

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE LICENSING AUTHORITY AND ADDITIONAL  
DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE (SEEDS), O/o C & DA,  
ANDHRA PRADESH, GUNTUR.**

**Present:J.Ravi Kumar B.Sc(Ag)**

**Proc No.AGC02-12027(31)27/2018-Seed Sec**

**Date: -01-2019**

**Sub:** Seed Regulation Cell – Seeds Act, 1966- Seed (Control) Order, 1983-Drawl of Cotton seed sample from the premises of M/s Haranath crop Genetics Pvt.Ltd, Nandyal –produced by M/s Kaveri seed Company Ltd,Guntur-DNA Lab Analytical report shows Positive to Herbicide tolerant (HT) – Show cause notice issued to M/s Kaveri seed Company Ltd, Guntur –Reply furnished by the firm-Personal Hearing Conducted-Explanation submitted by the firm- Suspension of the License- Reg.

- Ref:** 1. Analytical Report SD.ROC.No.12/17-18 dt 30.03.2018 of ADA, DNA Finger Printing & Transgenic Crops Monitoring Laboratory, Guntur.  
2. Showcause notice issued vide AGC02-12027(31)/27/2018 dt: 17-07-2018 of Additional Director of Agriculture (seeds), O/o C & DA, A.P., Guntur.  
3. Explanation to SCN by M/s Kaveri seed company Ltd dt: 27-07-2018.  
4. Personal Hearing vide Lr.NoAGC02-12027(31)/27/2018 dt: 08-10-18 of Addl Director of Agriculture (seeds), O/o C & DA, A.P., Guntur.  
5. Explanation by the firm M/s Kaveri Seed Company dt:02-11-2018.

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It is to inform that vide 2<sup>nd</sup> reference, a show cause notice was issued to M/s Kaveri Seed Company Ltd by Licensing Authority on HT Positive Bt Cotton samples while enclosing the results vide 1<sup>st</sup> reference.

Further vide reference 4<sup>th</sup> cited the Licensing authority had also provided personal hearing with the firm M/s Kaveri Seed Company Ltd on 23/10/2018 and asked to submit any further explanation in addition to the reply which was already given to the Show Cause Notice.

Vide 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> reference M/s Kaveri Seed Company Ltd submitted an explanation to the Show Cause Notice and personal hearing conducted by the Licensing Authority. In their explanation they stated the following aspects..

1. Before releasing the seed into the market, they conduct seed Lot-Wise tests at their In-House state of the art Seed Testing Laboratory which is recognized by the Ministry of Science & Technology, GOI and after satisfying with the quality standards prescribed by law, the seed will be released into the market. Further stated they sold considerable quantities of different varieties of Hybrid Cotton BG

- II seeds, particularly in Andhra Pradesh State and that there are no farmer complaints received against their company with regard to selling of BG II Hybrids.
2. The Cotton seed is produced by selected farmers through seed Production Organizers. The Cotton seed produced by the farmers is processed by their hired processing units for post harvesting operations like ginning, delinting; grading .Later the seed is moved to processing plants for further tests on Germination, Genetic and Transgenic purity.
  3. The contamination could be due to cross contamination from the adjacent cotton fields and further stated that they ensure the purity of their parent lines before issuing for production .Hence the chance of the F1 getting contaminated from their source of parent lines is impossible.
  4. They are doing RRF test since last 3 years for BS and FS lots, and randomly for HY seed lots and did not find any HT gene in our lots.

It is to submit that GOI has instructed the states to inspect all the sale ,storage ,production and processing plants to curb illegal & unapproved HT Cotton with presence of CP4EPSPS gene with MON 88913 event in cotton seed at any stage in production , processing , sale & storage.

As per the direction of PMO the Central Government has constituted a Field Investigation & Scientific Evaluation Committee (FISEC) to look into the illegal cultivation of HT Cotton in the Country.

The FISEC Committee has submitted its report and in it confirmed that the illegal cultivation of HT cotton in India is not due to natural crossing but due to years of skilled breeding. Presence of HT is deliberate. This cannot be called as contamination. Therefore the claim of the firm that the presence of HT trait in Bt cotton Hybrid 234 bearing lot no. of EK234N0021 is due to contamination is not correct and not convincing

The seed preparing to deliver of Bt Cotton Hybrid 234 bearing lot no. of EK234N0021 of the M/s Kaveri Seed Company Ltd, Guntur the sample should be positive for Cry1Ac and Cry2Ab with MON 15985 event only as per GEAC approval. Whereas sample contain CP4EPSPS gene with MON 88913 Herbicide Tolerant Trait (HT) which is not approved by GEAC (Genetic Engineering Approval Committee) for commercial release in India.

Hence the reply furnished by the firm is not convincing & is not acceptable and has contravened & violated the provisions of Section 6, 7 of Seeds Act, 1966 read with section 21, 23 and Clause 3, 8A of the Seeds (Control) Order, 1983.The Licensing Authority Additional Director of Agriculture (Seeds), O/o Commissioner& Director of Agriculture, Andhra Pradesh, Guntur passed the following order.

In view of the circumstances stated above there are no reasonable grounds to consider the explanation of the firm & orders are passed accordingly that the license of M/s Kaveri Seed Company Ltd, Guntur having its License No. GUN/26/ADDL.DA/CSL/2014/41 is hereby suspended for a period of one (1) year from the date of this order.

**Additional Director of Agriculture (Seeds)  
& Licensing Authority  
O/o C & DA, AP, Guntur.**

To

M/s.Kaveri seed company Ltd, DNo. 25-25-32, Narayani , Nethaji Nagar, 1st Line, Near KKR cinema Hall, NH 5, Guntur.