

(6 April, 2026)

TAAS Convenes Meeting to hold a Brainstorming Session on GM and GE Regulations

Recent advancements in plant breeding, particularly in Genetically Modified (GM) and Gene Edited (GE) crops, necessitate a comprehensive review of India's existing regulatory framework to ensure that regulations remain robust, science-driven, and aligned with global best practices to provide Indian farmers with early access to sustainable technologies.



The Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) recently hosted an important meeting on April 6, 2026 under chairmanship of Dr R S Paroda, Chairman, TAAS, to discuss the urgent need for reforming the regulatory framework governing GM and Gene Edited GE crops in India with officials of Federation of Seed Industry (FSII) of India.

Dr Bhag Mal, Dr J L Karihaloo from TAAS and Dr Paresh Verma, Mr Rajvir Rathi, Mr P J Suresh, Mr Sanjay Deshpande, Dr Raghavan, and Ms Urvashi from FSII attended the meeting.

Participants at the meeting reached a consensus that India's current regulatory system requires critical reflection and potential reform. Given the agricultural challenges facing several key crops, there is a pressing need for: (i) Rationalizing data requirements for technology development, (ii) Ensuring the timely conduct of field trials and (iii) Strengthening political will and aligning with globally benchmarked standards.



To address these issues, TAAS has proposed an outcome-based roundtable discussion involving a diverse group of stakeholders. The goal is to develop recommendations that make India's regulatory process more science-based, efficient, and time-bound, ultimately supporting the nation's self-sufficiency in food security.

The upcoming brainstorming event will focus on several following high-priority themes:

- Involving experts with "hands-on" experience and government officials responsible for implementing regulations.
- Reviewing best practices from the EU and other developing nations like Brazil, South Africa, and the Philippines to learn from global GM frameworks.
- Establishing logical, science-based safety benchmarks and answering the critical question: *"How much is enough?"*.

- Assessing local research and development, FSSAI regulations, and import/export guidelines.

TAAS initiated several action items to move this initiative forward, including identifying domain experts, preparing global regulatory comparison notes as "pre-reads" for participants, and finalizing the technical program.


