

Pakistan protects plant breeders' rights in hope of developing GMO cotton

The government has decided to invite foreign seed companies to overcome cotton seed shortage and increase yield after getting legal protection through proposed "Plant Breeders' Right Bill." The Senate [recently] passed the 'Plant Breeders' Right Bill' and with the adoption of the bill by both Houses of the Parliament, it will become Plant Breeders' Rights Act of 2016 after the President's assent. The development of new plant varieties and the rights of their breeders have been protected for the first time in Pakistan under the proposed legislation.

The Plant Breeder Right Act has been remained pending for the last 11 years. In the absence of this legislation, dealers/companies had no legal protection. Only first generation of BT cotton is available in the country, while the second and the third generations are yet to be made available. However, officials said that proposed legislation would provide level playing field; thus encouraging seed companies to develop the latest cotton seed in the country.

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The participants also decided that foreign companies would be allowed only to provide genes while seed would be developed locally.

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis. Read full, original post: Foreign firms being invited to overcome cotton seed shortage