

CALL/EMAIL NOW to Hon'ble Minister Anil Madhav Dave of MOEF&CC in Support of GM Mustard (Email: ps2mefcc@gov.in)

Colleagues, Friends

After 20 years of painstaking scientific experiments and regulatory scrutiny, the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) has recommended the environmental release of GM mustard developed by a team of Indian scientists led by Prof. Deepak Pental – a renowned brassica geneticist and former Vice Chancellor of University of Delhi. GM mustard project was funded entirely by the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) of Government of India. Indian mustard being a self-pollinated crop was difficult to be bred for hybrid vigour, which was overcome by DU's team of scientists, geneticists and breeders in collaboration with other Brassica research groups of ICAR. The resulting GM mustard hybrid Dhara Mustard Hybrid 11 (DMH-11) significantly out-yields popular mustard varieties. This will contribute to higher mustard productivity and production that is indispensable for doubling income of 60 lakh small mustard farmers in India who suffer from very low yields -as low as 1000 kg per hectare – one third of that in Canada, China and Australia. India farmers continue to suffer from low yield, meagre farm income and loss of opportunity due to denial of farm technologies. As a result, demand-supply gap of edible oil has widened to such an extent that India spends almost 80,000 crore per annum on imported edible oil including large quantity of GM soybean and GM canola (Canadian Mustard) – that we have been consuming routinely for almost two decades without any harm –of course the cheap imported edible oil is harming our farmers and edible oil economy of India.

GEAC's decision to allow cultivation of high-yielding and superior GM mustard is very important for our farmers and consumers. Although, GM mustard has found **“as safe as conventional mustard”** and **"does not raise any public health or safety concerns for human beings or animal or environment”**, a group of activists opposed to use of any new technology in agriculture has mounted a campaign to influence the Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change Shri Anil Madhav Dave, who will make final decision on GM mustard in the near future. Activists are conspiring to stop Indian mustard farmers to become competitive, keep our farmers poor and increase India's dependence on imported GM canola and GM soybean oil.

Painstaking efforts of our scientific community led by Prof. Deepak Pental and rigorous biosafety scrutiny by Indian regulatory system should not go in a vain. It is a time to pledge and raise our support in favor of Indian GM mustard by directly reaching out to Hon'ble Minister Sh Anil Madhav Dave requesting him to allow Indian farmers to access GM mustard technology in forthcoming Rabi 2017 season. Let us communicate to him and register your request with a solid scientific reason as you deem appropriate either by calling him at 011-23011961 (residence); 011-24695132 (office); 9868181806 (mobile) or email him at ps2mefcc@gov.in

Additional information on GM mustard in English and Hindi at: <http://www.sabc.asia/high-yielding-ge-mustardtechnology.html>