

SAGE opposes GM crops

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'They are not based on sound scientific principles'

Special Correspondent

HYDERABAD: The Southern Action on Genetic Engineering (SAGE) has reiterated its resolve to oppose the GM crops as they are not based on sound scientific principles and are tampering with the natural process of organic evolution.

A resolution to this effect was passed at the two-day Afro Asian conclave under the theme 'Bt Cotton and Beyond, status and implications of GE crops and post GE technologies for small farmers in Africa and Asia' held at the National Institute of Rural

- **SAGE passes resolution at the two-day Afro Asian conclave held on January 16 and 17**

- **Delegates from West African nations, Canada, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Philippines attend**

Development here on January 16 and 17.

The conclave called for renewed Afro Asian solidarity where it was resolved that "if at all technology and ideology have to cross borders, they have to be of the people, for the people and by the people".

Eminent scientists like P.M. Bhargava and others addressed the conclave which

was attended by scientists, researchers, farmers, environmentalists and food sovereignty activists from West African nations, Canada, Bangladesh, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Joint declaration

A joint declaration by the participants said bio-diverse, organic agriculture was the

best way to feed the world. GE crops are not a solution to either the climate change or achieving food security for growing world population.

"GE crops require large chemical inputs and take the control of seeds out of hands of farmers, thus debunking the biotech industry's claims that GE in agriculture was necessary for feeding the world", the joint declaration stated.

The participants wanted that the government work on precautionary measures to hold corporates responsible for their acts based on the "polluter pays" principle.