



*Protect Our Indigenous
Vegetable Biodiversity*

*Say No! to Bt Brinjal,
Yes to Organic*



Who We Are

For twenty years Navdanya has led India's movement for protecting farmer's livelihoods and rejuvenating biodiversity. We seek and promote a vision of an India that is free from the shackles of GM seeds. GM seeds are non-renewable and will force us into an economically and environmentally unsustainable dependence on large profit seeking agri-businesses.

The open pollinated seeds of India's native crops and vegetables have provided us with a bounty that has nourished our bodies, our land and our society for centuries, all the while keeping our farmers debt-free. We are committed to realizing our vision and hope you will join us in our struggle.

Bt Brinjal: Harming Your Health

Bt Brinjal and genetically engineered foods are a major health hazard. The Bt toxin has harmful effects.

In addition to the Bt toxin, Bt-Brinjal also has a viral promoter (Ca MV 355) and an anti-biotic resistance marker (npt 11 gene). Through horizontal gene transfer, these genes can hybridise and create super viruses and contribute to resistance to anti-biotics.

Animal studies done with GM foods have shown increased

- Allergenicity • Tumorigenicity • High mortality of offspring • Poor growth
- Infertility in offspring • Effect on Gut Lining • Effect on liver
- Effect on Pancreas • Effect on Immune System

Avoid GMO's, Eat Organic

Prof. Seralini has shown these risks in his study.
To access the full report of Professor Gilles-Eric Seralini visit :
<http://www.crilgen.org/>

Safe foods are our birth right: A GMO free India

In these dark times organic agriculture yields shining possibilities. Growing crops organically creates a natural harmony between society and soil by balancing sustainable agriculture with secure livelihoods, which corporate agriculture upsets. Growing crops organically and on a small scale protects and promotes species diversity, which large-scale monoculture endangers. Finally, growing crops organically keeps us healthy and able to pursue our dreams, while GMO foods will only produce national nightmares.

Defend Your Right to Safe Food

1. Plant a seed of hope, a GMO free brinjal seed in your farm, garden, or flower pot. Seeds are available at Navdanya.
2. Eat healthy GMO-free organic vegetables and foods.
3. Demand safe foods and send the government a deed message- "Yes to biodiverse organic brinjal, No to Toxic Bt brinjal!"

For more information on safe, biodiverse organic food contact us at:



Navdanya/RFSTE

A-60, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016

Tel: 011-26535422 / 26532124

E-mail: info@navdanya.net • www.navdanya.org

For information on health hazards of GMO's contact:
Dr. Mira Shiva
Diverse Women for Diversity
Initiative for Health, Equity & Society
TWN/RFSTE
mirashiva@gmail.com

For information on Ecological & Ecological Impacts of GMO's contact:
Dr. Vandana Shiva
vandana@vandanashiva.com

For GMO Free Organic Food
visit our outlets at Dilli Haat, Stall No. 18
OR
E-52, Hauz Khas Market,
New Delhi-110016

Brinjal: A Symbol of Diversity in Peril

Brinjal is a child of India and for more than 4000 years we have developed a rich relationship with it. The delicious smell of traditional Brinjal dishes such as baigan bartha, masala baigan, aloo baigan and baigan bhaja warms millions of Indian households each day, while the several varieties of Brinjal offers for diverse and healthful variations of delicious Brinjal dishes throughout all regions of India. Besides being a savory delight, brinjal is also known for its healing properties as it is used in Ayurveda and Siddah.

Now, thanks to Monsanto-Mahyco, an alien species of our treasured vegetable, Bt Brinjal, is all set to invade our kitchens. The Government of India is treacherously planning to give permission to Monsanto-Mahyco to commercialize GM Bt Brinjal. It would be the first time that permission to commercially cultivate a GM Food Crop is granted in India.

We find it extremely disturbing that Bt Brinjal has not been adequately tested for food and bio-safety. Scientists have yet to conclude the human health and environmental implications of Bt brinjal. Furthermore, the commercialization of one GM food crop will set the dangerous precedent for others: Mustard, potato, tomato and others could also be targeted.

What is Bt Brinjal?

Bt Brinjal is a genetically engineered Brinjal with genes for producing a toxic protein (Cry 1 Ac). The natural Bt is safe because it is an endo toxin in an inactive crystalline form. It only becomes toxic in the guts of particular insects which processes the crystal into a protoxin and then an active toxin. On the other hand, Bt crops are genetically engineered to produce the Bt toxin which is active and is released continuously by every cell of the plant.

This is what makes Bt crops hazardous to our health and the environment.

Killing farmers, Destroying the Environment

Genetically engineered Bt crops have been offered as a solution to pest control. However, they fail even in this. The bollworm which Bt-cotton (Bollgard) was to control evolves resistance and becomes a super pest. Just as increasingly toxic pesticides are used to control pests which have evolved resistance, Monsanto has now brought out Bollgard II with two toxic genes. Since the Bt toxin engineered into plants is a ready made toxin, it harms beneficial insects and animals.

- 44% of the monarch butterfly larvae were killed when fed Bt-corn pollen in a Cornell study.
- Cows, buffaloes, goats, sheep deaths have been reported from India where animals have grazed on Bt-cotton fields or been fed Bt-cotton oilseed cake.

Since the genetically engineered plant is physiologically weakened, it becomes victim to non-target insect pests. Overall this leads to higher pesticide use. Our studies show a thirteen fold increase in pesticide use in Vidharbha on Bt-cotton.

Since India is the home of genetic diversity of Brinjal, pollen flow, from Bt-Brinjal can lead to genetic pollution of our indigenous biodiversity. The high costs of seeds and pesticides push farmers into debt and suicide. The regions with highest Bt-cotton sales are also regions with highest farmers suicides.

The regions with highest Bt-cotton sales are also regions with highest farmers suicides. For more information on the benefits of brinjal, and risks of Bt brinjal visit: www.munlochygmvigil.org.uk/BtBrinjal_Biosafety.pdf