



GUBBA SEED UPDATE

Bi-monthly News Letter exclusively for Seed industry

Vol-4 July-August 07

For Private Circulation only



Dear Sir,

Been there ,Done that ! As that the season is over it's time to relax ! its been a mixed season for the seed industry. An exciting news for Cotton players and an encouraging news for the Maize players and not so good for the Paddy players.Nevertheless, the seed pundits say its been a good season overall.

For the on-the-go seedsmen like your goodself , we have now, as promised earlier, introduced Online Stock details. With a user name and password your authorized person can now access the stock information at Gubba online.

We are now introducing 'Secured ID Cards'. Your authorized person with this 'Secured ID Card' ONLY can withdraw your Stock.. This system will be in place from September 15, 2008. Your stock, thus, would get even more safer.

In this issue, lots of news has been happening on the GM seeds. Also in this issue is pic of Mr.Graeme Smith of Advanta Australia who visited Gubba and shared his experiences.

For this issue ! Would love to get feedback on this.



Regards,

Gubba Kiran

JK Group aims to triple market share of Bt cotton

NEW DELHI: Emboldened by the good response to its Bt cotton seeds from farmers and with the government approving five more of its hybrids, JK Agri Genetics aims to nearly triple its market share to eight per cent in this kharif season. "Our target is to have a market share of 7-8 per cent in Bt cotton seeds," JK Agri Genetics President P S Dravid said. The current share of the company in the Bt cotton seed, dominated by multinational giant Monsanto and its associates, is around three per cent, Dravid said, adding JK Agri Genetics entered the market only last year.

He said the company, which had a turnover of about Rs 80 crore in 2006-07, aims to post a 50-60 per cent growth in the current year. However, it does not plan to reduce the prices of its Bt cotton seeds, he added. "Already prices of Bt cotton seeds are low following government's order. There is no plan to reduce the rates further now," he said.

The company received clearance of the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) a few days back for commercial sale of five hybrids of Bt cotton, taking its total genetically modified (GM) seeds to nine. GEAC is likely to clear by next year two more hybrids developed by the company, which are currently in the second year of the trial, he said, adding they would be released in the South. "All these hybrids are of the same event - X-Gene - developed indigenously in association with IIT Kharagpur," the company President said. Of the five Bt cotton seeds released in the this kharif season, three would be launched in Maharashtra and Gujarat while one each in the north and south zone, he said.

The company's focus is now on the central zone, particularly Gujarat and Maharashtra where a total of four hybrids would be available this year. The cotton area in the on-going kharif sowing season increased to 15.29 lakh hectare till June 29 against 14.7 lakh hectare in the year-ago period on the back of farmers' opting for Bt cotton. Out of the total coverage under cotton, 8.68 lh has been sown under Bt cotton, sources in the agriculture ministry had said. Dravid said the overall areas under Bt cotton would improve even if prices of cotton is likely to fall marginally as farmers would be opting for the high yielding GM seeds. However, many cotton farmers in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra have reportedly shifted to soyabean this year following their bad experience with Bt cotton last year. Meanwhile, apart from cotton, JK Agri Genetics has been working on GM seeds in rice, mustard, jowar and bajra. As much as 15 Bt cotton varieties developed by it are in the process of experimentation and trials



Above in the pic is Mr. GRAEME SMITH, GLOBAL QUALITY ASSURANCE, MANAGER, ADVANTA AU STRALIA, who along with MARUTHI PRASANNA, ADVANTA INDIA visited GUBBA COLD STORAGE. He is seen along with Mr. GUBBA KIRAN and GUBBA PRASHANT.

The culmination of Technology, Expertise & Experience-GUBBA



Learnings

Refrigeration: the word 'refrigerate' means to chill or freeze a substance i.e. to lower its temperature by removing some of its heat. Thus Refrigeration is the process of removing heat from a substance and rejecting the heat so removed to the atmosphere which is at a higher temperature

Kaveri Seed files DRHP, to raise Rs 100cr via IPO

Kaveri Seed Company, a Secunderabad-based seed processing and selling firm, has filed a draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with market regulator Sebi for its planned entry into the capital market early September to raise approximately Rs 100 crore. Issue proceeds would be utilized to meet the working capital requirement and setting up new plants like corn cob drying plant in Andhra Pradesh, Bio Technology lab in Gundla Pochampally near Hyderabad and seed processing plant in Hyderabad. Apart from that the company is also planning to upgrade existing seed processing facilities in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

"We are focussing small and medium farmers who own not more than 3 acres of land as they are in dire need to raise yield. Hence, we help them achieve 10-15% more yield than their usual output," C Mithun, director, Kaveri Seed Company, said. We are planning to enter into north market with similar objective, Mithun added. The company presently sells to customers in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh and is now planning to enter Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan.

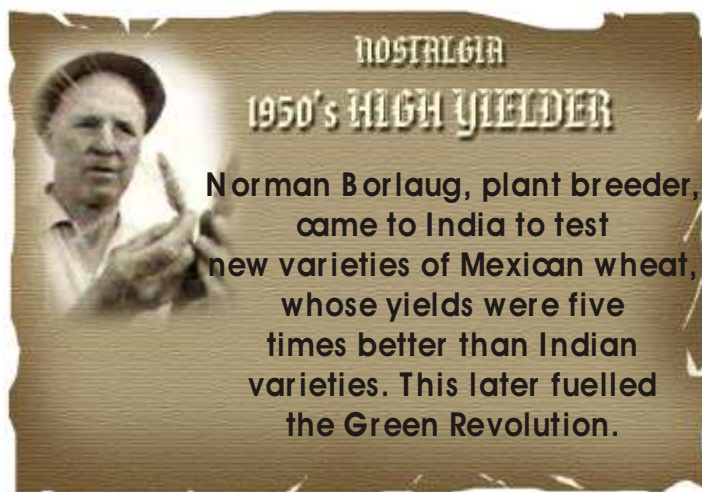
Drought-prone Rajasthan is our major focus for corn, sorghum, bajra and sunflower seeds while we are introducing cotton, too, in other states, Sharad Deshpande, GM, Kaveri Seed Company, said. The company obtained licence to sell Monsanto seeds this year. Corn would account for the majority of the company's seed sales especially in states like Bihar, UP and MP for which it is in the process of setting up a corn cob drying plant with the aim of improving germination, vigour and viability of the seeds. This would result in improved quality and quantity of the yield, reports *Business Standard*.

2007-07-12 09:20:10 Source : Moneycontrol.com

QUOTE ON GUBBA

“ Ideal facility for long term storage of seed to maintain viability quality. Invaluable to the Seed Industry.”

- GRAEME SMITH
Global Quality Assurance Manager
Advanta Australia



New Drought Tolerant Cotton

As part of crop improvement research, the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) has developed a new cotton culture 'TSH 9704' meant for summer-irrigated condition. This culture is highly drought-tolerant and moderately resistant to leafhopper pest and the new strain is capable of yielding 1,749 kg of seeded cotton (kapas) per hectares. Its staple length will measure 28.1 mm.

Disclosing this at the annual research meet on cotton at the university, Dr T.S. Raveendran, Director, Centre for Plant Breeding and Genetics, said that two promising extra long staple cotton hybrids - TCHB 4510 and TCHB 2310 - developed by the TNAU are currently being subjected to on-farm testing. These two new crops have their span lengths at 36.3 mm and 35.7 mm respectively.

The TNAU Vice Chancellor, Dr C. Ramasamy, noted that rising the cotton productivity through combination of new variety/hybridisation promotions, increased biotechnology application and improved crop management formed the thrust areas. Fertigation trials in cotton that have enabled higher boll formations should be developed as a technology tool. Labour shortage may call for greater mechanisation of cotton cultivation.

Source: Agriculture Today

Drought-proof Seeds By Monsanto

US biotech major Monsanto, which had earlier launched insect-resistant genetically modified Bt cotton, plans to soon come out with drought-tolerant GM maize and cotton seeds, a senior company official said. The drought-tolerant cotton and maize seeds were already undergoing field trials in the US. Once launched in India, it would help farmers as most of the agriculture in the country was rainfed. Rajendra Ketkar, deputy managing director of Mahyco Monsanto Biotech (India) Ltd, told.

Source: Agriculture Today.

Cotton Seeds on Essential List

Following complaints that companies were charging higher prices for Bt-2 cotton seeds, the Andhra Pradesh government has asked the Centre to bring the farm input under the purview of Essential Commodities Act. The state is also planning to introduce a new law to regulate the seed prices.

Source: Agriculture Today

QUOTE ON GUBBA

An emerging cold storage useful for seed industry the seed industry can be benifitted from this without any capital expenditure.

K PRAKASH BABU,
Vikkis Agrotech Ltd

Public urged to oppose GM seeds

Staff Reporter
Source: The Hindu
Kerala - Palakkad

Farmers' meet lists the faults

Government urged to provide remunerative price GM seeds likely to contaminate soil

PALAKKAD: A meeting of farmers organised by the Kerala Karshaka Sangom at the NGO Union Hall here on Friday has opposed the move to introduce Genetically Modified (GM) seeds in the fields of the district, known as the rice bowl of Kerala.

Inaugurating the meet, State joint secretary of the Sangom K.V. Ramakrishnan said that people should resist the move as laws are incapable of doing so. These seeds were brought here as part of an agreement which India signed. So only a people's movement could stop its use in the country, he said.

Risks posed

Farmers should not use GM seeds as it would contaminate soil, pose risks to health and the environment and cause unknown disease to crops. He said that the GM seeds would destroy the varieties cultivated successfully by farmers for generations. These seeds had not proved their suitability as food crops. Since they are monopolised by multinational companies the seeds could be bought only at a high price. Each time the farmer has to buy seeds from the company. He cannot make his own seeds as is the practice by the farmers here now.

Good price sought

Mr. Ramakrishnan urged the Government to provide remunerative price to farmers for their products so that they stick to the seeds currently in use instead of opting for GM variants.

The farmers meet was addressed by U. Usha of Thanal, scientists of Kerala Agriculture University V.R. Raghunandan, Jiji Joseph, Vidaya Sagar and S. Prema. The meet was presided over by district president of Karshaka Sangom Sudhakaran. District secretary C.K. Rajendran welcomed the gathering.



Bt Cotton Seeds Costlier

The All-India Crop Biotechnology Association, a representative of 15 seed companies based in New Delhi, believes that Bollgard II Cotton seeds. A higher variety of Bt cotton seeds, are more effective and need to be priced at a premium to Bollgard I cotton seeds. Bollgard seed contains a protein from a soil microbe called *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) that protects the crop from bollworms and requires less pesticide. While Bollgard I protects against lepidopteran insect pests, Bollgard II with its unique double gene technology in addition offers protection against *spodoptera* caterpillar. The association has recently announced that various state governments and the seed industry have agreed in principle to an MRP (minimum retail prices) of Rs 925 per 450 gm packet against Rs 750 for Bollgard I cotton seeds.

GM Rice Import Banned

THE government has banned import of genetically modified (GM) rice with immediate effect, a move welcomed by green activists. "Import of rice is restricted," a Directorate-general of Foreign Trade notification said. It also asked importers of rice to produce a certificate from the exporting country about the quality of the food grain and that the rice is GM-free.



Bt cotton reduces usage of pesticides

- An estimate says that farmers could save 5 sprays per acre for bollworms in Bt plants.
- This translates into an average savings of Rs 934 per acre for Bt farmers
- An indicus study finds that Bt farmers are having a better lifestyle than non-Bt counterparts

FARMERS can save up to Rs 1,600 per acre on pesticides by using Bt cotton technology. Farmers, who planted Bt cotton in 2006, earned an additional Rs 7,039 crore in income, based on 8.77 million acreage penetration achieved during this crop season. This increase in acreage and number of farmers adopting Bt is a result of technology, says the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (Assocham). As per an estimate farmers could save 5 sprays per acre for bollworms in Bt plants. The net profit to farmers from Bt cultivation increased significantly by 162% at Rs 7,757 per acre. The reduction in bollworm pesticide sprays translated into an average savings of Rs 934 per acre for Bt farmers. This transforms into a benefit of Rs 11.60 for every Re 1 spent for cultivating Bt and Rs 10.80 for cultivating Bt II cotton. The perception of an average farmer on the future of Bt farming in the country seemed to be positive. At an average, 93 % of the Bt users were satisfied with BT performance. Farmers who have been growing Bt for the past few years also agreed to Bt cotton cultivation having impacted their farming income positively.

Assocham launched two studies on Bt cotton farming in India on Friday. 'The socio-economic appraisal of Bt Cotton Cultivation in India' was undertaken by Indicus Analytics while the study on 'Economic benefits of Bt cotton cultivation in India' conducted by the IMRB International. The Indicus Analytics study covering over 9,000 farmers across 467 villages and 28 districts of the 8 cotton growing states has done an in-depth analysis of the social aspects of the farmers that have been impacted positively as a result of higher income generated out of Bt cotton cultivation.

The IMRB International study covering nearly 6,000 farmers from 111 taluks of 37 Districts including 4,188 Bt and Bt II cotton farmers and 1,793 other conventional cotton farmers in 9 cotton growing states. The survey confirms that there has been approximately 50% higher yield increase in Bt fields in 2006, when compared with conventional cotton fields. Some of the major findings of the Indicus study include, increased maternal care services, higher levels of immunisations and larger school enrolment for the children of Bt farmers as compared to non - Bt farmers. "This study proves that the average Indian cotton farmer who has adopted Bt cotton is leading a much better lifestyle over his non Bt counterpart," said Dr. Laveesh Bhandari, director, of Indicus Analytics. "The impact of Bt farming was found to be positive on the women and children in the Bt households. The increased use of Bt cotton cultivation has also had a positive impact on the farming community."



Bt cotton growing villages benefited greatly with an increased access to services such as telephone systems, electricity, drinking water, better internet connectivity, banking services, and better access to markets with a corresponding increase in shops and goods. The Indicus study found that non-Bt cotton farming households tend to be worse off across a range of socio-economic indicators. It was also observed, that those who have taken up Bt recently are not as well off socio-economically as those who took it up two or more years earlier. These results strongly links Bt cotton farming to overall socio-economic progress, not merely linked to increase in income. The IMRB Study also states that pesticides consumption by Bt farmers in their one hectare of farm land is estimated at Rs 1,300 as against Rs 2,900 per hectare by farmers growing conventional hybrids in nine cotton growing states of Andhra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan. Incremental benefits of Bt over conventional cotton in 2006 has been that net revenue per acre was Rs 7,757 higher. Percentage of gross revenue benefit was up by 162%.

Source: The Economic Times

10 New Crops Varieties Released

A medium fine white rice variety with 9,625 kg per hectare yield is among the 10 new crops released for 2007 by the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University here. The new crop releases include blackgram VBN(BG)5, groundnut - VRI(Gn)6. Bhindi hybrid A (COGHHI) and a jack fruit variety

PLR(I)2. The university has also released three new farm equipment (power tiller operated slasher-cuminsitu shredder), sugarcane detraser and a sub-soil attachment for StUmp removal Among the new farm management technology introduced on the occasion are shade net technology for sweet pepper and paprika, botanical fOmulation 'Ilamathi' for higher ' silk yield and mass multiplication of bamboos.



please do mail us on support@gubbagroup.com with your recommendations and concerns to serve you better.


Gubba
 GUBBA COLD STORAGE LTD.
 GUBBA AGRO FRESH (P) LTD.

Office. : 3-6-305/43/1, Avantinagar, Basheerbagh, Hyderabad-500 029. Ph : 66787626, 66848626 Fax: 040-66133626

Plant : GCS 109 to 111, GAF 101 & 103, IDA Medchal, R.R. Dist. Ph: 08418222161, 08418260383

Web: www.gubbagroup.com Email: support@gubbagroup.com