

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY  
USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT  
POLICY

Voluntary  Public

**Date:** 4/4/2014

**GAIN Report Number:** IN4027

## India

**Post:** New Delhi

### **Two Varieties of Biotech Cotton Seeds Banned in Karnataka**

**Report Categories:**

Agriculture in the News

Cotton and Products

**Approved By:**

David Williams

**Prepared By:**

Dhruv Sood

**Report Highlights:**

On March 22, 2014, the State of Karnataka issued an order to ban the sale of two popular biotech cotton seed varieties for the upcoming 2014 planting season. The seeds did not perform as expected in a large area of the state during the 2013 season. 2013/14 cotton arrivals are running ahead of the year-ago pace suggesting that damage to overall state production was limited. Karnataka accounts for about five percent of India's cotton production.

On March 22, 2014, the State of Karnataka issued an order to ban the sale of two popular varieties of biotech cotton seeds (Bt cotton hybrids) produced by a major Indian seed company. As per the order, the two seed varieties did not perform as expected during the kharif (summer) 2013 season affecting yields across seven districts (equivalent to a U.S. county) in the state. According to the order, there was a fifty percent drop in yields in the affected area.

**Comments:** The two seed varieties are reportedly very popular in Karnataka. The varieties performed as expected in other parts of India, hence it is not clear what the cause of lower yields were in Karnataka, but weather or agronomic practices could have played a role. 2013/14 cotton market arrivals in Karnataka are running ahead of the year-ago pace suggesting that state-wide production was not seriously affected. It appears unlikely that the ban will have a significant effect on 2014 planted in area in Karnataka. Farmers have a number of options and can source other varieties from other companies. However, the absence of these two popular varieties could cause some farmers to consider alternate crops.

**Disclaimer:** This summary is based on a cursory review of the subject announcement and therefore should not be viewed under any circumstance, as a definitive reading of the regulation in question, or of its implications for U.S. agricultural export trade interests.

**Details of Notification:**

- **Type of Regulation:** Government Order
- **Public Notice Date:** March 22, 2014
- **Proposed Date of Adoption:** Effective March 22, 2014

**Notification Text as published:** The full text of this notification can be accessed on the Karnataka State Department of Agriculture, Government of Karnataka ([Imposing Ban on Sale of BT Cotton Seeds by M/S Mahyco and Black Listing the Company-reg](#)) website

**Products Affected:** Cotton and cotton based products

**Agency in Charge:** Karnataka State Department of Agriculture, Government of Karnataka