

GMO Opposition Week

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Now, we are standing in a chili plot. One can easily find that just by looking at that plot, we can see that it's giving a sick look. It's not healthy crop.

So, the main reason we attributed for the sick look is this chili crop is being planted after two successive BT crops. That means, the farmer had grown BT cotton in this same plot for two years in the two preceding crops. What is happening is, farmers who never faced any problems with the wilt in Andhra Pradesh are suffering with wilt problem in the cotton. Not only the cotton, even the succeeding crops like chilies and tomatoes, are also suffering the same disease because the same disease and the same pathogen infects other crops like chili and tomato. These are the fruits of the BT cotton. On the one hand the cost of cultivation is not reducing but on the other hand, these are the additional benefits we are getting by growing BT cotton crops.

Another important aspect of why we are fighting against BT and transgenic crops is we are losing control of all of our seeds. Through patents and intellectual property rights, we are losing the control on our own indigenous seeds.

And at the same time, there is also a risk of horizontal gene transfer from the BT crops to non-BT crops and development of resistance by pests and also development of resistance to antibiotics that are being used in the process of development of transgenic seeds.