

**EXHIBIT
PLTF-293**

Message

From: SMITH, MARTHA A [AG/2074] [/O=MONSANTO/OU=NA-1000-01/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=645073]
Sent: 2/5/2015 9:56:25 AM
To: SIMPSON, DUANE J [AG/1000] [duane.j.simpson@monsanto.com]
CC: BHAKTA, TINA [AG/1000] [tina.bhakta@monsanto.com]; BROWN, SHAZIA A [AG/1000] [shazia.a.brown@monsanto.com]; MARTINO-CATT, SUSAN J [AG/1000] [susan.j.martino-catt@monsanto.com]
Subject: Re: state level academic testing requirement

I am not aware of any legal requirement for the local academics to sign off on the technology. But to Duane's point, farmers, industry groups and state regulators do rely on the information provided by local academics. I've had both GA & MS regulators tells me exactly what Duane has heard in AR: these local academics must publicly endorse our technologies in order for farmers to feel confident to use a new technology. I would urge great caution in how we approach any reduction in academics access to our technologies.

On Feb 3, 2015, at 2:42 PM, SIMPSON, DUANE J [AG/1000] <duane.j.simpson@monsanto.com> wrote:

I'm not sure that's entirely accurate. Let me do some checking in my states to see if there is an actual requirement. There's no question that the state plant board in Arkansas and state regulators in other states strongly prefer to see data from their own academics, I'm just not sure that's an actual requirement.

In Arkansas, they've already approved Xtend and Xtendimax, so I'm not sure I would be concerned there (although, there's nothing that would prevent them from revoking their approval). Despite all of the issues Jason Norsworthy raised on M1691, he has spoken quite favorably about Xtend / Xtendimax with VaporGrip at the public hearings.

I think there is also a commercial concern around getting the academics to recommend the system to their growers over Enlist or even BASF. I can tell you from first-hand experience that farmers in Arkansas won't use a new system until Jason Norsworthy or Tom Barber tells recommends it.

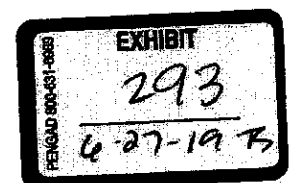
From: BHAKTA, TINA [AG/1000]
Sent: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 10:32 AM
To: SIMPSON, DUANE J [AG/1000]; SMITH, MARTHA A [AG/2074]; BROWN, SHAZIA A [AG/1000]
Cc: MARTINO-CATT, SUSAN J [AG/1000]
Subject: state level academic testing requirement

All,

You are all aware of the things that the EPA has been hearing from academics at the state level with regards to Dicamba and M1691. With this having such an impact at the federal level our leadership has decided to pull back some of this academic testing with Xtend and Xtendimax formulations to ensure that these formulations keep a 'clean' slate. One thing that we have been hearing from our cotton team is that we have to conduct testing through local experts in select states for 2 years before the state will approve? We have heard that the local expert has to sign off that the technology is appropriate. This was the first we had heard of this so I wanted to reach out to you all to see if this is the case in some states and provide more context around this.

Thanks

Tina Bhakta Ph.D.



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