lab **initiate further criminal proceedings as per the provisions of the Indian Penal Code** by informing to District Level Committee (DLC) and State Level Biotechnology coordination committee (SBCC) as per the E.P Rules 1989.
7. A constant scrutiny and inspection on HT Cotton production & sales and also database on seed production extent and area need to be developed wherever seed production is being taken up.
8. Instructions may be drill down up to MPEO level on illegal cultivation of HT Cotton to create awareness to farmers on not to cultivate the HT Cotton & usage of Glyphosate and to give wide publicity through print and electronic media, meetings, campaigns and printing posters, pamphlets.

*Further it is instructed that deliberate release of unapproved HT cotton by anybody are punishable under Rule 15 of Environment protection rules 1989 under EP Act 1986, seed Act 1966, and Seed(Control) Order, 1983 and initiate action as per provisions of Indian Penal Code.*

Submit compliance report to this office without fail.

***Treat this as Top Priority.***

Encl: Reference

**Special Commissioner of Agriculture  
Andhra Pradesh, Guntur.**

To

The District JDAs of state with instructions to communicate to all seed inspectors and field level functionaries for immediate and necessary action.

Copy to Seed Men Association with request to intimate to all seed companies in

Signature Not Verified

Digitally signed by MUDE HARI  
JAWAHARLAL  
Date: 2018.02.23 14:36:18 IST  
Reason: Approved

