

# KEY ISSUES: BT COTTON IN SOUTH AFRICA

by

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# OVERVIEW OF PRESENTATION:

- **INTRODUCTION:** Development imperatives for Africa
- **Bt Cotton in SA-Makhathini Farmers**

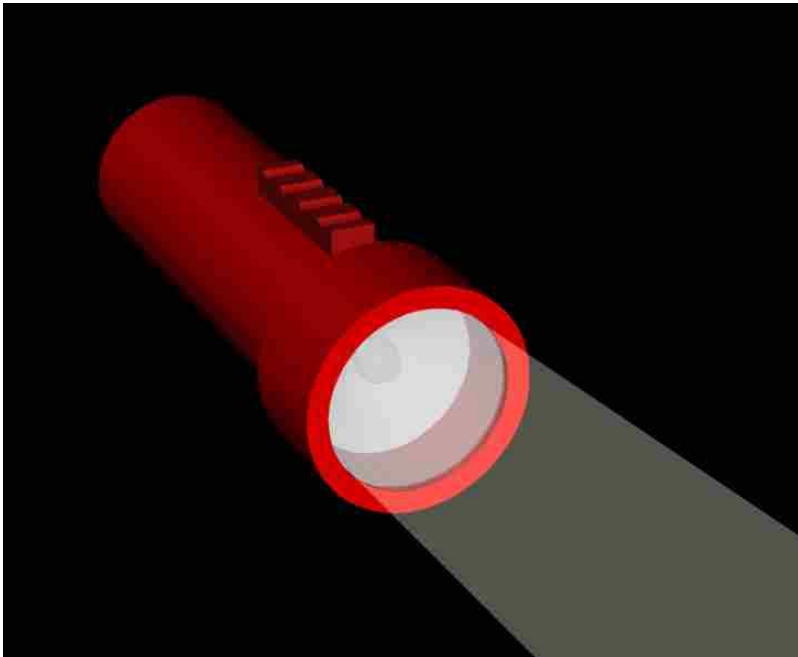


# INTRODUCTION

- Security -food security
- Appropriate and sustainable development interventions
- Agriculture's role in national and regional economic development and role of GM technologies
- Features of GM technologies



# BT COTTON IN SA- MAKHATHINI FLATS



# KEY FINDINGS FROM BIOWATCH 5 YEAR STUDY

- Initial adoption-later dramatic dropped
- Farmers have accumulated massive debts
- Pesticide use still continues; outbreak of secondary pests
- Bt cotton benefited better off farmers at the expense of the poor
- No support for farmers to implement biosafety measures

# WHAT IS NOW HAPPENING IN MAKHATINI?

- Field Trials-stacked genes
- Pongola river: oversubscribed on water permits-major support from all spheres of govt for development-impacts on other land uses; especially in Mozambique-water wars?
- Major drive for agriculture and GM growing