

F.No.C-12018/4/2011-CS-III
Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests

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Paryavaran Bhawan,
C.G.O. Complex, Lodi Road
New Delhi-110 003

Dated: 20.7.2011

Subject: Petition to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India to protect constitutional rights of the Indian farmers by providing access to Biotechnology by Shri P. Chengal Reddy, Secretary General, CIFA.

Dear Shri Reddy,

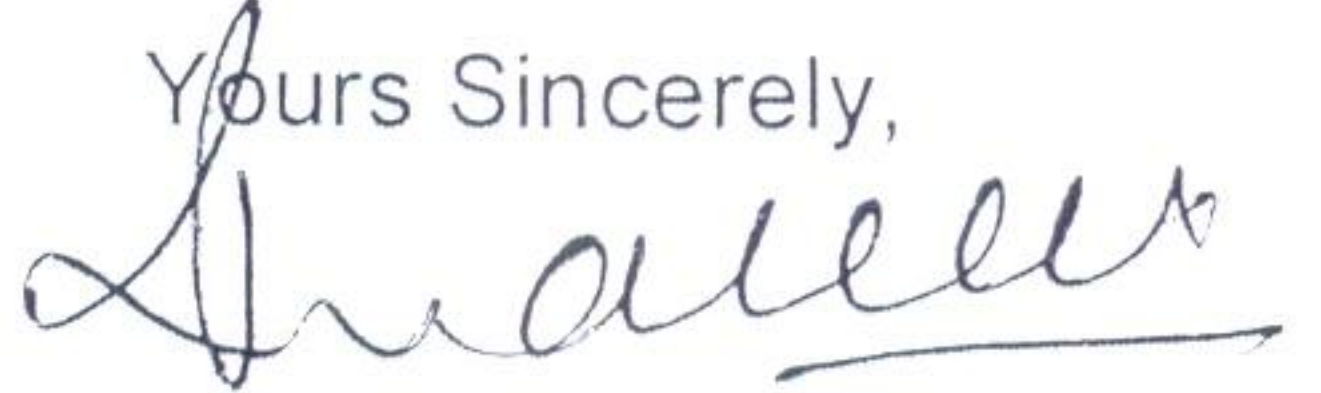
This has reference to your letter dated 11.3.2011, forwarded by Department of Biotechnology vide No. BT/03/200/2011/PID dated 21.6.2011, along with a copy of letter received from PMO 6/3/2011-PMP 3/277055 dated 13.5.2011, on the above mentioned subject matter.

The GEAC in its 105th GEAC meeting held on 8.12.2010 had accorded approval to M/s Monsanto for conduct of Biosafety Research Level Trials - II (BRL-II) trials with transgenic Maize at five locations during Rabi season and at nine locations during Kharif 2011. However the applicant was able to initiate BRL-II trials only at Samastipur, Bihar and UAS Dharwad, Karnataka. At other locations, the State Governments have raised objections on the grounds that the State Agriculture Universities are not informing the State Government before allowing the trials and therefore the trials could not be initiated. You are also aware that some State Governments have informed this Ministry that they would like their state to be GM free.

It is in this background the GEAC considered the request from the Chief Minister, Bihar and decided to revoke the clearance granted to M/s Monsanto to conduct BRL-II trials with transgenic Maize in Bihar. The BRL-II trials in Dharwad were allowed to continue.

With a view to avoid disruption of the ongoing GM crop field trials and taking into consideration that agriculture is a State subject, the GEAC is of the view that it is important to take the views of the State Government on board and to promote their involvement in activities pertaining to GM crop field trials specially its effective monitoring. Accordingly, in the 111th GEAC meeting held on 6.7.2011, it has been decided that in respect of all GM crop field trials, the GEAC/RCGM would issue the approval letter only on receipt of NOC from the respective State Department of Agriculture. A communication in this regard would be sent to all applicants whose proposal has been approved by the RCGM/GEAC along with a copy to the State Government to enable them to obtain the NOC from the State Government.

With regards,

Yours Sincerely,

(Dr. R. Warrier)

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Shri. P.Chengal Reddy
Secretary General
Consortium of Indian Farmer's Association (CIFA)
8/32, South Patel Nagar
New Delhi-8

Copy to: Shri Amar Das, Section Officer, PM Office (PMO ID No. 6/3/2011-PMP 3/277055 dated 13.5.2011)