

ICAR-CENTRAL INSTITUTE FOR COTTON RESEARCH

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Reply submitted to RTI queries by Sh Sakamuri

Date of Received : 20.11.2020

Date of Disposed : 11.12.2020

With reference to the RTI application of Sh Sakamuri, the replies submitted are given below:

Sr. No.	Information Sought	Reply
1	What is the Variety Identification Committee?	Variety identification committee is constituted for the purpose of identification of superior test entries during the crop workshop/ group meeting. The Variety Identification Committee is chaired by Deputy Director General (Crop Science) of ICAR or his nominee with following members Director of Research of SAU of the region, Agriculture Commissioner (Dept. of Agric.), One Director of Agriculture (State Govt.), Assistant Director General of Respective crop, Assistant Director General (Seeds), Director, IISR, Mau, One Representative of Seed Organization, Rep. of crop-based processing / manufacturing industry, One representative of private seed companies, Two eminent scientists, and Project Director/Project Coordinator as Member Secretary.
2	What is the Identification of a Variety?	Improved varieties play a critical role in agricultural development of a country. Hence, primary objective of crop science research is development of improved varieties in different crops. In India, new improved varieties of crops are developed by Crop Research Institutes of Indian Council of Agricultural Research, State Agricultural Universities and few Private Seed Companies These varieties are tested (evaluated) for a minimum period of three years, before consideration of release for cultivation. The important characters for which the new varieties are evaluated / tested are Yield, Resistance to disease and pests, Quality of product, Resistance to adverse environmental factors, and Adaptation to different agro climatic conditions. The official testing of candidate varieties is carried out by the All India Coordinated Research Project (AICPR) of a given crop. AICRP conducts the trials under its supervision at

		<p>experimental centers of ICAR Research Institutes, State Agricultural Universities and officially recognized Private Seed Companies. The planning of trials including number of entries (candidate varieties) in each trials etc. are finalized in the Annual Group Meeting/Workshop of each crop. Separate trials are planned for different agro-climatic and ecological conditions. This meeting is convened and organized by the Project Director/Project Coordinator of each crop. The testing system is a multi-disciplinary approach to variety evaluation, cutting across administrative and other boundaries. A proposed entry is evaluated for three years, one year in the Initial Variety Trial (IVT) and for two years under Advanced Varietal Trial (AVT). The promotion of entries from IVT to AVT is strictly based on the overall performance/merits of the test entries. Outstanding performance for yield/main produces of economic importance of the candidate variety (by a margin of 15 to 20%) over the best performing check and with no compromise of other features. Ancillary characters are recorded by Pathologists and Entomologists in recording data on the resistance of candidate varieties to diseases and insect pests. In the 3rd year of testing along with AVT IIInd year trial a separate trail is conducted by agronomists of the ICAR Research Institute/SAU, on the response of varieties to different dates of sowing, seed rate and other agronomic traits. The candidate varieties are also evaluated for disease/pest resistance in hot spot locations where disease and insect pests appear in epidemic form. Superior eligible test entries are identified in the crop workshop/ group meeting for presentation to the Central Sub-Committee on Crop Standards Release and Notification. This is done by a committee called "Variety Identification Committee" constituted in advance of annual workshop/group meeting with the approval of the Deputy Director General (Crop Sciences) of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>What is the Notification of a Variety?</p>	<p>After official release / Identification (at State or Central levels), the cultivars are notified under the Seeds Act so that the quality of seeds can be regulated. The main purpose of notification is to bring the seeds of a particular crop/variety under the purview of Seed Law Enforcement, mainly to empower the Seed Inspectors to verify the quality of its seeds by sampling and analysis.</p>

		The notification is made by the Central Government on the recommendation of the Central Seed Committee.
4	What is Release of a Variety?	The purpose of Release/ Identification of cultivars is to introduce the newly evolved varieties to the public for general cultivation in the region in which it is suitable. It enables the farmers to choose cultivars for cultivation in a region. In other words, release of a cultivar is in the nature of a recommendation to the farmers for its adoption. Therefore, notification of a variety is linked to the release of a variety, though the release process itself does not have statutory cover.
5	Is it mandatory to get Notified of a Bt-Cotton Hybrid/Variety (which is stacked with GEAC approved Event MON15985) by the Central Sub-committee and/or Central Seed Committee to sell the same hybrid/variety in any part of the country by the seed dealer/company (license obtained under the Seeds Control Order, 1983)?	Yes, It is Mandatory
6	Is it mandatory to get released by the Central Sub-Committee and/or Central Varietal Release Committee for other than notified (non-notified) Bt cotton Hybrids expressing approved/deregulated Event MON15985.	The question is not clear, hence not able to respond
7	Which CPIO provided the information sought?	PC & Head, ICAR-CICR, Regional Station, Coimbatore
8	Please provide the concerned CPIO Name, Designation, official telephone number and email ID.	Dr. A. H. Prakash, PC, Head, ICAR-CICR, Regional Station, Coimbatore-641003 Ph: 0422-2430046/2431238; Email: cicrcbe@gmail.com

This is issued with the approval of the Director, ICAR-CICR, Nagpur.