

North Zone

File No. 12/16/2005-CS
Govt. of India
Ministry of Environment and Forests
CS Division



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Paryavaran Bhavan
C.G.O. Complex,
Lodhi Road
New Delhi-110003

Dated: 20.4.2006

Subject: Permission for commercial release of Bt cotton hybrid JKCH-1947 Bt containing Cry 1 Ac gene (event 1) in the North Zone by M/s J K Agri Genetics Ltd.

Dear Shri Dravid,

1.0 This has reference to your letter no. JKCK:GEAC/2006 dated, 22nd February 2006, regarding the above proposal. The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) set up by this Ministry in accordance with the Rules for Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of hazardous Microorganisms/Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells 1989, under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has considered your request in the meeting held on 4th April 2006.

2.0 After careful and in-depth consideration, of the findings of the large-scale trials and ICAR trials and taking into consideration the recommendation of MEC, RCGM and ICAR, the GEAC accorded approval for commercial cultivation of **JKCH-1947 Bt** for the North zone (Rajasthan, Haryana & Punjab).

3.0 The commercial release of **JKCH-1947 Bt** containing Cry 1Ac gene (Event 1) is subject to the following conditions:

- i. The period of validity of approval is for three years i.e. from April 2006 - March 2009.
- ii. The applicant should look for the incidence of sucking pests on these hybrids and carry out artificial screening for CLCV resistance and submit its report to the GEAC.
- iii. Every field where Bt cotton is planted shall be fully surrounded by a belt of land called 'refuge' in which the same non-Bt cotton variety shall be sown. The size of the refuge belt should be such as to take at least five rows of non-Bt cotton or shall be 20% of total sown area whichever is more.

- iv. To facilitate this, each packet of seeds of the approved varieties should also contain a separate packet of the seeds of the same non-Bt cotton variety, which is sufficient for planting in the refuge defined above.
- v. Each packet should be appropriately labeled indicating the contents and the description of the Bt hybrid including the name of the transgenes, the GEAC approval reference, physical and genetic purity of the seeds. The packet should also contain the package of agricultural practice with detailed directions for use including sowing pattern, pest management, suitability of the hybrids specifically for irrigated conditions etc., in vernacular language.
- vi. M/s J K Agri Genetics Ltd shall enter into agreements with their dealers/agents, that will specify the requirements from dealers/agents to provide details about the sale of seeds, acreage cultivated, and state/regions where Bt cotton is sown.
- vii. M/s J K Agri Genetics Ltd shall prepare annual reports by 31st March each year on the use of Bt cotton hybrid varieties by dealers, acreage, locality (state and region) and submit the same in electronic form to GEAC.
- viii. M/s J K Agri Genetics Ltd shall develop plans for Bt based 'Integrated Pest Management' and include this information in the seed packet.
- ix. M/s J K Agri Genetics Ltd shall monitor annually the susceptibility of bollworms to Bt gene vis-à-vis baseline susceptibility data and submit data relating to resistance development, if any, to the GEAC.
- x. Monitoring of susceptibility of bollworms to the Bt gene shall also be undertaken by an agency identified by the Ministry of Environment and Forests at the applicant's cost.
- xi. M/s J K Agri Genetics Ltd shall undertake an awareness and education program, interalia through development and distribution of educational material on Bt cotton, for farmers, dealers and others.
- xii. M/s J K Agri Genetics Ltd shall also continue to undertake studies on possible impacts on non-target insects and crops, and report back to the GEAC annually.
- xiii. The label on each packet of seeds, and the instruction manual inside the packet should contain all relevant information.
- xiv. M/s J K Agri Genetics Ltd shall deposit 100 g seed each of approved hybrids as well as their parental lines with the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) and communicate the same to the Ministry of Environment & Forests within 30 days of issue of this clearance letter.

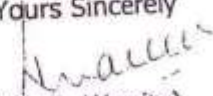
xv. M/s J K Agri Genetics Ltd shall develop and deposit with the NBPGR, the DNA fingerprints of the approved varieties within 30 days of issue of this clearance letter .

xvi. M/s J K Agri Genetics Ltd shall also provide to the NBPGR, the testing procedures for identifying transgenic traits in the approved varieties by DNA and protein methods.

4.0 You are hereby directed to convey to the undersigned within 15 days of receipt of this communication your unequivocal acceptance of the above conditions, failing which, this approval is liable to be revoked.

This is being issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Yours Sincerely


(Dr R. Warriar)
Additional Director

Shri P S Dravid ,

President

M/s J K Agri Genetics Ltd

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Varun Towers, Begumpet,

Hyderabad-500 016

Copy To:

- 1) Dr. T. V. Ramanaiah, Scientist F, Dept. of Biotechnology, Lodi Road, CGO Complex, New Delhi -110003.
- 2) Dr Gautam Kalloo, Deputy Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110 001.
- 3) Shri S L Bhatt, Joint Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110 001.
- 4) Shri P. K. Verma, Financial Commissioner Development and Secretary to Govt. of Punjab, Department of Agriculture, Chandigarh-160001.
- 5) Ms Asha Sharma, Financial Commissioner and Principal Secretary to Govt. of Haryana, Department of Agriculture, Mini Secretariat, Sector 17, Chandigarh.
- 6) Shri S Anand, Secretary, State Department of Agriculture, Govt of Rajasthan, Baba Baghwan Das Road Secretariat, Jaipur 302 005.