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Weekly Highlights & Hot Bites, #40

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Report Highlights:

Public and Private sector Bt genes eye \$218 million Indian hybrid cotton market.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
New Delhi [IN1]
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Welcome to Hot Bites from India, a weekly summary of issues of interest to the U.S. agricultural community. The report includes information that has been garnered during travel within India, reported in the local media, or offered by host country officials and agricultural analysts. Press articles are included in this report. Significant issues will be expanded upon in subsequent reports from this office.

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PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR Bt GENES EYE \$218 MILLION INDIAN HYBRID COTTON MARKET

In the rush to grab their piece of the pie in the domestic genetically-engineered hybrid cotton seeds market, domestic companies are finding new sources of Bt genes. Farmers' spending on boll worm management is estimated at \$270 million annually; if left unattended, boll worm could have caused half their crop to be lost. This news report states that more than 25 Bt cotton hybrids are now undergoing field testing in India. Sources of these genes vary from multinational seed companies to public sector research institutions, such as the University of Ottawa and the Indian Institute of Technology. (Source: Economic Times, 10/13/04)

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