

By Cassandra Anderson

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Dear Indian Farmers:



I am writing to you because your government is trying to fool you. It was announced that India is suing Monsanto for 'biopiracy'. They want you to believe that their legal action will stop Monsanto, but it is a trick by your government and the United Nations. The Environment Support Group ([ESG](#)) who initiated the action has close ties to the United Nations- be careful of who you trust.

This case is about Bt Brinjal, a genetically engineered form of eggplant. Because of your massive outrage over its introduction into the market last year, the Minister of Environment was forced to temporarily ban it from commercial cultivation until the safety issues are resolved. Bt Brinjal is dangerous. It was [shown](#) to cause liver damage, immune suppression and reproductive disorders when studied in rats.

Your Prime Minister is currently under pressure to commercialize Bt Brinjal and bring it to market. The ban is only temporary.

Because brinjal is a perennial plant that lives longer than 2 years, it is very vulnerable to [contamination](#). This means that if Bt Brinjal is allowed to be cultivated, over time, your natural brinjal will become polluted with the Bt Brinjal genes. Your farms are at grave risk for contamination if the ban against Bt Brinjal is lifted, or if Bt Brinjal is being planted right now in test fields.

Stopping the planting of Bt Brinjal to prevent contamination of farmland is very important because the crop has been shown to be harmful to health in animal studies.

BIOPIRACY



The 'biopiracy' case is weak. A [news report](#) defined biopiracy as stealing indigenous plants and trying to make genetically engineered versions without giving any compensation to the local people or the nation from where it originated.

Suing for biopiracy seems pointless because even if the exact origin of the plant could be proven, who really OWNS a plant that has been around since ancient times? And who would be compensated? The government that betrays the public?

Biopiracy means nothing unless a product is commercialized and brought to market. If Monsanto never brings Bt Brinjal to market, there will be no profits for compensation. The intention of this case seems to be to bring Bt Brinjal to the commercial market and then compensate some unnamed party.

Biopiracy seeks compensation through profit sharing. What does a little money as compensation mean compared to the result of a ruined staple crop and serious health issues?

This case appears to be a way to diffuse public outrage.

India is powerful. Historically, India knows how to organize the masses to oppose tyranny. India successfully stopped the commercialization of Bt Brinjal last year when the Minister of Environment banned Bt Brinjal. India must rise up again. It appears that the Minister of Environment and your Prime Minister have the power to stop Bt Brinjal.

FALSE BIOPIRACY LAWSUIT

