

The region I come from, Asia is home to 60% of the global population. Agriculture is the largest economic sector but not the largest GDP contributor. Many factors contribute to this:

1. ageing farming community (which means we need to bring in innovation to attract young farmers),
2. climate change – it is expected production of wheat and rice will be lower by 14 and 11% by 2050
3. lack of resources to buy fertilisers and chemicals – so we need to look at possibilities of growing crops with lesser fertilisers and pesticides

India, China, Philippines, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Myanmar and Australia are growing GM crops. But there is still so much more potential for these countries, there can be lesser scaremongering propaganda by European-based activist NGOs.

1. Golden rice field trials in the Philippines were recently vandalized by Greenpeace
2. Small-scale farmers are still deprived of Bt brinjal in the Philippines again because of pressure from NGOs. Farmers spray pesticides more than 18 times before the fruits can be harvested. Yet they lose a large amount of marketable produce.
3. Papaya resistant to ringspot virus never made it to the eager and poor farmers in Thailand. Thanks to Greenpeace again. And now there is a moratorium in Thailand for field trials.
4. While farmers in Bangladesh are enjoying the economic and environmental benefits of Bt brinjal, NGOs are creating propaganda that the crop has failed and trying hard to revoke its release.
5. India has dozens of public sector crops ready for commercialisation but NGOs are working very hard to stop this.

Two messages from me for a start – I would like to quote a former President of the US, Dwight Eisenhower – farming is a mighty easy task if your plough is a pencil and you live thousands of miles away from the corn field. This is what the NGOs are doing. Please do not let them to speak for farmers in developing countries.

I also hope Europe will see the true faces of some activists. While you idolize activists like Vandhana Shiva, she is simply not credible in India and in Asia. She has not contributed anything towards Indian food security. She is not respected in Asia.