


**National Conference on  
Universal Health Coverage in India:  
Advancing the Agenda and Addressing the Challenges  
April 11-12, 2012**

**Trade and Health**



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# Trade and Health

- GATT - 8<sup>th</sup> Uruguay Round
- TRIPS
- WTO
- IPR – One of the most Unjust International Trade Regime
- Medicines
- Traditional Medicine and Traditional Knowledge

# TRIPS and Pharmaceuticals

- Doha declaration on TRIPS & PUBLIC HEALTH 2001
- CIPIH Commission on IPR Innovation & Public Health 2006
- WHO CEWG Report 2012
- Use of the TRIPS flexibilities (v.v.few)
  - Compulsory License
  - Parallel Import
- High Prices
- Poor Access
- TRIPS plus Agendas through FTAs

# Traditional Medicines and Traditional Knowledge

- Budget for TSM 3 % of Health Budget
- TKDL Traditional Knowledge Digital Library documentation of Traditional Medicine
- Turmeric, Neem , Basmati , Melon ,Mola Gattu
- Phyllanthus Niruri, Karela , Jamun
- Patenting of genes, Traits
- Continued Granting of Patents by USPTO for existing Traditional Knowledge

## Trade in Food

- Lifting of Quantitative Restrictions
- Import Liberalization. Food importation at higher prices than given to farmers
- Continued subsidies to the farmers in west .
- Indian farmers unable to compete
- Indo EU and other FTAs pressure for opening Dairy, Poultry etc.Processed Food

Push for Seed Replacement with patented seeds  
(pushing out conventional seeds)

- 90% of cotton in cotton growing areas is Bt Cotton , licensing arrangement with the seed companies
- Conventional Seeds are not available
- Seed costs spiral Royalty payments

# Seeds –IPR –

- SEED REPLACEMENT
- of traditional seeds , with patented seeds of seed Corporations
- Control on seed ,
- Replacing Conventional
- Promotion of Patented seeds
- Wiping out of conventional seeds
- Making seed saving, sharing, selling, illegal Agreements signed by farmers buying seeds

# Media for Marketing Insecticide use has increased new bugs Mealy bugs

*India's farm environment gets healthier as Bollgard cotton farmers reduce insecticide use*

By reducing Bollgard to half insecticide use, farmers can reduce insecticide use by 50% (on average) and reduce the risk of insecticide resistance. Bollgard cotton is a natural insecticide (Bt toxin) that kills insects, including agricultural pests, at the seedling stage. Bollgard cotton is a natural insecticide (Bt toxin) that kills insects, including agricultural pests, at the seedling stage.

**Farmer's Pride. India's Pride.**

**Bollgard II**

**IFF**

**Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited**

# Promotion with



*India's Cotton Revolution - progress through partnership*

India's cotton sector is poised to take a giant leap with technological & biological innovations in the pursuit of better cotton. Following intense dialogues between the Govt, all stake holders - seed and textile/ready garment, agribusiness, education professionals, retail trade, NGOs and farmer's self-help organizations, united India cotton mission by building partnership to drive the growth of product and farmer's pride.

Farmer's Pride. India's Pride.

Bollgard II

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# 250,000 farmers suicides majority in cotton belt




*India delights as cotton farmers' lives transform for the better*


Research indicated that 67 per cent of the cotton farmers reported higher standards of living. 57 per cent mentioned their children's education and life insurance, and 67 per cent reported that they are doing better. Many more have better access to more profitable farm equipment and technologies, better healthcare and better education. Further, farmers from 16 states have benefited from higher income. Economical crop rotation with cotton has higher yields of other crops and wheat availability. Additionally, specific areas witnessed a 50 per cent gain in savings income, and 55 per cent additional time of employment available for other work.

Improving India's cotton production. *McKinsey Quarterly* (2006)

**Farmer's Pride. India's Pride.** | **Bollgard II** | **IPM**

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- **Using International and National Regulatory frameworks to push for corporate control on Seeds and thereby meeting Food Security**
  - **Seed Act – making unregistered seeds illegal (70% Indian Agriculture related with small farmers)**
  - **Biotechnology Regulatory Authority Act (under Department of Biotechnology mandated to promote Biotechnology)**

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- Indo US Knowledge Initiative on Agriculture on the Board are Monsanto, Walmart ,
  - MOUs with agriculture Universities promotion of GM , IPM initiatives stopped , or unfunded .
  - Silence from Public Health Community .
  - Epigenetics , Biosafety concerns blindspotted
  - Genetic Contamination Genetic Pollution
  - Percy Schmeizer, Canadian farmer sued for IPR violation on finding field contaminated with Round up Ready Conolla , accused of stealing Monsanto's patented seeds
  - Till free Agriculture selling Herbicide Round Up

# Genetic Contamination is a Reality

- Entire collection of seeds saved for over 50 years farming taken
- Sued for \$50,000 for violation of IPR .
- Percy was victim of unwanted GM contamination of his non GM Canolla crop
- **RoundUp** is Herbicide
- **Round up Ready** is canolla with Herbicide resistant gene .
- When Herbicide is sprayed , it kills all other plant s

- **Royalty paid for Bt Cotton – Rs. 1000 crore per year**
- **Implications in terms of cost of seeds with GM Soya, GM Corn, GM Papaya, GM Cauliflower, GM Ladies fingers, GM rice**
- **Public Health Implications**
  - **250,000 farmer's suicides**
  - **Bio safety concerns**
  - **Economic Concerns**
  - **Wiping out of Traditional Livelihood concerns**
  - **Ecological Concerns about loss of Biodiversity ,**

**TILL FREE AGRICULTURE**

## BIOSAFETY CONCERNS

Biosafety studies not done because GM crop equated with Biologically Natural crops in US

- Bt Brinjal 3 genes inserted
- Bt gene from Bacillus Thurengensis
- Cauliflour Mosaic virus gene`
- Antibiotic Resistant marker gene

- Inadequate Biosafety testing

Only 90 days Long term impact ofGM food i  
Intergenerational impact assessmnt not done

# Policy & Regulatory frameworks to increase Control & Trade of Patented seeds

- **Seed Act** to make unregistered farmers seeds illegal
- **Biotechnology Regulatory Authority Act** contents being challenged by civil society engaged in Right to Food , Doctors for Food & Biosafety .
- **FoodSafety Standards Authority** formulated by **Food Processing Industry Ministry** .  
Repealing of Infant Milk Substitutes Act was stalled because of Baby Food campaigners

# Food Security Nutritional Security needed

- Speculation on Food recognized as one of the main reasons for spiraling food prices –U.N Special Rapporteur on Food .
- Agreement on Agriculture AoA part of WTO loaded against developing countries . Korean farmers suicide in Cancun , protests by peasants , farmers & womens organizations to not to threaten Nutritional , livelihood security of the citizens majority of whom are linked to Agriculture.
- Recognize the existing Agrarian crisis & the Malnutrition crisis





# Food & Nutrition Security Public Health Priority

- This requires
  - Diverse Food Production , procurement, storage , equitable Distribution , consumption
  - Based on nutrition needs , of affordable & safe food .
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