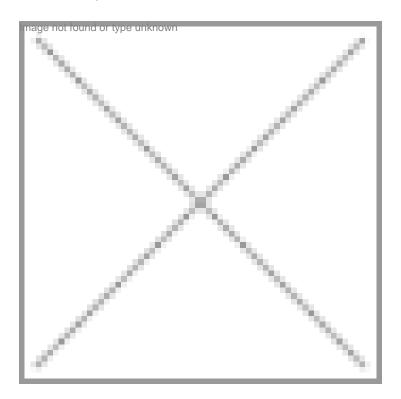


BioAgri is the Fastest Growing Sector

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The BioAgri sector has come of age in India. In 2004-05, Rasi Seeds became the second company in India to make commercially available Bt cotton. With the entry of Rasi, the entire Bt cotton seeds business changed. The release of RCH 2 Bt in 2004 by Rasi has created greater confidence in the farmers about Bt technology. The farmers have understood that they get maximum benefit using hybrids with Bt technology and there is huge demand.

The total Bt cotton seeds revenues in 2004-05 was Rs 253.3 crore, a record growth of 369 percent compared to Rs 54 crore in 2003-04. A total of 15.8 lakh packets of seeds containing 450 grams were sold. The total seeds sale was 7.11 lakh kg. The "Bollgard" Bt cotton seeds were sold in six states-Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. Rasi Seeds in 2004-05 reported total Bt cotton seeds sales of Rs 86.9 crore. Mahyco-Monsanto, the first company permitted to sell Bt cotton, was estimated to have grown over 208 percent to end the year at Rs 166.4 crore.

The total bioagri sector in the country was estimated at Rs 330 crore, up from Rs 130 crore in 2003-04. The Bt Cotton seeds sales only accounted for 76.75 percent of this market, bio pesticides, biofertilizers and markers accounted for the rest. International Panacea and Biotech International were the two major companies in the biopesticides and biofertilizers category. International Panacea reported sales of Rs 17 crore, while Biotech Biotech International's sales stood at Rs 10.64 crore.

This year would be a watershed year for Bt Cotton. Bt cotton gets green signal in several other states. The apex regulatory body, the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC), approved six new varieties of transgenic cotton in the northern states of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan. With this decision, transgenic cotton will now be commercially cultivated in the North for the first time. These approved genetically modified Bt cotton hybrids include MRC-6301 and MRC-6304 of the Jalnabased Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company (Mahyco), RCH-134 and RCH-138 of the Coimbatore-based Rasi Seeds and Ankur-2534 of the Nagpur-based Ankur Seeds.

Splyribuses Bt setters by beids of jMahyco (Mech-162, Mech-184 and Mech-12) were given the approval in 2002. In 2003, it was only the Ohbauthef Bottottotton semicity of Rasi Seeds that was given the green signal for cultivation in Central and Southern India. This perfection be green to be gree

Rakshak

Nuziveedu Seeds Ltd, which launched its Bt versions of its cotton hybrid varieties, Bunny and Mallika, announced that it has Gertaire of abbories of Bt hybrid seed for cultivation in the kharif season. Of these, 1.2-1.5 lakh packets will be seed for cultivation in the kharif season. The Bt seed pack, including the conventional seed, has been priced at Rs 1,820.

Trishul (F1)

Wayach F-1 Hybrid Kapas †151 roost. The Bt cottonseeds, originally developed by Monsanto in the US and marketed under Suraksha †Hybrid Cotton Seeds is being marketed by the joint venture company Mahyco Monsanto Biotech India Ltd. The Research Hybrid Cotton F-1 is being marketed by the joint venture company Mahyco Monsanto Biotech India Ltd. The company has transferred the Bt technology to over 15 Indian seed companies like Rasi, Ankur, Emergent Genetics, Ajeet, JK Saeds, Krishi Dhan, Vikram Seeds, and Tulsi Seeds. The trials conducted by these seed companies are at different stages. Each of these companies pay Monsanto about Rs 1200 per packet as royalty.

BT Cotton Varieties		
Company	Approved Bt	
Ankur Seeds	Ankur-09	
Ankur Seeds	Ankur-2534	
Ankur Seeds	Ankur-651	
Mahyco-Monsanto	Mech-12 Bt	
Mahyco-Monsanto	Mech-162 Bt	
Mahyco-Monsanto	Mech-184 Bt *	
Mahyco-Monsanto	MRC-6301	
Mahyco-Monsanto	MRC-6304	

and Wietanelix are working on	this front. Moreover, Metahelix	ng considered. Companies like Indo American Hybrid Seeds is getting ready with its own Bt Cotton. In October 2003,
licensed the same to a consorting	m, Swarna Bharat Biotechnics	nced that its technology was ready for transfer and also vt Ltd (SBBPL), for transfer. The indigenous Bt technology likely to happen in 2007-2008.
Nuziveedu Seeds The regulatory system has been Rasi Seeds Rasi Seeds Rasi Seeds	NCS-207 Malika Bt on an evolution path. The regula RDG at an unabated and alarmir	tory system is unable to do anything about the spread of the g rate. The illegal Bt cotton occupies more area (about 25
persedus widely felt that dere	e <u>ay thaixthe legal version (abou</u> gwatiggชf transgenic technolog	t 10 percent of total hybrid cotton area) according to some es like Bt cotton (Cry1 A(c) gene in cotton) where bio-safety
is proyen and approved for complete seeds of the regulatory problems with the regulatory problems will change will change to seed the regulatory problems.	ansgenic crops like Bt cotton in	ountries like the US and Australia, is the solution for several ndia. With the National Biotech Policy in sight, most of them k year for Bt cotton.
Rasi Seeds	RCH-20	
Rasi Seeds	RCH-317	
Rasi Seeds	RCH-368	