

Permit import of crushed GM soy seeds'

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After facing losses due to the pandemic, the poultry industry is demanding that the Union government permit the import of crushed genetically-modified (GM) soy seeds for captive consumption of farmers.

Misinformation regarding the link between poultry and avian flu outbreaks, COVID-19 restrictions and natural calamities, skyrocketing prices of raw materials like soybean (which constitutes 25% of poultry feed) and maize (which constitutes 60%) in the last one year have only compounded the woes of poultry farmers. "COVID-19 led to an initial depletion of demand in chicken products due to false news about the link between the virus and poultry products," said C. Vasanthkumar, president, Poultry Farmers and Breeders Association, Maharashtra. The association urged the Union and the State government for non-fiscal and fiscal relief measures. An important non-fiscal measure is for the government to allow import of crushed GM soy seeds.