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'India Should Look Beyond Bt Cotton, Revisit Bt Brinjal'

NEW DELHI India, which has the world's fourth-largest area under biotech crop, should look beyond Bt cotton and revisit moratorium on commercial cultivation of Bt brinjal, said a latest report released by global body ISAAA. In February 2010, the government had imposed moratorium on commercial cultivation of Bt brinjal EE-1, the first biotech food crop, due to concerns aired by green activists. But Bangladesh allowed its commercial cultivation in 2014. India has so far permitted commercial cultivation of BT cotton and it was grown in 95% of the total cotton area of 12.25 million hectare in 2014, the report said. "GEAC's approval of field trials of another Bt brinjal event developed by National Research Centre on Plant Biotechnology (NRCPB) opens up an opportunity for government to revisit the moratorium on Bt brinjal event EE-1," said the global report released by the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications (ISAAA).