

ICAR-CENTRAL INSTITUTE FOR COTTON RESEARCH

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Reply submitted to RTI queries by N Venkateswara Rao

Date of Received : 25.09.2020

Date of Disposed : 19.10.2020

With reference to the RTI application of Shri. N Venkateswara Rao, the reply submitted is given below:

Query: What are all the minimum quality standards of Bt-Cotton (expressing MON15985 event containing Cry 1Ac & Cry 2Ab gens) Hybrid Seeds in India under the Section 6 of the Seeds Act, 1966 by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, New Delhi.

Reply: Attached the minimum quality standards of Bt-Cotton hybrid seeds. Protein expression and RIB guidelines (2-Gazette Notifications in one PDF file is enclosed).

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare)NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 16th June, 2017

S.O. 1934(E).—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Seeds Act, 1966 (54 of 1966), the Central Government, hereby makes the following amendment in the notification of the Government of India, in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, number

S.O. 4215(E), dated the 27th December, 2016, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, sub-section (ii) namely:—

In the said notification in the Table, in fourth column, for the entries, the following entries shall be submitted, namely :—

“Cry1Ac: 4 microgram dry weight of tissue (leaf / square / boll) Cry2Ab: 280 microgram dry weight of tissue (leaf / square / boll).”

The Notification shall come into force from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

[F. No. 13-68/2014-SD.IV]

B. RAJENDER, Jt. Secy. (Seeds)

Note : The principal notification was published in the Gazette of India *vide* number S.O. 4215(E), dated the 27th December, 2016.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare)NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 27th December, 2016

S.O. 4215(E).— In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Seeds Act, 1966 (Act 54 of 1966), and in supersession of the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation dated the 5th November, 2005, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) dated the 5th November, 2005 vide S.O. No. 1567 (E), except as respects things done or omitted to be done before such supersession, the Central Government, after consultation with the Central Seed Committee hereby specifies the gene purity in terms of transgene *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt.) and minimum level of Bt. Toxin for Separate Pack (SP) and Refugia in Bag (RIB) in cotton seed lots for labeling of *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) genes in cotton seed, as follows:-

Sl. No.	Particulars	Purity in terms of transgenics/transgenes	Minimum level of Bt. Toxin
1	Refuge as Separate Pack(SP)	Bt. cotton seed pack (450 g) having minimum of 90% seeds positive for each transgene. Separate refuge non-Bt. cotton seed pack (120 g) with transgene positive seeds not exceeding 5%.	420 nanogram of each toxin per sq. cm of leaf or per gram of seed/leaf.
2	Refuge-in-Bag(RIB)	Bt. cotton RIB seed pack (475 g) having minimum of 90% and maximum of 95% seeds positive for each transgene. The 475 g RIB seed packet shall contain minimum of 5% and maximum 10% non-Bt. cotton seeds.	
3	Non-Bt refuge seed	The non-Bt seeds provided along with Bt. seeds either as 'Refuge as Separate Pack (SP)' or as 'RIB' shall be of a non-Bt. hybrid that is an isogenic version of the corresponding 'Bt. hybrid' or of a non-Bt. hybrid with similar flowering period and fiber traits as that of 'Bt. hybrid' as per labelclaim.	

The Notification shall come into force from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

[F. No. 13-68/2014-SD. IV]
RAJESH KUMAR SINGH, Jt. Secy.
(Seeds)

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