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Speaking to *BioSpectrum*, Dr TM Manjunath, agri-consultant and former director, Monsanto Research Center, remarked, "I am much happy about this development. It is good that Modi government is instilling confidence in investors for agri technology among others. But we have been witnessing pressure from various quarters including activists on the government, which otherwise was perceived as business friendly.

Commenting on the genetically modified (GM) crops issue, Dr Manjunath stated, "The conflicting reports on GM trials have made us keep our fingers crossed. While in principle, the GEAC's recommendations should have been accepted, the previous government too couldn't do so. And now we see that this government too couldn't go ahead. There is a need for hard decisions and I am sure that Mr Modi will do that in favour of agri-biotech industry."

"If we can reach Mars then agriculture which feeds us surely has to be taken care of. I am hopeful about that," he concluded on an optimistic note.