



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Voluntary Report - Public distribution

Date: 11/26/2008

GAIN Report Number: RP8069

Philippines

Biotechnology

Bt Cotton Seeds

2008

Approved by:

Emiko Purdy
U.S. Embassy

Prepared by:

Perfecto G. Corpuz

Report Highlights:

The Bureau of Plant Industry recently approved and issued the Cotton Development Authority the import permit for Bt cotton seeds from India. The seeds are for greenhouse trials in 2009 and for possible field-tests the following year.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Trade Report
Manila [RP1]
[RP]

The Bureau of Plant Industry recently issued the Cotton Development Administration (CDA) the corresponding import permit for *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) cotton seeds from India. The CDA, an attached agency of the Department of Agriculture, was earlier able to secure permission from the National Committee on Biosafety of the Philippines to test the technology, according to press reports. The CDA back then reportedly had planned to import and use Bt cotton seeds developed by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) in China but had to source it elsewhere due to phytosanitary and quarantine issues. The Bt cotton seeds from India, however, are also developed by the CAS.

According to press reports, greenhouse trials for the Bt cotton seeds are to commence in early 2009 after which they are to be field-tested in three possible Philippine sites. Bt cotton green house trials may last from six months to one year. If successful, commercial production could start by 2010.