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October 22, 2014

Ref: Film on maize seed production in Andhra Pradesh, India

Dear Jens,

You contacted Syngenta in August of this year to ask if a representative would participate in an interview and comment on some aspects of the film you are making about Indian maize seed growers. On September 25, you visited our offices in Basel and showed us footage from your film.

The narration in the footage we saw stated that “Syngenta partners with a silent mafia of money-lenders masquerading as grower-organizers”. You then used testimonies from several individuals claiming Syngenta knowingly supports and encourages widespread money-lending by our contracted grower-organizers to maize growers in Andhra Pradesh, India, for their cultivation of Syngenta seed. We strongly refute this allegation.

I’m sure you would agree that if your film makes serious claims about Syngenta, these must be based on solid and reliable information.

To be clear, Syngenta has contractual relationships with grower-organizers, but not with the thousands of growers involved in maize seed production. Our grower-organizers, not Syngenta, manage interactions with growers.

I hope you would also agree that it is wrong to have growers portrayed as contracted grower-organizers, and to represent growers as being connected with Syngenta when they are not. But this is what you did in the footage we saw. You claim **Mohammed Sufi** is a Syngenta grower-organizer/money-lender. He is not and has never been a Syngenta grower-organizer. He is a maize grower. You also claim another interviewee, **Nagendra**, is a Syngenta maize grower. This is not true.

Nevertheless, despite the footage you showed us providing no reliable substance for the money-lending claims, we take any suggestion of wrong doing very seriously and, as I told you over the phone, we are investigating for ourselves.

I have already mentioned these and other errors to you and have repeatedly asked for a copy of the footage relating to Syngenta (on a confidential basis) to assist our investigations. You have so far provided nothing to suggest that any corrective action will be taken and we have not received anything further from you to assist our investigation.

I have also told you that your film seriously misrepresents Syngenta’s progress on the Fair Labor Association Code of Practice, implying that the only progress made has been in relation to bonded labor. This misrepresentation is exacerbated by the film’s failure to make any mention of the FLA-monitored programs, such as Syngenta’s Me & Mine program.

Since becoming the first agriculture company to join the FLA in 2004, we stand by the considerable progress we have made on child labor, discrimination, as well as harassment and abuse throughout

our seed supply chain. The process for identifying areas of non-compliance, along with remediation plans agreed with the FLA, is completely transparent and assessments are publically available via the FLA website <http://www.fairlabor.org/>.

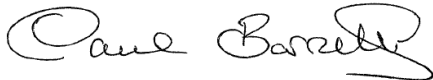
Syngenta's Me & Mine program has so far reached more than 26,000 growers and their families. It works with more than 100 local government bodies, schools and NGOs. In addition to Andhra Pradesh, it has been successfully implemented in Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Karnataka. India was the inspiration for similar campaigns in Brazil, Argentina, Romania, Hungary, Turkey and Thailand. (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KAyrzGiaZEI>)

I stress again my sincere hope that we may review any information and footage relating to Syngenta and that we will be given reasonable time to respond to any incorrect facts or allegations. We would be more than happy to help verify or redress any facts or issues to ensure that the facts presented in the film are correct, and any statements or conclusions are based upon correct facts.

We strongly urge you to rectify any misrepresentations, incorrect information and conclusions based thereon, in line with the principles in the Press Ethical Rules. (<http://www.pressnaevnet.dk/Information-in-English/The-Press-Ethical-Rules.aspx>).

If you fail to do so, or you do not give us reasonable time and opportunity address incorrect facts or claims, we must reserve our rights and have for this purpose contacted a lawyer in Denmark, who will send a copy of this letter to DR, as we assume the film is being produced for DR.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Barrett
Head of Media Relations
Syngenta International AG