

GM CROPS 2013

NO PANACEA TO FOOD SECURITY

*Earth is only one.
Take it in your hands.
Live sustainable.*

GM CROPS

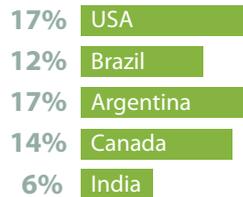
20 Yrs.

Genetically Modified (GM) crops commercialised for nearly 20 years. Industry data indicates a rejection by majority of the countries to adopt this controversial technology.

91 %

91% of global GM production is in **USA, Brazil, Argentina, India & Canada**. Despite the hype that GM is the fastest adopted technology, even these 5 countries use conventional farming in majority of agricultural land.

Total land under GM crops cultivation in 2011 was **159 million hectares** which is only **3%** of the world's agricultural land.



PARLIAMENTARY BODY AND SUPREME COURT EXPERTS COMMITTEE ADVISES CAUTION AGAINST GM CROPS

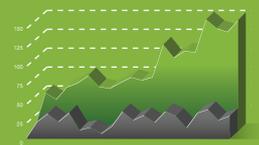
Parliamentary standing committee on Agriculture submits its report on GM food crops and categorically denies any role for GM crops in providing food security to our country. The report also points to the threats from GM crops to farming and farm livelihoods.

Technical Expert committee constituted by the Supreme Court of India highlights the potential impacts of GM crops to human health, biodiversity, socioeconomic situation of our country and advises a precautionary approach towards them.



BT COTTON

Bt cotton adds to the increased burden of small and marginal farmers in India especially in the rainfed region which forms majority of cotton area.



Data from cotton advisory board shows that cotton yield increased by **60%** in 3 years between 2002-2004

2002

When the area under bt cotton was as little as **5.6%**.

2004

But there was no significant increase in yield until 2011 when the area under BT Cotton touched **96%**.

2011



2006 - 07



2012 - 13

A DISMAL PICTURE FOR FARMERS

20 years of GM crop cultivation in USA lead to increased cost of cultivation due to increased use of herbicide. Cultivation of herbicide resistant crops has also led to a reduction in the biodiversity



This should be an eye-opener for policy makers that GM crops are not sustainable for farming or biodiversity and thus have no role to play in food security.



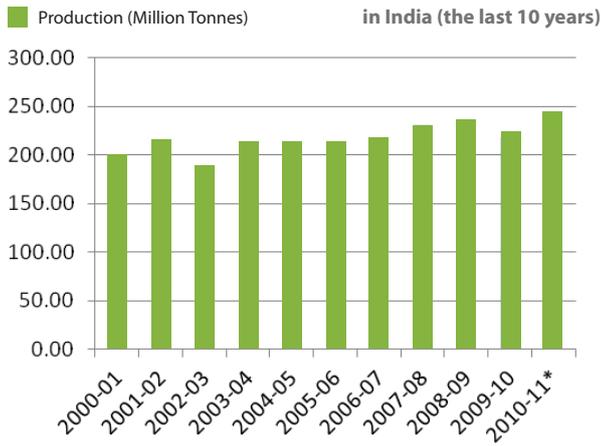
Dr Charles Benbrook, renowned agricultural economist stated in his studies that "Resistant weeds have become a major problem for many farmers reliant on GE crops, and are now driving up the volume of herbicide needed each year by about 25%."



Recorded evidence of adverse impacts of Monsanto's glyphosate-based herbicide used along with GM herbicide tolerant crops on water, biodiversity and soil-plant system.



FOOD PRODUCTION



India stands way down the Global Hunger Index at 65th out of 88 nations, worse than many Sub Saharan African countries.

	ICMR Norm per family per month	% of current production required under Universal PDS (2008-2009)
Foodgrains	50kgs	Half of the total food grain production in the country
Edible Oils	2.8kgs	65% of the total edible oil production.
Pulses	5.25kgs	68%-72% of the total pulses production

Source: Right To Food Campaign: Food Security, What the Government Says and What we want, 2011, www.righttofoodindia.org/data/food_security_what_the_government_says_and_what_we_want.pdf

Indian Government is sitting on one of **world's biggest** hoards of food grains, about **667 lakh tons** as of January 1, 2013, making the current stock **2.5 times more than** the Government's benchmark for buffer stocks (TOI, Jan 18th, 2013). In fact, reports of rotting food grains in our Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns have become a regular feature now.

BIG QUESTION:

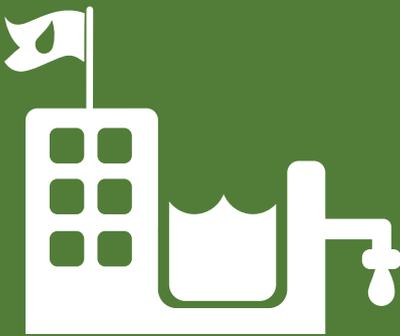
Why are these mountains of food grain not being distributed to the people? Third of the children are born malnourished, half of children are underweight and a third of the adult population has a Body Mass Index (BMI) of below 18.5, one of the worst in the world.



The Planning Commission's estimate of the required subsistence calorie intake for defining the poverty line is set at 2400 calories per person per day in rural areas and 2100 calories per person per day in urban areas. At least 80% of the population in rural areas and 50% in urban areas fall below the required subsistence intake.

SOLUTION

A multipronged approach which includes (a) the promotion of sustainable food production systems, (b) efficient food distribution and (c) ensuring livelihood security of citizens is the way forward for our country to be food secure, now and in future.



"To feed 9 billion people in 2050, we urgently need to adopt the most efficient farming techniques available. Agroecological methods outperform the use of chemical fertilisers in boosting food production where the hungry live- especially in unfavourable climates. To date, agroecological projects have shown an average crop yield increase of 80% in 57 developing countries with an average increase of 116% for all African projects. Recent projects conducted in 20 African countries demonstrated a doubling of crop yields over a period of 3-10 years."

- Olivier De Schutter, UN special rapporteur on the right to food and author of the report, "Agroecology and the right to food"

Source: http://earthopensource.org/files/pdfs/GMO_Myths_and_Truths/GMO_Myths_and_Truths_1.1.p

