Bt Cotton Updates

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Bt COTTON – GFM Cry1A

- a genetically modified cotton resistant to bollworm
- contains the Bt fusion gene, GFM *cry1A*, synthesized based on the protein template of Cry1Ab and Cry1Ac protein from the bacterium, *Bacillus thuringiensis.*
- called **Fusion Bt.**

CURRENT STATUS

- ❑ Field trials are completed
- ❑ Permit for propagation in process
- ❑ R&D activities in the pipeline
  - ➢ Monitoring of insect resistance development
  - ➢ Bt gene introgression into local varieties
  - ➢ Evaluation with stacked traits, like RR

PROJECTED SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT

A brief analysis

Fusion Bt controls bollworm

✓**Result** More harvestable bolls retained
Less use of pesticides against the pest

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Higher seedcotton yield & income

Direct impact on personal, family and home concerns

More funds to satisfy personal and family needs, home improvements, mobility and other necessities (Ex. *Barangay Spring, Alabel, Sarangani. In* *https://alabel.gov.ph/spring/*).

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Investment opportunities in the processing and utilization chain

Jobs and quality control systems in ginning, spinning, dyeing, weaving, designing, knitting, fashion, …, and related services

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More pickers are needed.

Jobs are generated

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Concerns on the quality of labor services

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Gender and development concerns

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More pickers needed

Initial capital for harvesting

Family equity

Hired labor for picking per day

"*Pakiaw*" system

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Initial capital for harvesting

Family equity

Loans (coops/banks)

5:6 scheme

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Ideas/innovations on mechanized harvesting

Hand-held, battery operated;

Combines;…

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More jute sacks as containers

Opportunities for the development and utilization of jute and similar fiber materials for harvesting

Jute (and other fibers) R&D

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Less exposure to chemicals

Safety to the farmer's and family's health is ensured

Less illness, less medicine, less hospitalization, … (more fun!)

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Less time for bollworm control

More time to family and community involvement

Includes freedom to go where services are needed

FARMERS' PERCEPTION

- Interviews under the RACE Project
  - Higher yield
  - More income
  - Safer to health
  - Safer to the environment

thank you