

# Seminar Interim Report

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## The Seminar

Biosafety refers to the need to protect the environment including human and animal health from the possible adverse effects of the Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and products thereof derived from the use of modern biotechnology. Genetically Modification Technique may be the hope for the challenges emerging in the agriculture field. Modern Biotechnology is recognized as having great potential for the promotion of human well-being, particularly in meeting critical needs for food & agriculture.

Biosafety issues have been treated as most crucial in the evolution of biotech products. To address the health and environmental concerns of GMOs, nationally and internationally, Governments and organizations have developed biosafety guidelines and rules. In India, GMOs and products thereof are regulated as per the “Rules for the manufacture, use / import / export and storage of hazardous microorganisms / genetically engineered organisms or cells, 1989” (commonly referred as Rules, 1989).

## Objective of the Seminar

Biosafety Guidelines provided practical guidance on biosafety techniques for use on fields. But unfortunately not much has been known by the farmers on the fields. There is a gap between the policy maker and the worker working on the ground level. During the trials and after post release of GM crop there are lots of guidelines which has to be followed and hence this workshop will give insight to all the ground level workers (farmers) about the guidelines.

Also the objective of the seminar is to spread the knowledge about biosafety. Farmer must have a knowledge of what is going on in the world through biotechnology and what are the ways these biotechnology crop are govern in around the world. They must also be aware of the Indian approval system so that they have more faith on the system.

Since farmers play a crucial role in approving and using any new Genetically Modified plant in our country, its perspective about the status of biosafety in the state will be important, through this seminar for farmers we want to generate or know:

- Awareness about the Biosafety Guidelines.
- Knowing the problems faced by the farmers, specifically related to biosafety.
- Wanted to teach farmers the importance of buffer zone while cultivating Bt-cotton.

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## Approach/Strategy

A Seminars – christened as ‘Biosafety & GM crop trials’ in all Bt-cotton growing area of Gujarat with an aim of addressing all of the gaps that have been identified, has been envisaged. The One-day seminar would attempt to give a brief picture regarding the present rules & regulations on Biosafety and the role of farmers in biosafety.

The Seminars aim at participation from the Bt-Cotton growing farmers of that area, State agriculture departments, Govt. Officials of related area & any other professionals from the same & allied fields, etc.

## Surendranagar

**Date & day:** 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2014. Wednesday

**Venue:** Auditorium, Hotel Shiv International

### **Eminent Speakers:**

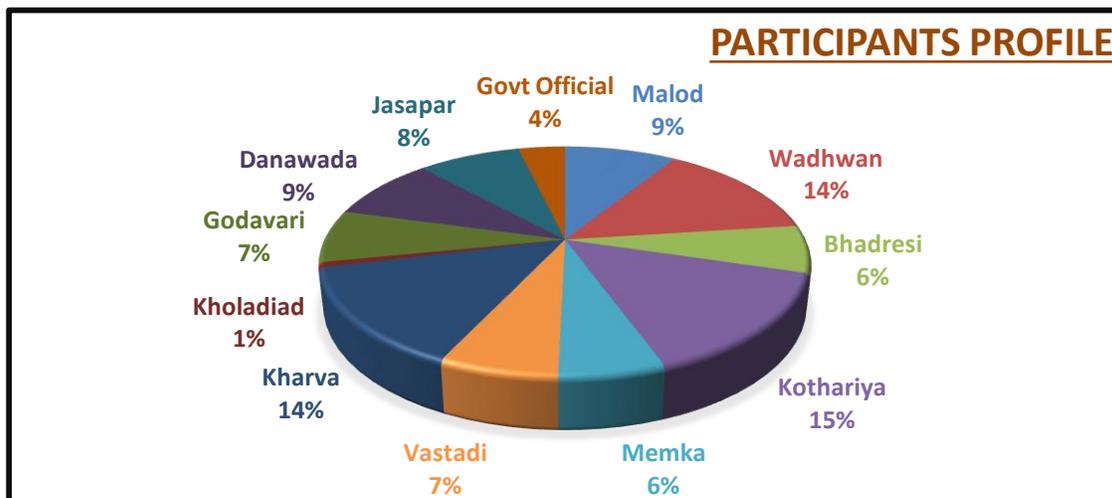
1. **Dr. Vijay Kumar, Ex-Principal Scientist, Navsari Agriculture University:** - Dr. Vijay Kumar give a details talk on Biosafety Trials. He started his talk with the role played by Bt Cotton to Gujarat farmers. He then briefed the different guidelines which has to be followed at the time of trial of GM crop. He said that, no doubt that the trails are conducted under the inspection of senior researcher but there are need that farmers which is part of such trials also know the guidelines. He show to the farmer that what are their roles while they are conducting trails and also realize them their roles on cultivating GM cotton (Bt-Cotton). He show different options on how can a risk be mitigated.
2. **Ms. Anasuya Lahiry Bhadalkar, Sector Specialist Environment, GSBTM:** - Ms. Anasuya Bhadalkar delivered his talk on general back ground of the GM crop. She stated about the status of GM crop in around the world. She interestingly briefed the gathering through different case studies about the importance of guidelines and role of farmer in them. She also put forward the Indian system of approving a GM crop. By letting the difference of policies of different countries she emphasis that our system is strongest and one must have faith on the system.

## Photo Gallery



## Profile of Participants

The program was attended by 137 participants, ranging from different area of Surendranagar,



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## Organizers

1. **Shri. A. K. Saxena** IFS, **Mission Director**  
Gujarat State Biotechnology Mission  
Dept. of Sci. & tech., Govt. of Gujarat
2. **Mr. P. K. Ghevariya**, **President (NGO)**  
Shri Sardar Patel Institute of Development



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