

The Pakistan government to promote agricultural biotechnology

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Bosan while addressing the workshop on advances in agricultural biotechnology and regulatory affairs said that the government has drafted a law to set up the authority and “it will be brought up to the National Assembly for enactment very soon.” “A move from centuries old traditional methods to technology driven agricultural practices pose a huge challenge that needs extraordinary effort by extra ordinary men and women who speak louder through actions than words,” he added. “It is in this context that developments in agricultural biotechnology should be seen.”

Food minister said agriculture yields in addition to price structure should be improved. “Food security cannot be achieved by only increasing agricultural productivity but it is affordability and accessibility that has to be ensured,” he added. “In addition the nutrition component, which has been highlighted, must be taken care of if food security in its true sense has to be achieved.”

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and to ensure that their nutrition and educational requirements are met. In 2015, government announced a relief package for poor farmers, having 12.5 acres of land, to subsidise buying of quality seeds and manure to boost production and to provide interest-free loans.

Bosan further said holding of such a workshop is an important step in forging collaborations and for learning from each other. "Sustainable agricultural productivity cannot be achieved without the input of modern science and technology including biotechnology," he added.

"However, modern agriculture means a lot more than what meets the eye. It is based on latest knowledge grounded in research that introduces technologies with acceptability by the farmers." Food minister said this kind of transformation may be easy to discuss in a class room or a seminar but difficult to translate into action.