

PROTEST MARCH

Najangud, April 9, 2007

A protest march was held in Najangud town of Karnataka State on 9th April 2007 by 'South Against Genetic Engineering (SAGE)' and 'Institute for Cultural Research and Action (ICRA)' in solidarity JIGMOM. Around 700 farmers and farm women from surrounding villages, especially cotton growing areas took part in the protest march.

The procession started from the R M Circle, took a halt at ADA office in R P Road and submitted a memorandum with the following demands:

1. *To ban BT Cotton, which has proved disastrous to human, cattle and environment.*
2. *Declare our district as GM free zone.*
3. *Lift ban on DCH-32 cotton variety in chamarajanagar and Nanjangud Talukas.*
4. *Address the technical issues related to spurious seeds, decline in yield immediately.*
5. *Support farmers directly rather than seed and fertilizer companies.*

After receiving the memorandum the ADA declared that the ban on DCH-32 variety cotton has been lifted and the same will be made available to the farmers in the coming season. The procession proceeded to Tahashildar office in Hullalli circle and a memorandum was submitted. Tahashildar received the memorandum and promised to forward the demand immediately to the District Commissioner, Mysore . He expressed concern over the demands raised by the organisations.

The protest march was lead by Mr.M.Shivalingegowda of Anti GM Campaign, Nanjangud: Mr.K.Satya Shankar and Mr.Basavaraj Biradar of Institute for Cultural Research and Action and farmer leaders like Mr.Shivamadappa ofhaginavalu village, Mr. Nagarajappa of Kaggalur village, Mr. Puttalingashetty of Channapatna village. Anti GE and BT slogans were raised thought out the protest march. <> This was followed by releasing a press statement