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WHAT DOES OUR PPV-FR* ACT, 2001, SAY ABOUT THE FARMERS RIGHTS?

In a developing country like India where agriculture is the exclusive economic mean and livelihood source for the millions of poor and marginal farmers,

the PPV-FR Act, 2001 is definitely a welcome step. The Act has a separate chapter on Farmer's Rights, granting clearly defined rights to Indian farmers.

Farmer's Rights

- ♣ A farmer shall be deemed to be entitled to save, sow, resow, exchange, share or sell his farm produce including seed of a variety protected under this Act. Provided that the farmer shall not be entitled to sell branded seed of a variety protected under this Act.
- ♣ A farmer who has bred or developed a new variety shall be entitled for registration and other protection in like manner as a breeder of a variety under this Act.
- ♣ A farmer who is engaged in the conservation of genetic resources of land races and wild relatives of economic plants and their improvement through selection and prevention shall be entitled for recognition and reward from the Gene Fund.
- ♣ Any person or group of persons (whether actively engaged in farming or not) or any governmental or non-governmental organization may, on behalf of local community in India, can make claim attributable to the contribution of the people of that village or local community in the evolution of any variety for the purpose of staking a claim on behalf of such village or local community.
- ♣ Where an essentially derived variety is derived from a farmers' variety, the breeder shall not authorize the variety for commercial purpose except with the consent of the farmers who have made contribution in the preservation or development of such variety.
- ♣ A farmer or a group of farmer shall not be liable to pay any fee in any proceeding before the Authority or Registrar or the Tribunal or the High Court under this Act or the rules made thereunder.
- ♣ A right established under this Act shall not be deemed to be infringed by a farmer who at the time of such infringement was not aware of the existence of such right.

**PPV-FR – Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmer's Rights.*

Source : Status of the Rights of Farmers and Plant Breeders in Asia, 2003

POWER HOUSES - WITHOUT POWER

Power Houses are Switched off by Pesticides!!

It is well established that exposure to pesticides can result in cancer, liver damage and nervous disorders. Researchers have once again come out with another harmful effect of the toxic chemicals. Scientists from the US-based Emory University School of Medicine have found that several commonly used pesticides are toxic to the mitochondria – the power house of the cells in all living beings. It is the energy supplying element of all cells.

The toxicity of the chemicals inhibits the production of a key enzyme called complex I and results in genetic damage that can lead to maladies

such as the Parkinson's disease – one of the most fatal neuro-degenerative disorders that afflicts humans.

This was tested by exposing the human nerve cells to pesticides like rotenone, pyridaben, fenazaguin and fenpyroximate. The formation of the enzyme was inhibited in all the cases. Pyridaben was found to be highly toxic followed by rotenone, fenpyroximate and fenazaguin the least. Pyridaben was found to produce more 'Free radicals' and cause oxidative damage to the cells, which results in Parkinson's disease.

Source : Down to Earth, December, 2003

LIST OF PESTICIDES FOUND IN OUR DAILY FOOD

Food Product	Contaminant Pesticides
Apples	Diphenylamine, Captan, Endosulfan, Phosmet, Azinphos-methyl
Bananas	Diazinon, Thiabendazone, Carbaryl
Cabbage	Methamidophos, Dimethoate, Fenvalerate, Permethrin, BHC
Carrots	DDT, Trifluralin, Parathion, Diazinon, Dieldrin
Cauliflower	Methamidophos, Endosulfan, Dimethoate, Chlorothalonil, Diazion
Cucumbers	Methamidophos, Endosulfan, Dieldrin, Chlorpyrifos, Dimethoate
Grapes	Captan, Dimethoate, Dicloran, Carbaryl, Iprodione
Green Beans	Dimethoate, Methamidophos, Endosulfan, Acephate, Chlorothalonil
Onions	DCEPA, DDT, Ethion, Diazinon, Malathion
Oranges	Methidathion, Chlorpyrifos, Ethion, Parathion, Carbaryl
Potatoes	DDT, Chlorpropham, Dieldrin, Aldicarb, Chlordane
Strawberries	Captan, Vinclozolin, Endosulfan, Methamidophos, Methyl Parathion
Sweet Potatoes	Dicloran, DDT, Phosmet, Dieldrin, BHC
Tomatoes	Methamidophos, Chlorpyrifos, Chlorothalonil, Permethrin, Dimethoate
Watermelon	Methamidophos, Chlorothalonil, Dimethoate, Carbaryl, Captan

Source : www.satavic.org



MORPHOLOGICALLY IDENTICAL BUT PHYTOCHEMICALLY ???



Insecticidal property of 38 neem trees, sampled from six locations in Karnataka, was evaluated through laboratory bioassays of the neem seed kernel extract (NSKE) against the second instar larvae of cabbage diamondback moth, *Plutella xylostella* (L.). The assays revealed a four-fold difference between trees for LC₅₀ values generated at 96 h after treatment. This large variation in the insecticidal property of trees, which can be attributed to both qualitative and quantitative differences in neem seed chemicals, has important implications, especially for the identification of trees with high insecticidal yield for propagation. An index, viz Relative

Insecticidal Value (RIV) was developed using the LC50 values and the 100 seed weight (test weight). This index can be used to identify elite trees of neem from the point of view of insecticidal yield. Further, in the absence of any information on the quality of seeds obtained from different trees, the farmers can be advised to mix seeds from as many trees as possible for preparing NSKE and thus avoid the possibility of using seeds from trees with poor insecticidal activity.

For further details, refer :

*Current Science, Vol. 79, No. 10,
25 November 2000*

CED OUTREACH SCHOLARSHIP !!

The Centre for Education and Documentation (CED) is an information and documentation centre involved in collecting and making information available on developmental issues to students, teachers, activists, social workers and journalists. CED is interested in documenting, sharing and disseminating, critical information on the state of the art, experience and initiatives that are evolving as alternatives to the present global order. CED has announced for a outreach scholarship for social workers / NGO activists / students / scholars of social work / development / community media. This scholarship is an invitation from CED to become its partner or fellow traveller in its journey for just and sustainable alternatives. The

scholarship is not a research grant or a fellowship. It is primarily seen as support to individuals who would like to take time off from their routine activities and spent sometime working on issues that are relevant and important today. The scholarship involves

- ☐ Preparation of information packets from secondary sources
- ☐ Writing articles for other NGO / Development journals and
- ☐ Enrich CED documentation

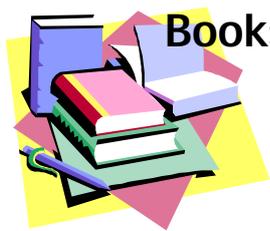
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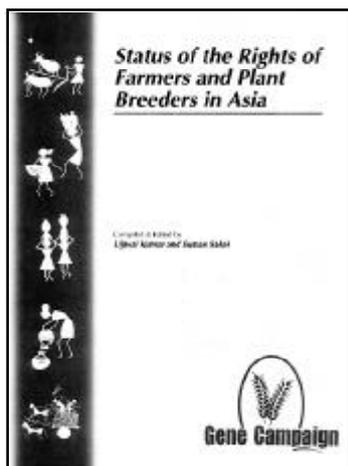
www.satavic.org : This website is one of India's most comprehensive website on organic farming. The site serves the needs of all kinds of readers such as farmers, lay persons, individuals and NGOs providing a whole lot of information on organic farming and chemical agriculture. It has over 200 pages of information on traditional agriculture, hybrid seeds, seed conservation, organic food, effect of chemical agriculture and techniques involved in organic farming such as composting, cover cropping, crop rotation etc. It also emphasizes the need for indigenous seeds and its advantages. The site provides links to various other sites which provide information on the related topics.

For further information : info@satavic.org



Books & Educational Materials

STATUS OF THE RIGHTS OF FARMERS AND PLANT BREEDERS IN ASIA



This document throws light on the rights of the farmers and plant breeders. The document campaigns on the farmers' rights and is divided into five sections, including an introductory chapter. An attempt has been made to compare

the salient features of the enacted and proposed PVP laws of nine Asian countries such as Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Srilanka, China,

South Korea, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand. These countries are at various levels of development and have diverse legal systems, which give a wide range of legal provisions on the same subject matter.

The enacted or draft legislation of these countries has been analysed. The document compares the various provisions of the PVP legislation / drafts along with the definition of plant variety, breeders, farmers.

The document consists of articles that analyse the Farmers' Rights in the Indian PVP law – the protection of plant varieties and Farmer's Rights Act, 2001. The article provides a good account of the rights of farmers in the Indian PVP law and its advantages. The document also consist of text of the protection of plant varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, UPOV-Act of 1978, 1991 and the list of Current Members of UPOV.

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