

WELCOMING ADDRESS TO GMO WORKSHOP HELD IN HO CHI MINH CITY (1-5  
APRIL 2004)

Prof. Dr. Nguyen Huu Binh  
Director General, Vietnam Cotton Company

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of Vietnam Cotton Company (VCC), I would like to wish all GMO workshop participants have good health and happiness.

Dear participants! Vietnam Cotton Company is a state-owned company belongs to Vietnam National Textile and Garment Corporation established in 1978 with main duties: Study the economic technology for cotton development; Breed and produce seeds and biotechnology for cotton production and Invest and extension service for cotton growers, buying, processing and doing business of cotton production; Import the equipments and materials for cotton production and processing.

After 26 years developing, Vietnam Cotton Company achieved many important achievements in fields of research, technology transferring, production organization and processing technology of cotton. The most important achievement, which saved the cotton production in Vietnam is applying successfully IPM on reality cotton production. During 70-80, cotton growers spray 15 to 20 pesticides/season but could not control cotton pest well, low seed cotton yield, low economic effect for cotton growers. The VCC scientists developed IPM approaches based on management of cotton field ecology system; conversed cotton growing from dry to rainy season under rainfed condition; used bio-agents such as NPV (Nuclear Polyhydroses Virus), Trichogramma to control cotton pest and eliminated chemicals to reserve natural enemies; using jassid resistant varieties and treating seed by systemic insecticide "Gaucho" to delay first spray (can be last up to 70-80 days after sowing). Applying these measures can reduce the number of spray down to 1-2 times/season but seed cotton yield increases 2-3 times and cotton-growing areas gradually increases 10 times and reach more than 30,000 ha nowadays. Environment had been improved, human health becomes better and cotton growers get higher return as compare with other crops in the same season.

Dear Participants!

In recent years, Vietnam Cotton Company has policy to enlarge irrigated cotton areas under dry season because higher yield (2 times) and better fiber quality than that of rainfed cotton. The main obstacle of irrigated cotton in dry season is high pressure of cotton pest such as American bollworm (*Helicoverpa armigera*) and sucking pest (Jassids, Aphids and Thrips). We tested some transgenic cottons and resulted they can resist to American bollworm fairly well and we realized that: In order to expand the irrigated cotton areas with stable yield, growing transgenic cotton should be combined closely with IPM approaches on large scale. Besides that, the bio-safety should be interested in researching in coming time.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

The GMO Guideline project workshop held in Ho Chi Minh City is good opportunity for Vietnam Cotton Company to learn and share experiences with other countries, experts for growing transgenic plants especially for management of resistance and bio-safety while growing GMO. We would like to thank the International Organization for Biological Control and Global Working Group on transgenic organism in IPM and bio control for inviting us to participate this workshop.

Once again, on behalf of VCC staff, I would like to wish you healthy and workshop will achieve great success.