

Organic cotton clothing company blames GMOs for Indian farmer suicides in underwear ad

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis.

“We want to make clothes that don’t hurt people. That means using certified organic cotton . . .” says Tierra Del Forta, Director of Product at Pact Apparel in a recent [advertising video](#) . . .

. . . [Boasting](#) underwear free of so-called toxic pesticides, sweatshop labor, child labor and GMOs, Pact’s website purports to explain “the problem with clothing.”

One of the biggest. . . problems the panty peddler cites is the high farmer suicide rate in India, which they say is largely due to widespread adoption of “GMO” cotton. . . .

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The problem of Indian farmer suicide is very real, but Bt cotton is [demonstrably not the reason](#) for this complex and ongoing tragedy.

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Vipul Kulkarni, Communications Manager at Chetna Organic, the farming co-op where Pact’s cotton is sourced, says “We make sure that there are no chemical pesticides used and that the seeds that we use are completely non-GMO. The biggest advantage for farmers is that they get a higher price. . . .”

There is a lot to unpack here but the main problems with Kulkarni’s explanation are:

1) Even organic farmers must use pest management techniques, often including chemical pesticides. A [2013 PLOS ONE study](#) found that adoption of Bt cotton has decreased pesticide use and increased farm family incomes.

2) Low market prices are a real problem for Indian cotton farmers, but [as I explained](#) in a recent story, that’s largely due to predatory lending and lack of commercial banks in rural areas.

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Buying these panties isn’t going to save the Indian farmers, even if Pact’s non-GMO, organic, no child labor, no sweatshop labels give you a feel-good buzz with your fresh pair of panties in the morning.

Read full, original post: [Are Panties Made From GMO Cotton Causing Farmers To Commit Suicide?](#)