

Agcs-12027(31) 14/2017-Seed Sec
Date: -12-2017

O/o Special Commissioner of Agriculture
Andhra Pradesh, Guntur.

CIRCULAR MEMO

Sub: HT Cotton –Instructions to all the JDAs in the state- Keep constant vigil and Drawl of samples at processing units, storage and sale outlets- Deputation of Teams in the state from the head office and within the districts- Reg

- Ref:** 1. OM.No.BT/04VIP/(PMO)/13/2017-PID from ministry of S&T DBT,GOI.
2. G.O.Rt.No.630 and 636 dt. 17.10.2017 of Spl.Chief Secretary to Govt. Agri. & Coop (Agri.II), A.P
3. Agcs-12027(31)14/2017seed sec Dt -12-2017 from this office.
4. Roc.No.D2/Inspections/17 Dated: 15-12-2017 from JDA, Kurnool

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It is to Inform that vide reference that 1st cited GOI, Department of Biotechnology has informed that state Agriculture departments shall collect the seed and leaf samples of cotton and send them to identified testing laboratories for identifying genes/proteins/events in the unapproved HT Cotton event.

Further vide reference 2nd cited Govt. of Andhra Pradesh has constituted the committee to look into the illegalities and risks of such seed sales and cultivation and alert the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) MOEF for the contraventions of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 and Rules 1989 liable under the Act.

Vide reference 3rd cited JDAs in the state are informed to draw the leaf samples as per the allocation and procedure mentioned by the GOI, Dept. of Biotechnology and send them to the allotted lab i.e **The Director, National Institute of Animal Biotechnology(NIAB), Miyapur, Hyderabad, Telangana 500 049.**

Further vide reference 4th cited JDA, Kurnool informed that Task force committee inspected the Dealer points, processing units and seized HT positive Bt Cotton seeds of **41952.75Kgs** and filed the cases against the concerned firms.

In this regard the JDAs are instructed to constitute and depute the teams within the Districts to effectively monitor and enforce the provisions of the E.P Act, for the contravention of illegal production, processing, storage and sale units of all Bt Cotton duly keeping teams to each processing and storage units till the completion of processing (ginning) and packing and duly taking sampling for all the lots produced and packed.

In view of the above JDAs are instructed and permitted

- a. To constitute and depute the teams to keep constant vigil at all illegal production, processing, storage and sale units of Bt Cotton.
- b. To purchase Lateral Flow Assay Strip Test (LFA) Strips from the available funds with the JDAs for utilization by the teams deputed from HOD and teams constituted in the districts for sampling at processing and packing units.
- c. JDAs are instructed to purchase the LFA Strips well in advance prior to deputing the teams by deputing a special messenger to procure it from the Amar Immunodiagnostics, Hyderabad in the given address as enclosed.
- d. To seize the stocks and book cases against the concerned firms where the Bt Cotton samples are found positive for HT event under E.P Act ,1986 and Rules 1986 & 1989 and Seeds (Control) Order ,1983.

Compliance report to this office

**Special Commissioner of Agriculture
Andhra Pradesh, Guntur**

Encl: Procedure of testing Bt Cotton samples for HT Event through LFA strips and address of the firm from where the LFA strips are to be procured.

To
All JDAs in the State for immediate action.