



Environmental Social  
Justice  
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**Environment Support Group® - Trust**

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Shri. Sadananda Gowda  
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka  
and i/c of Environment Portfolio  
Chairman, Karnataka State Biodiversity Board  
Vidhana Soudha  
Bangalore 560001

23 May 2012

Reg.: Demand legally appropriate action against M/s Monsanto/M/s Mahyco and ors. for committing biopiracy in accessing 6 local varieties of brinjal to promoting transgenic B.t. Brinjal

Dear Sir,

By way of our representation dated 6<sup>th</sup> February 2012 to then Karnataka Minister for Environment Shri. Krishna Palemar, we had expressed our strong protest against the decision of Karnataka State Biodiversity Board to suspend criminal prosecution of M/s Monsanto and M/s Mahyco and others for engaging in biopiracy by accessing 6 local varieties of brinjal endemic to Karnataka while promoting transgenic B.t. Brinjal product. A copy of the representation is enclosed for your ready reference. This representation was endorsed by over 500 groups and individuals and the same is accessible for your perusal and records at <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/karnataka-biodiversity-board-must-prosecute/>.

The basic demand in our representation was that the Board must revisit its decision to abandon action against the aforesaid violators, and reinstitute the investigation in accordance with the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. Soon after Mr. Palemar resigned and since then his portfolio vests with you. This representation is to draw your attention to the fact that no action has been initiated thus far on our earlier representation.

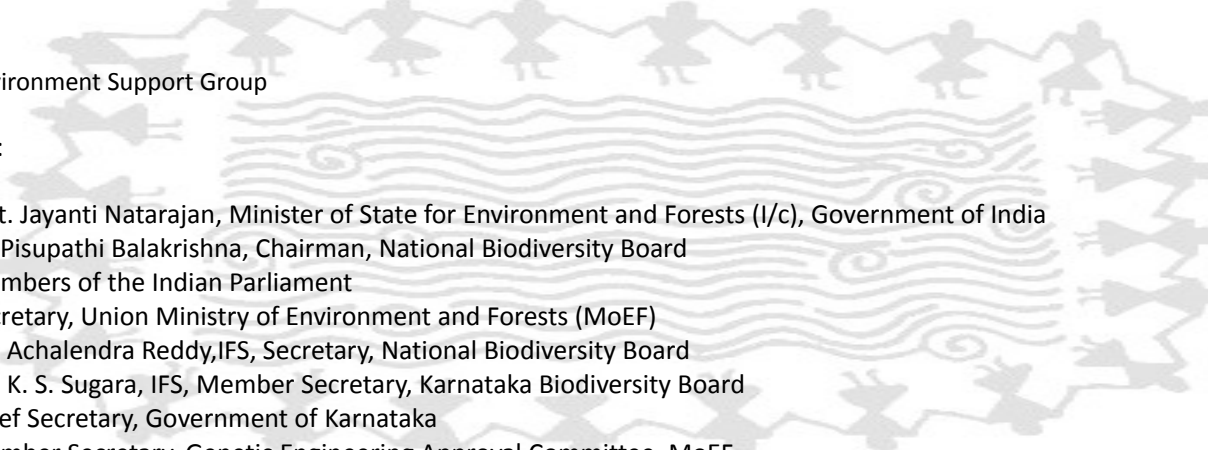
In the meantime, the National Biodiversity Authority has confirmed by way of its letter dated 21 May 2012 to the undersigned that our complaint of biopiracy is in an "advanced stage of lodging a complaint" against the aforesaid violators, and a copy is enclosed for your perusal and records. Given this context it is now immediately necessary for the Board to initiate prosecution in this case to the extent that the violation has occurred in Karnataka, per its mandatory obligation under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. We make this appeal to you in your position as Karnataka's Environment Minister and Chairman of the Board.

Such action would also be consistent with your recent statements in the media that Karnataka will not tolerate any violation of laws protecting biodiversity, farmers rights and that the State will not tolerate biopiracy as they threaten seed sovereignty of this country. We welcome such an assurance and believe that you will now take the logical step of directing the Board to recall its earlier resolution and re-initiate prosecution against M/s Monsanto, M/s Mahyco and others involved for their criminal acts of biopiracy while promoting the B.t. Brinjal product.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Yours sincerely,

Leo F. Saldanha  
Coordinator/Trustee  
and Co-complainant in the aforesaid Biopiracy case with  
Bhargavi S. Rao  
Coordinator (Education)/Trustee



Environment Support Group

Cc.:

Smt. Jayanti Natarajan, Minister of State for Environment and Forests (I/c), Government of India  
Dr. Pisupathi Balakrishna, Chairman, National Biodiversity Board  
Members of the Indian Parliament  
Secretary, Union Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF)  
Mr. Achalendra Reddy, IFS, Secretary, National Biodiversity Board  
Mr. K. S. Sugara, IFS, Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board  
Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka  
Member Secretary, Genetic Engineering Approval Committee, MoEF  
Mr. Kaushik Mukherjee, IAS, Addl. Chief Secretary and Principal Secretary, Karnataka Department of Forests,  
Ecology and Environment  
Principal Secretary, Karnataka Department of Agriculture  
Media and the wide public.