

SEED UPDATE

Bi-monthly News Letter exclusively for Seed industry

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For Private Circulation only



Dear Sir,

Early Monsoons ! Wonderful season for the Seed Industry. This is the buzz in the Seed Industry. For a service provider like us, it's a heart warming news. We know that it is these rains which keep the industry healthy, and its anybody's guess that if the Seed Industry is healthy so will be its suppliers like us be.

As promised we have started the SMS update on 1st of May. We would welcome any suggestions on that aspect. From 1st of June we are introducing Online Stock. You can check your company's detailed stock report of Gubba on the internet. Just log on to www.gubbagroup.com.

On the closing note I would like to share a joyous news at my end. I have been blessed with a baby girl on Akshay Tritiya. SMS update, Online Stock. More services would follow to serve your goodness.

All the Best for the Season
Regards,




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Pakistan turning to Indian cotton

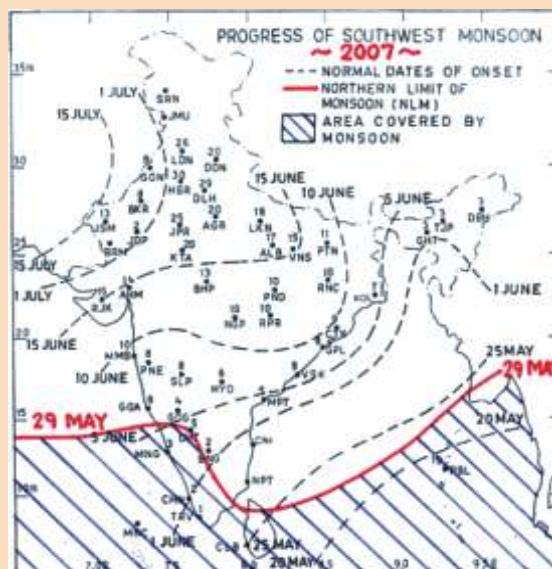
Impressed by its better quality, Pakistani textile groups increasingly prefer Indian cotton over the local variety available in their country and have placed huge orders despite the higher prices, Almost all major textile groups are placing orders to Indian traders for huge cotton shipments even though it costs more in Pakistan. Its better quality and comparatively more finished product in terms of weight makes it attractive for the Pakistani textile industry, a local industrialist said, "The Indian cotton costs Rs 150 to Rs 200 per maund more in Pakistan but it gives a fine product at the end with better weight and these things are now increasing Indian cotton demand In Pakistan," a industrialist said to a local daily,

Mahyco to develop insect-tolerant brinjal, rice crops

F&B News, 14/4/2004 By A CORRESPONDENT, Raipur

INDIA will soon start cultivating crops of insect-tolerant brinjals and rice as a group of scientists with Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company Ltd (Mahyco) are close to developing a genetic technology. The new technology of developing insect-tolerant food and vegetables would help in making qualitative and nutritious food available to India's fast growing population at cheaper rate, Mahyco said in a statement recently. "China has developed many insect-tolerant crops to reduce the environmental burden of pesticides that will be commercialised shortly. Now India too is not far behind as Mahyco scientists are close to achieving success," Usha Barwale Zehr, joint director (research), said in a statement. "Mahyco has completed extensive animal testing studies and food and feed safety studies in laboratories with fruit and shoot borer (FSB) as part of the regulatory requirements. These studies have shown encouraging results to develop a technology for insect-tolerant brinjal and rice crops," Zehr said. "Initial multi-location trials have been completed for the rice that is cultivated in about 44 million hectares in India and the bio-safety package is being completed," the statement read.

PROGRESS OF SOUTHWEST MONSOON



Source: www.imd.gov.in



Our Homage to
Sri B.N.Ramesh,

M.D. Super Seeds,

who had a tragic end on 9/4/2007.

We pray to God, his Soul be rest in peace.



Small Investment in Seed Treatment:

Gives Higher Yield Thrust of Dhanuka Group

Dhanuka Group has taken initiative to disseminate the right technology for farmers to ensure enhanced productivity and better quality of grains of Soybean and Groundnut. Seed and soil borne diseases reduce the yield significantly that's why Dhanuka Group had given a special thrust to save the crops from diseases and to ensure better crop stand and remunerative yield. Keeping these points in view Dhanuka Group conducted 40 farmers participatory scientific trials in Madhya Pradesh and 10 in Maharashtra on Soybean crop and 30 farmers participatory scientific trials on Groundnut crops of which 10 were in Rajasthan, 15 in Gujarat and 5 in Haryana each of one acre to demonstrate the importance of seed treatment. Besides, a large number of demonstrations were also laid out at farmer's fields in all the above mentioned states to disseminate the right technology especially for seed treatment, to protect crops from seed and soil borne disease inoculants and also for sustainable crop production. The major diseases of Groundnut are collar rot, seed rot, root rot and stem rot and in Soybean are collar rot, charcoal rot, purple seed stain, pod and stem blight, which are caused by *Phomopsis* sp., *Pythium* sp. and *Rhizoctonia* sp. during germination to crop growth. To save Soybean and groundnut crops from these diseases, which are the main cause of decline in the productivity in both the crops, Dhanuka had given a thrust for seed treatment with Vitavax Power @ 2.0 g per kg of seed, a scientific combination of Carboxin- a systemic fungicide and Thiram- a contact fungicide and thus a unique fungicide which controls disease very effectively.

Dhanuka Group monitored all the demonstrations conducted on both the crops in respective States from seeding to harvesting and also suggested the plant protection measures to the farmers and conducted field days and farmers meetings at demonstration plots for creating awareness of technology amongst the farmers. Dhanuka Group has given technical inputs required for crop production of Soybean and Groundnut and also given free plant protection chemicals to the farmers under the umbrella of Dhanuka

Group to create the importance of eco-friendly pesticides for good yield. Dhanuka group has also introduced 6 mobile seed treating machines. 3 in Gujarat, 2 in Madhya Pradesh and 1 in Rajasthan to create the awareness, interest and importance of seed treatment amongst the farmers and large number of farmers had taken the advantages of mobile seed treating machines. Dhanuka Group is already operating 2 big mechanized seed treating machines, one in Haryana and one in Punjab since last 5 years for Wheat seed treatment. Seed treatment with Vitavax Power increased the germination by 9.34 percent and reduced the seedling mortality in Soybean. An increase of 22.61 percent more nodules per plant and 6.25 percent increase in yield of Soybean crop was recorded as compared to farmer's practice. Vitavax Power treated seeds increased the seedling emergence by 12.09 percent and reduced seedling mortality by 3.22 percent as compared to farmer's practice in Groundnut. Number of nodules per plant increased by 33.30 percent with an increase of 5.93 percent yield of Groundnut crop.

Dhanuka Group will continue with such activities in all the important crops in various states and is of the firm belief that such activities are the ways by which we can increase the productivity thereby increasing Indian economy. The above findings suggest that small investment in seed treatment provides better protection from various diseases and higher remunerative yield.



Non-GM, DR rice to hit the market

The first commercially usable, non-GM, disease-resistant (DR) rice varieties will hit the Indian market soon. Genes that can resist the damage potential of bacterial leaf blight have been identified and successfully incorporated into popular rice varieties by the Indian scientists. This significant development can help substantially raise the potential of rice yields in the coming years. The varieties approved for release are Samba Mahsuri (BPT 5204) and Pusa Basmati 1. Scientists at the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) and the Directorate of Rice Research (DRR), have successfully incorporated three resistant genes using molecular markers into Samba Mahsuri and tested them. Similarly, scientists at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi, have incorporated the resistant genes into the Pusa Basmati-1 variety using the same techniques. After evaluating the performances of these varieties, the Varietal Identification Committee recommended them for commercial release at the just-concluded 42nd All India Rice Research Group Meeting. These would be the first commercially usable products developed in rice crop by using molecular markers.

Source: Agriculture Today (April 2007)

New varieties of crops released

Punjab Agricultural University's State Variety Approval Committee has released six new varieties of crops for cultivation in the State. The released varieties are PAU 201 of semi-dwarf paddy, PAU 626 H of Desi cotton, PAU 881 of Arhar, PAU 1691 and Narendra Sanai of Sunnhemp and PAU 911 of Kharif moong, a PAU release said. Giving details of the varieties, PAU said a semi-dwarf stiff variety or paddy matUres in about 144 days and is resistant to attack by bacterial blight pathogens. Similarly, the Arhar variety matures in about 132 days. Its average grain yield is 56 quintals per acre.

Source: Agriculture Today (March 2007)

Bayer to increase hd cotton seed production

Bayer BioScience Private Limited, the agricultural seeds business division of Bayer group, is poised to increase cotton seed production acreage, while maintaining the same level of commitment to child rights protection. The company, formerly known as Proagro Seed Company Pvt Ltd, is planning to expand its presence in the hybrid cotton seed market in the country. Having captured a significant market share with its SurPass cotton seed hybrids in Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh, it has sold 3,00,000 packets of seeds at 450 gram each in 2006 and is expected to double the figure of hybrid cotton seed this year. The company has planned to increase the acreage of hybrid cotton seed production from the current level of about 200 acre in 2006-07 upto about 1,000 acre in 2007-08.

Source: Agriculture Today (March 2007)

Sunflower Seeds for energy jolt

SIoux FALLS : Baseball players and truck drivers who chew sunflower seeds at work no longer have to down a cup of black coffee or a Red Bull for an extra energy jolt. A South Dakota company is infusing sunflower seeds with caffeine and other boosters commonly found in energy drinks. "A lot of people chew sunflower seeds to stay awake and give them energy, and we just thought we'd combine the two of them," said Tim Walter, president of Carpenter-based Dakota Valley Products. Sumseeds, named so because they add ingredients to seeds, have been in development for about a year. The seeds are grown in North Dakota and Kansas and shipped to the company's Willow Lake plant where caffeine, taurine, lysine and ginseng are added. The 3.5 ounce bags sell for 1.99\$, about twice the price of normal sunflower seeds. The company is working to get them into nationwide distribution. Sumseeds are being sold at Sioux Falls drug store chain and should soon begin appearing on shelves in Minneapolis and the southeast. A major convenience store chain is testing the snack in 10 of its stores, and Dakota Valley Products also is getting international interest from as far away as New Zealand, Walter said.

“Excellent facility created by GUBBA and they are maintaining very good. We hope GUBBA will maintain the same in future.”

- Mr. Rajesh Sharma
Nature Great Seed International (P) Ltd.,

“I am a regular reader of updates (Gubba Seed Updates) provided by you related to agriculture and seed industry. This service is useful for technocrats to know the latest info and Happenings. Thanks for this service and keep it up!”

Mr. Venkat Subramanyam,
Monsanto.

Vibha Agrotech plans Rs 125-cr capex

Company Bullish On Bt Hybrid Seed Business, To Invest More In Research Activities **HARNESSING CONTROVERSY** Despite controversies surrounding Bttech, cotton production has doubled with its adoption.

HYDERABAD- BASED Vibha Agrotech, a crop genetic and hybrid seeds company, is looking at a Rs 125-crore investment plan in building infrastructure like processing plants and R&D centres. The company, which will fund its capacity expansion plans through internal accruals, is bullish on the Bt hybrid seed business and is looking at new opportunities when new Bt seeds would be approved. Addressing a press conference on Monday, Vibha Agrotech chairman and managing director P Vidyasagar said, "despite controversies surrounding the Bt technology, cotton production has doubled with its adoption. In 2002, cotton output was 128 lakh bales while in 2006, it touched 270 lakh bales. And the area under Bt cotton coverage has gone up." Vibha Agrotech, which clocked a turnover of Rs 77 crore, has three affiliate companies: Nusun Genetic Research, Seed Innovations and Centromere Biosolutions and the combined turnover of all these entities is Rs 120 crore, Mr Vidyasagar said. The seeds company has also entered into an agreement with the Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics to speed up development of new hybrids.. ACPFG, based at the Waite campus of the University of Adelaide, is into discovering, isolating and analysing functions of new genes. Vibha markets nearly 100 products in 22 agri-horticulture categories in India. It has over 50 research scientists working on crop improvement programmes. The tie-up with the Adelaide university will allow Vibha to explore the former's technology and talent to improve efficiency of seed production and also work on disease resistance

SC allows approved field trials of GM crops

TUESDAY, MAY 08, 2007 08:05:17 PM]

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday allowed the Centre to conduct approved field trials of genetically modified (GM) seeds in the country subject to certain restrictions. A three-member bench headed by Chief Justice K G Balakrishnan permitted field trials of GM crops, which were earlier approved by the the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) in April and May 2006, provided it fulfilled certain conditions.

The government should increase the isolation distance up to 200 metres between the GM planted fields and the other fields and a protocol for testing for contamination up to 0.01 percent for neighbouring fields was established, the apex court said.

It also said a designated scientist should be made responsible for ensuring that all the conditions were complied with during the field trials of GM seeds. While the court allowed the commercial release of four approved BT cotton varieties, it said no new species should be introduced. The bench said GEAC, the GM regulatory authority under the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests, should submit a detailed data, if any, about the effects of GM crops – that is the toxicity and allergic reactions before the court.

The apex court, on a public interest litigation filed by Aruna Rodrigues and others, had on September 22, last year had directed GEAC not to clear any GM crop for fresh field trials. On May 1 last year, it had also said the GEAC and not the Review Committee for Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) under the department of Biotechnology should be responsible for field trials and approval of GM crops.



“Excellent facilities for storage of high cost seeds.”

By – Mr.N Maruthi Prasanna
Advanta India Limited

Avesthagen, Limagrain pick stakes in Indian cos

WEDNESDAY, MAY 09, 2007 05:30:40 PM]

NEW DELHI: Leading biotech company Avesthagen and French plant breeding major Groupe Limagrain on Wednesday said they have jointly acquired majority stakes in two Indian seed companies. The two partners said that they will hold majority stake in Hyderabad-based integrated field crop seeds company Swaghat Seeds Pvt Ltd and Bangalore-based vegetable seeds company Cee Kay Seeds and Seedlings Pvt Ltd.

These acquisitions are in line with the strategy of the two partners and will also serve as a platform to make Avesthagen's latest technologies like hybrid fit, drought fit, salinity fit, available to farmers to address problems related to low-productivity under stressed growing conditions, a joint statement said. When contacted, Avesthagen Vice-President Communications and External Affairs Manan Bhatt declined to comment on the the financial details of the acquisitions.

Avesthagen and Groupe Limagrain had last year joined hands to form Atash Seeds Pvt Ltd to develop innovative technologies for farmers in India. French firm Limagrain is a farmers owned international group specialised in plant breeding and valorisation. On the other hand, Avesthagen holds about 41 patents in its bioagricultural vertical.



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