

NOTES

Situation:

- 6.2 m hectares of GM cotton – India, 3.8 m has diff GM crops in China, 0.3 m has in Philippines
- Aggressive push for biotech by governments, despite lack of regulatory mechanisms and adequate safety testing capacity
- Cross border contamination through smuggling(Pakistan), Food Aid (Myanmar), Lack of border controls (China)
- Contamination of crops, even in Japan where there is no growing of GM crops
- No/lack labeling mechanism
- Info deception ISAAA (formation of pseudo farmers groups) Poster boys and Poster Girl, Influence over mass media and etc.

Successful Campaign

Japan (Consumers and Farmers that influence policies on labeling, monitoring, citizen action) and Pesticides Action Network Asia and the Pacific.

Country level reports

India (Dr Suman Sahai)

Illegal transgenic crops

Genetic engineering is likening an atomic energy it needs to be constantly regulated.

There are no transparencies, accountability, no appropriate train scientific personnel to set the benchmark. Therefore are we equipped for it?

The way the whole regulation is structure ought to be questioned

The regulation in India followed closely from the US system National Environment Protection Act. And the environment ministers and wilderness is the least qualified person to regulate this.

Australia and NZ has different regulations.

No adequately train people to do risk assessment.

What are the thresholds to regulate commercial GE crops? How stringent is our food testing system?

Is it possible to have GE safety testing? How much money do we need to invest in that?

The major question is: Does our food need GE?

Pakistan

- Bt cotton is illegal to be grown in Pakistan however there are currently 30% of the total cultivated land with Bt cotton.
- Research study on Bt Cotton issues in depth.
- Engaged with the local government on drafting of the law and policy guidelines.
- Government is heavily under the influence of Syngenta
- Impact of the environment issues.
- After green revolution farmers loss their seeds.

Indonesia

- **Adopted the Cartagena Protocol**
- **Still is very weak in their regulation**
- **Bt rice is found in Indonesia.**
- **Resistance to drought GE rice found in West Java.**
- **Scientist found gene transfer between local and Bt Cotton.**

Australia

- **Bt variety is a true variety.**
- **Australians are still looking at the country level on possible contamination.**
- **The proponents of GE said that if people are hungry enough they will eat it.**
- **There is suppressed information to the media. So the truths are not getting out to the public.**

Japan reported that they had successful, good experience with the media in Hokkaido and when the people collectively demand that they don't want GM food, they don't eat GM food and they don't need GM food.

Myanmar

- **For the forest (conserving the environment and against deforestation).**
- **Mining**
- **Lack of knowledge in the GMO state.**
- **Should focus on post cyclone calamities**

- **Food Aid and World Food Program often this aid program in food might contain GE food.**

Mongolia

- **They have massive cultivation of GE canola.**
- **GE cotton.**
- **They highly suspected that the GE canola comes from traders of China.**
- **Geographically the entire Mekong Delta is heavily influence by China.**

Planning and Recommendation

- Regional cooperation
- Sound Scientific Data
- Target regulatory framework
- Research and Networking

Suggestion

- To use Bt cotton in Asia as a model crop debate.
- Comprehensive review and compilation of the impacts and consequences Bt cotton
- Paper on Bt cotton India, China, Indonesia and Pakistan.
- Bt cotton concrete data needs to be collated.
- For Asians our major battle to protect our crop will be RICE! Rice is life of Asia. We want to focus on protecting our rice culture.
- Health Focus (get doctors and pediatrician to testify the harm of GE crops)
- The result and performance of hybrid rice discouraged the farmers.
- Imports and export regulations needs to be closely monitored
- Privatization of governance needs to be regulated.
- Support local association, housewives associations and consumers.
- TWN suggested E group for constant information sharing and communication