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Farmers oppose BT cotton

Staff Reporter

Farmers have joined hands to oppose BT Cotton cultivation and demanded the uncontaminated seed.

At a round table meeting held recently at Bangalore by Southern Action on Cotton only from the State but also Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Orissa shared their bitter experiences.

Four farmers -- Bandi Sulochana, Ankati Rajamani, Karny Shanker and K. Bhaskar Reddy opposed BT cotton. "I am cultivating BT Cotton for the past six years based on the fact that it did not require sprays and gives high yields. While five years back my profit was Rs. 20,000 by going for BT cotton seed," says Ms. Rajamani of Malkajgiri village. "But BT Cotton has taken away her seed, made her dependent on the dealer and created health problems for her and her animals."

Mr. Shankar has no different story to tell. "I was told that my hard work will be rewarded by the advertisements made me to believe in BT Cotton," he says adding that Bollworm has been killing his animals after eating BT Cotton.

"All my hopes are lost. Today my preference is non-BT cotton seed," says Mr. Reddy.

"Though I do not grow BT Cotton I am a victim as my neighbours grow BT Cotton and their animals are dying."

The representative of SAGE organised a rally at Sangareddy on Friday and presented a petition to the authorities in this regard urging the authorities to supply non BT Cotton to the farmers.



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