

## Joint GM opposition Day (JIGMOM)

### **Concluding transcript of Mr. Dyno Keatinge, Deputy Director General, Research, ICRISAT.**

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“..And if such things are now present in the modern world, and they are present, very obviously in Punjab and other locations where most of the cotton now grown is Bt . This is a decision of the Indian government and Indian farmers to grow or not to grow. Nobody forces you to grow something you don't want to grow. If you wish to grow chick pea instead, that's welcome. So its free choice of farmers to decide weather they want to use these things or not. ICRISAT's role is that, we seek normal conventional ways of providing diseases insect and other resistances but in that situation which we can't find no resistance in the natural germ plasm and we have access to the world germ plasm, then we do consider these other options. It's perhaps better and safer that we should look at these things behind the fence here in our bid to contain green house facilities where we have all the resources to look at the pros and cons of these things, that we should at least test them. If those tests show there is a problem then we shall certainly make no recommendations. However if those tests show there is no problem then we will certainly make a recommendations for GMOs. But at the moment ICRISAT is at that half way house which we are doing our research and we feel that is a legitimate position for an international research agency and one which perhaps we shouldn't not be criticized for. Its better that we take the risk than the farmers take the risk.

My family lives in the UK and I gave up my fully ten year professorship at the University of Reddin to join the CGIAR system again. I did that my belief is that the CGIAR system and these institutes really strive hard and their best to benefit the poor farmer. If I did not believe that I would not have been here today and so I ask you to just respect our views that what we are doing is the correct thing. We don't necessarily have to agree on everything. I just would like you to feel more that we are on your side and not against you.”

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