

GM crops were discussed during one month long organic farming campaign in Tanjavur delta district...

Tamil nadu Organic Agriculturist Movement (TOAM), federation Of Consumer Organisations Of Tamil nadu and Pondy cherry (FEDCOT), and many other organizations had pleaded to the Tamil nadu state Government (INDIA) **NOT TO PERMIT ANY GE CROPS TRIALS** in the state.

TOAM , FEDCOT, LEISA ,SNEGHA,IRDC,VENTURE TRUST,BHARATHI WOMEN DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, WALES FOUNDATION, PALAIYUR POISON FREE FOOD PRODUCERS FEDERATION and Oottrumai Trust jointly had carried out a campaign to promote Organic faming and also to make aware of the dangers of GM crops among farmers and consumers as well.

The campaign started on April 22nd at the famousplace, VEDARANYAM, one of the two places where the Salt Sahyagraha was launched during the freedom struggle on India. The campaign ended in another historical place called KALLANAI, where the king of Tanjavur had built the first dam- still in use, across the river cauvery.

President of Tamil nadu Green Movement, Former Vce Chancelor of Gandhi Gram University Dr. Margandan, Former members of the Legislative assembly of Tamil nadu Mr.G.Illagovan, M. Manimaran, Vice Chairman of Tamil nadu government Agriculture Advisory committee Mr. Azhagiri, R.Selvam of SAGE and Organic Farmers Federation Of Erode Disrtict all spoke about the need for promoting organic farming and the risks the GM crops poses over the farmers and consumers.

At the end Mr.Nammalvar declared that ,"GE Seeds and requested to the farmers of Tamil nadu not to sow Bt.Cotton as they are affecting their fellow farmers. If any of the fields were sown with the Bt. cotton then he will lead the team that will pullout the crop".

The meet resolved to plead the state government not to permit any GM crops trials in Tamil nadu and ban Bt. Crops. It is important to remember that recently to Supreme Court of India had permitted to continue the old field trials.

R. Selvam