

# “The Push for GM Mustard Is Coming From the Commercial Food Industry, Not From the Kitchens of Ordinary Indian Homes”

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*As the Indian government considers approving the commercial cultivation of GM mustard, [the Hindu reports](#) that an alliance of biologists and activists have warned that such a move would be ill-advised.*

A threat to seed diversity

Kavitha Kuruganti, convener of the Alliance for Sustainable & Holistic Agriculture (ASHA), said that GM mustard threatened the seed diversity of indigenous mustard.



Kavitha Kuruganti

She told a panel here at Anna University:

“The push for GM is coming from the commercial food industry, not from the kitchens of ordinary Indian homes”.

India can produce all mustard needed

She added that India produces sufficient mustard to meet its consumption requirements and the claim that GM mustard will reduce dependence on mustard oil imports is baseless.

Implications for health and safety of its consumers

Dr. Sultan Ahmed Ismail, a soil biologist, said that herbicides sprayed on the crop to kill weeds were potentially carcinogenic.



Prashant Bhushan

[Live Law](#), a legal news portal, 'set to redefine the standards of legal journalism in India' reports that – in a letter addressed to the Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate – Public Interest Advocate Prashant Bhushan has set out his opposition to the commercial release of GM Mustard, one of several grounds being that the government itself admits that there's no evidence that GM mustard will increase yields.

These organisations are amongst over 100 organisations representing farmer unions, trade unions, civil society groups, and political parties, who are urging the government not to release GM mustard.

They say the farmers' problem is not the production of mustard but the unfair market prices.

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