

New Bt cotton variety from Monsanto

Monsanto of the United States is in the process of releasing a new variety of Bt cotton called Bt-gene – CRY 2x also known as CRY 2Ab – for pest resistance in cotton. Presence of the gene CRY 2Ab would make cotton resistant to the pest *Spodoptera frugiperdi*. According to the Director of Research of Monsanto Research Centre in Bangalore, India, Dr. T.M. Manjunath, the proposal has reached its final stage, as all regulatory trials related to GMO were over in the United States. He further informed that the Maharashtra Hybrid Seed Company Limited (Mahyco) of India had sought the clearance from the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, for stacking this gene. The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) of the Government of India is expected to permit the commercialization of the Bt-cotton with the gene CRY 2Ab within the next two to three years. (The Hindu Business Line, 24 May 2002)