

PRESS STATEMENT

I have just received the recommendations of the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) on Bt-Brinjal.

I have studied the recommendations and have decided on the following course of action.

1. The report of the Expert Committee (EC-II) submitted to the GEAC on October 8th, 2009 that formed the basis of the GEAC's decision of October 14th, 2009 is being made public with immediate effect. It is being uploaded straightaway on the website of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (www.moef.gov.in). All previous reports and studies on Bt-Brinjal are already in the public domain. Comments on the EC-II report are being sought by December 31, 2009 and I actively encourage their submission.
2. During January and February 2010, I propose to have a series of consultations in different places with scientists, agriculture experts, farmers' organizations, consumer groups and NGOs. All points of view will be represented in these consultations.

Strong views have already been expressed on the Bt-Brinjal issue, both for and against. My objective is to arrive a careful, considered decision in the public and national interest. This decision will be made only after the consultations process is complete and all stakeholders are satisfied that they have been heard to their satisfaction.



Jairam Ramesh

MOS(I/C)E&F

October 15, 2009