



Is BT really failing OUR FARMERS?

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Interviewing

David Green, International Biotech Communication Expert & Shivendra Bajaj, Executive Director, ABLE-AG

With the introduction of Bt cotton in India in 2002 there has been a rise and shine in cotton production till date. Thirteen years down the line and it still caters to meeting the expenses of thousands of farmers in the country. But due to unfortunate turn of events of persistent drought from past two years and the spread of whitefly against which these Bt plants have no resistance, two Indian states faced a huge loss in production and hence income. It must be well noted that Bt cotton has no resistance to whitefly and only provides control for Bollworms. The sudden attack by whitefly and the damage inflicted on Bt cotton variety in Punjab and Haryana is likely to be widespread and has called for the recent blame game on GM crops which is holding it responsible for farmer suicides by activists and certain media groups.

In light of this upsetting menace in Punjab & Haryana, to present us with more insights, Biotechnika Magazine had an exclusive conversation with Mr. David Green, an international biotech communication expert who focuses on international agri-trade and food sectors specific to the agri-biotechnology industry. While activists and NGOs are increasingly averring that this problem is because of BT Cotton, as an expert, David is well placed to share his insights and views on the problem.