

GUBBA SEED UPDATE

Bi-monthly News Letter exclusively for Seed industry

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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.

Enjoy reading this issue ! Would love to get feedback on this.



Regards,



Gubba Kiran
9849999626

Kiran@gubbagroup.com

Strict quality control on Bt cotton seeds

20 Aug, 2007, 2104 hrs IST, PTI

NEW DELHI: A fact finding team of the Planning Commission has recommended strict quality control on Bt cotton seeds sold in the country, the Lok Sabha was informed Monday. Although it did not make any specific suggestion to reduce use of Bt cotton seeds in Maharashtra's Vidarbha region, the fact finding team observed that net returns under Bt cotton are higher under irrigated conditions and recommended strict control on this variety of seeds, Minister of State for Agriculture Kanti Lal Bhuria said in a written reply

Acharya NG Ranga Agriculture University has published the details of Bt cotton production technology, its mode of action, benefits and precautionary measures to guide the farmers for the cultivation of Bt cotton, he said. Bhuria also said that in view of the positive impact in cotton production due to control of boll worms, the area under Bt cotton has increased from 0.29 lakh hectares in 2002-03 to 34.61 lakh hectares during 2006-07 in the country. He also informed the lower house that there was no proposal before the government for contract farming of cotton in cotton producing areas of Vidarbha region in Maharashtra.

The Minister said: "However, farmers in Yavatmal district of Vidarbha region are reportedly engaged in the contract farming of organic cotton under an arrangement between Eco Farms and Vidarbha Organic Farming Association." Farmers in Tamil Nadu also have an agreement with Super Spinning Mills Ltd for contract farming of cotton. The Cotton Corporation of India has also taken up projects for contract farming in various areas of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa, but there are no reports regarding the review of success of these projects, the Minister said.

Russia may resume importing Indian sesame seeds

15 Aug, 2007, 1300 hrs IST, IANS

AHMEDABAD: The Indian government is trying to resume sesame seed exports to Russia, halted in May due to quality concerns, officials said.

The ice between India and Russia was broken by the Shellac and Forest Products Export Promotion Council (Shefexil) through the union commerce ministry. Russia has agreed to dispatch a team from its quality certifying agency - the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phyto-sanitary Surveillance (FSVPS) in October to study rice, sesame seed and groundnut cultivation and their processing.

Exporters are hopeful that the issues that led to the halt in exports would be resolved during the Russian team's visit, council sources said.

Russia had stopped exports following the discovery of mouldy flavours in a consignment that landed in a Black Sea port early this year. To comply with Russia's demand for quality certificates, exporters have identified two Hyderabad-based research and development institutes as quality certification agencies for sesame seed exports. The institutes have well-equipped testing facilities at Rajkot and Gandhidham in Gujarat besides one at Mumbai. They also supervise cleansing operations, stuffing and sealing of containers. Indian sesame seed exports are worth about Rs 7.5 billion and Russia alone buys Rs 170 million worth of sesame seeds from India.

Origin Agritech affiliate gets India OK to sell cotton seeds

Mon Sep 17 16:40:33 UTC 2007

Sept 17 (Reuters) - Origin Agritech Ltd <SEED.O> said its affiliate, Biocentury Transgene (China) Co Ltd, received commercial approval for three varieties of hybrid cotton seed from the Indian Genetic Engineering Approval Committee.

Biocentury's hybrid seeds will be available for sale in India in time for the 2008 growing season, Origin Agritech said in a statement.

Origin, which distributes seeds in China, also said it expects to continue to acquire up to \$10 million of its common stock until Dec. 31, 2008. (Reporting by Swagata Gupta in Bangalore)



Seeds at subsidised rates-Collector

Special Correspondent

The total loss in Kurnool district put at Rs. 14.53 crore

KURNOOL: Collector M. Dana Kishore promised Bengalgram and jowar seed at subsidized price to rain-affected farmers in the district. Mr. Kishore visited the affected areas in Kurnool, Kodumur and Gonegandal mandals on Friday. Expressing his empathy with the farmers, he said the seed distribution would be completed by October 10. At Pedapadu, a farmer Venkateswara Reddy told the Collector that the rain had badly affected his sunflower crop bringing the yield down to one quintal per acre instead of seven. The Collector interacted with farmers at Varkur, Penchikalapadu and Kodumur and asked them not to get demoralized and instead go for Bengalgram crop without delay.

Huge losses

Tahsildar Bhagyarekha told the Collector that farmers of groundnut and sunflower had suffered huge losses in the mandal. Later, the Collector examined a breached tank at Nagulapuram and asked the irrigation officials to carry out the repairs immediately. Meanwhile, the total loss in the district was calculated at Rs. 14.53 crore. Seven persons died, 8,900 houses were damaged and crop on 1.09 lakh hectare was affected. Minister in-charge of Kurnool district Kasu Krishna Reddy also interacted with the Collector and said he would make a visit to the district on September 25.

-Source : The Hindu
22.9.2007



Damaged : Collector M. Dana Kishore examining damaged groundnut crop at Gonegandla in Kurnool district on Friday.

Believe It or not

2,000-year-old seeds start to germinate

(China Daily) - 2007-09-20 11:10

Ancient seeds found recently in a tomb from the Eastern Han Dynasty (AD 25-220) in Yulin, Northwest China's Shaanxi Province have surprisingly started germinating. The seeds were found in pottery buried in the tomb. On the ware are the characters for yongyuan, which represents the year AD 89. From this evidence it was determined the seeds, which were likely from ancient crops, were deposited about 1,918 years ago.

-Xi'an Evening New

Quote on Gubba

“ At the outset, I wish to appreciate the facilities and services you have been offering to the industry for storing very very critical and crucial input. Your facility is awesome and amazing.”

DR. R. GOWRI SANKARA RAO

Lead, Seed Quality and Research
Indian Foundation Seed &
Services Association
(IFSSA)

Companies played for supplying 'spurious' seed'

Special Correspondent

KURNOOL: The crop loss caused to farmers due to substandard maize seed supplied by certain companies rocked the Zilla Parishad meeting here on Sunday. Atmakur MLA Erasu Pratap Reddy displayed the seedless corncobs in the meeting. ZP Chairman L.Venkata Swamy presided over the meeting while Minister for Marketing M. Mareppa and Collector M. Dana Kishore attended. Mr. Pratap Reddy told the meeting that maize crop on 5,000 acres produced cobs without any grain due to seed quality problem. Disputing the claim of the agriculture officials that excessive rain caused crop failure, Mr. Pratap Reddy said the scientists and officials should not be influenced by the seed companies and urged the administration to ensure that compensation was paid to farmers.

Excessive rates

He alleged that the companies, which were unable to meet the seed demand this season marketed substandard seed at some places. Panyam MLA K. Rambhupal Reddy said sunflower seed on 150 acres failed to give yield in his constituency. The members also raised the issue of excessive rates charged by fertilizer dealers in the district due to short supply

Source : The Hindu.
03.09.2007.

Certified seeds go missing in sowing time

24 Sep 2007, 0001 hrs IST, Avijit Ghosh, TNN

NEW DELHI: Certified seeds and fertilisers are available during dry months but often go missing from shops during the sowing season, says a research study conducted in rural Haryana. Reason: Creating artificial scarcity to hike the price. Funded by the Union ministry of consumer affairs, the study conducted by CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hissar, shows that 41.3% of farmers had problems in getting the desired variety of seeds. Poor germination (24.6%), poor quality (13%) and overcharging for the desired variety (5.7%) were some other problems. The farmers did not take any action for not getting their choice of seeds. One respondent who got poor quality seeds returned it to the dealer. For inferior yields or poor germination, some of them complained to the dealers. In a few cases, the dealer replaced the unused seeds. In an overwhelming number of cases, there was no relief. The high percentage of grievances notwithstanding, none of the respondents ever approached a consumer forum for redress. The study conducted in three villages, Mehrana, Garhi Bohar and Imlota, of Panipat, Rohtak and Biwani districts says that ignorance and indifference are the two key reasons for this. But the major reason for indifference is not lassitude. A majority of respondents were purchasers of agro-inputs on credit and insisted they had to maintain a healthy relationship with the shopkeepers and dealers. They feared that going to consumer court or complaining about the manufacturer would create a problem for future credit. They were concerned that other shopkeepers in the area would also stop entertaining them, the study says.

Non-availability of fertilisers when required was a problem for 6.8% farmers. About 7.3% farmers complained of overpricing. Farmers had a variety of complaints against pesticides too. Some were ineffective (7.8%), others of poor quality (6.8%). There was duplicate stuff (3.1%) in the market and, alarmingly, also those that caused harm to crops (3.1%). It was only in the case of the pesticide causing harm to crops that every farmer complained to the dealer. Half of those who suffered due to duplicate pesticide also reported the matter to the dealer. None of them were compensated though. The study suggests that the basic thrust of the rural consumer movement should focus around availability, purity and pricing of essential commodities, including agri-inputs. The collected data shows that the respondents use interpersonal sources of information rather than the mass media to gain information. They rely on shopkeepers, dealers, sales agents to enlighten them. Since the sellers' interest are different, the farmers often end up getting cheated. The practice of buying agri-inputs by consulting the dealer himself is not a healthy practice and should be discouraged at any cost, says the report titled, Consumer Welfare and Protection in Rural Haryana — An Exploratory Study. That some farmers have gone back and complained to the dealer is a positive development. This is a sign of initiation of consumerism, says the study. But it is undeniable that unlike urban India, where the consumer movement has really taken off, it is a totally different story in the countryside.

Avijit_ghosh@timesgroup.com



Quote on Gubba

“Very nice facility and excellent storage conditions for seed industry. Continue to develop your expertise!”

BY FRANK CLAESSENS

Nunhems Netherlands BV
The Netherlands

Learnings

Temperature

Temperature is an indication of the level of heat in a substance. A substance at a temperature of 10°C. has more heat in it than the same substance at a temperature of 0°C. does not give an idea of the amount of heat the substance has. A thermometer is an instrument used for the measurement of temperature. Two temperature scales are in common use today: the Fahrenheit scale and the Celsius or centigrade scale.

Bayer Buys Korean Seed Co

Bayer AG, the German drug and chemical maker, said its crop chemicals unit bought South Korean vegetable seed company Seed Ex for an undisclosed sum. The seed company specialises in breeding, producing and marketing hot pepper and brassica varieties. The brassica family includes mustard and cabbage plants.

Kaveri Seed IPO oversubscribed 4.51 times

Secunderabad-based Kaveri Seed (KSCL), a maker of agriculture inputs, received 4.51 times oversubscription for its initial public offer (IPO) till 5.30 p.m. on the closing day. The IPO received 18,028,800 bids as against issue size of 4,000,000 shares. A total of 3,767,880 bids were received at cut off price.



Record output in soya, maize & cotton seen

The government on Wednesday said India is likely to witness record production of soya bean, cotton, maize and sugarcane in the current kharif season while the increase in rice output would be marginal. Releasing the first advance crop estimate data for kharif 2007 - 08, agriculture secretary PK Mishra said soyabean production is likely to be 9.04 million tonnes against 8.86 million tonnes (as per the fourth estimate) in the previous kharif season. The government estimate of cotton stood at 22.94 million bales in 2007 -08 crop year (June-May) compared to 22.7 million bales last year. Sugarcane production is also expected at 345.62 million tonnes from 345.31 million tonnes.

Source: The Economic Times,
Dated 20/9/2007

Avesthagen gets patent to generate cytoplasmic line

BANGALORE: Bangalore-based biotech firm Avestha Gengrain Technologies (Avesthagen) said the Australian Patent Office has granted a patent to the company on 'A process for generating cytoplasmic male sterile line in rice and other crops by RNA editing'. This invention promises to open up opportunities in developing hybrids in crops where conventional male sterility is not available or feasible, according to the company. The technology would allow hybrid seed programmes to be developed without narrowing the diversity of germplasm. Avesthagen has made several inventions and currently has a significant portfolio of 137 patent applications of which 61 relate to agribiotech domain.

Source: The Economic Times,
Dated 20/9/2007

Govt panel wants Bt Cotton-rules Amended.

The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee has asked the government to approach the Supreme Court to seek an amendment to the condition that all GM crop fields should be isolated by 200 metres. The committee said the condition was neither scientifically justifiable nor would it serve the purpose of containing pollens. The committee pointed out that the condition did not conform to the "scientifically developed" minimum standards for seed certification by Indian Council for Agriculture Research or even the ones prescribed under the Seed Act. The ministry of Environment and Forest officials on Friday said the government was considering the GEAC proposal. But, till the court directions are amended, the committee has decided that the isolation distance of 200 metres would be maintained. In cases, where Seed Standards Certification mandates a larger isolation distance, the standards would be applicable. Along with the court's condition, the committee has prescribed new regulations for field trials. No more farmers' fields can be used for trials. Instead, companies will have to use their own land or get it leased for three years

Sima carries out trial of long-staple cotton

AS PART of its research and development initiatives to improve genetically extra long-staple cotton, the Southern India Mills Association's Cotton Development and Research Association (SIMA-CDRA) has undertaken performance trials of some of the hybrids for its new ELS variety, SIMA HB-3. These trials were conducted in Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. Based on the trials, the hybrids will be put on trial in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh as well. Addressing the 32nd annual general meeting of SIMA-CDRA in Coimbatore on Wednesday, the outgoing chairman of the association, J Thulasidaran, said it is also attempting to bring out on similar line an SCHH-1 hybrid suitable for rice cultivation in fallow condition.

Source: dated 13/9/2007



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

Office : 3-6-305/43/1, Avanti nagar, Basheer bagh, 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