

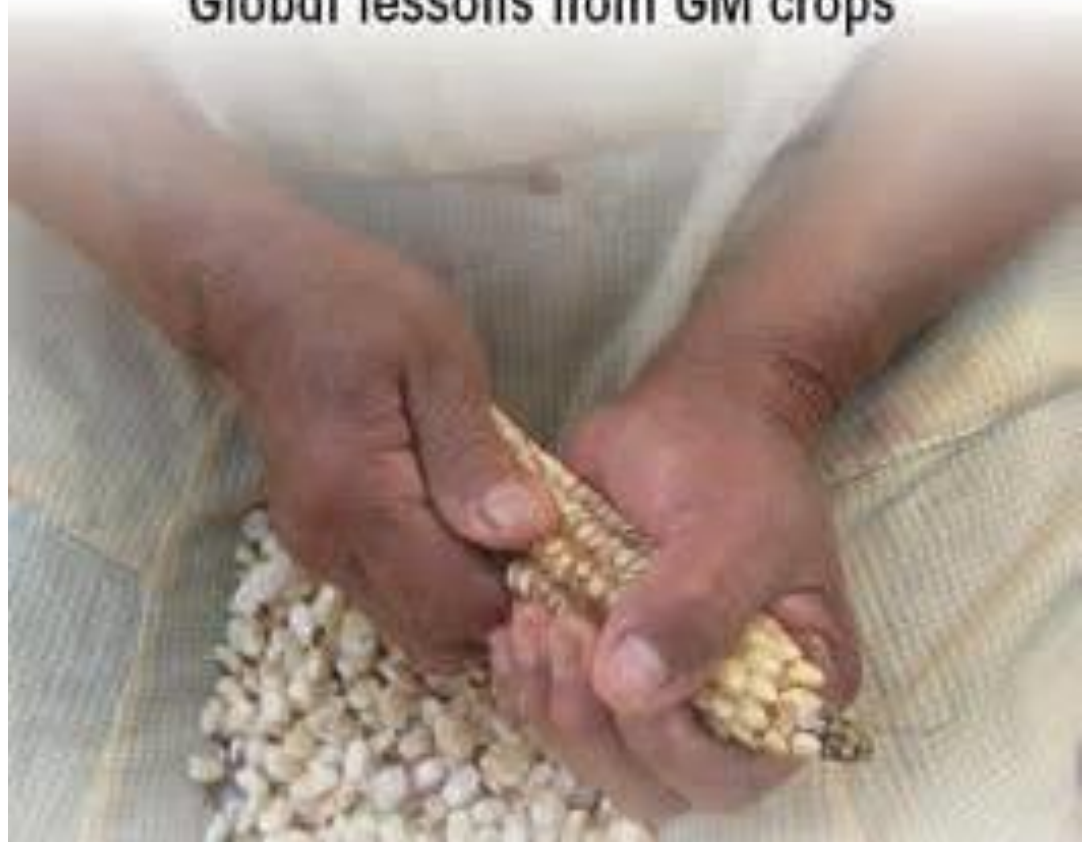
# **GM Food and Genomic Sovereignty**

Dr Yulia Egorova  
Durham University

# GOVERNING AGRICULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY

Global lessons from GM crops

Egorova, Yulia, Rajeswari Raina and Kamminthang Mantuong (2015) 'An analysis of the GM crop debate in India,' in P. Macnaghten and S. Carro-Ripalda, eds., *Governing agricultural sustainability: global lessons from GM crops*, London and New York: Routledge, pp.105-136.



## **GM crops in India - chronology of the events**

**1988** New Policy on Seed Development introduced, aimed at stimulating the growth of private seed companies, and liberalising imports of seeds, IPRs, and private investment in seed industry. Mahyco Monsanto Biotech (MMB) founded.

**1994** Institutional Biosafety Committees (IBCs), the Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) and the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC), set up as the three tiers of the GM regulatory system.

**2001** Bt cotton is found to be grown illegally in Gujurat.

**2002** Retrospective approval of Bt cotton in India; over 300 Bt cotton hybrids found across India.

**2002-05** Publications emerge that cast doubt on the claimed benefits and performance of Bt cotton

- **2008** Pushpa Bhargava appointed by the Supreme Court of India to oversee the functioning of GEAC, writes a letter to the Prime Minister declaring that GEAC's regulatory capacities and procedures are inadequate.
- **2009** GEAC approves the commercial release of Mahyco's Bt brinjal (aubergine), but it recommends that the Government of India takes the final decision.
- **2010** A moratorium is imposed on the commercial cultivation of Bt brinjal.
- **2012** A report of the Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture recommends a ten-year moratorium on field trials of all GM food crops in India and the termination of all ongoing trials of transgenic crops.
- **2013** A committee appointed by the Supreme Court of India changes the ten-year moratorium on field trials of Bt transgenics to an indefinite moratorium on GM food crops
- **2014** The new Minister of Environment and Forests grants permission to seed companies and agriculture research institutes to continue with field trials GM crops which had previously got clearance from GEAC.



# Acknowledgements

- Phil Macnaughten
- Rajeswari Raina
- Kamminthang Mantuong
- Susana Carro-Ripalda