Genetically modified organisms

I find myself in rare agreement with Padmanaban. Indeed there is nothing ‘new in Kesavan’s arguments’. How can there be?

We have the same tired non-regulation of GMOs in India that is replete with the most serious conflicts of interest that make their regulation impossible; a 3-in-1 embodiment of promoter, funder and regulator. And to provide the required support structure to this corrupted process, our agri-institutions with a group of public-sector scientists (retired and current), together, a powerful lobbying force, underpin the push for the wholesale introduction of GMOs and their emerging ‘Avatars’ into Indian agriculture. It is a measure of their mindset that Bt cotton is promoted as an ‘outstanding success’ in order to justify other Bt crops. That ‘outstanding’ success is based on a deliberately flawed analysis of total production data instead of the proper statistic of ‘yield’ expressed in kg/ha. The fact is a tenth grader would not make this mistake. Two PSC (Parliamentary Standing Committees) have recognized the grave regulatory insufficiency and deficiency governing GMOs. Will things change? If not, we will be subjected to the same story of historical repetition, because there is ‘none so deaf as those who will not hear’, even PSCs in a parliamentary process. In this ‘polarized’ situation, Kesavan and others may be moved to speak again.

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