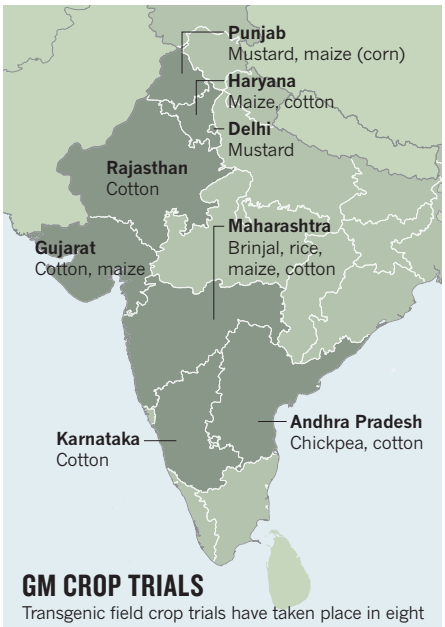
interest and have not put in place sufficient mechanisms to carefully monitor field trials. Similar criticisms were raised in 2012 by a technical committee convened by India's Supreme Court. The court is still considering a moratorium on planting GM crops (including in field trials), which anti-GM activists requested in a petition a decade ago.

One issue that critics and scientists agree on is the need for legislation to improve biotechnology regulations. A regulatory bill that failed to get through parliament in 2013 is now being revised, but could take two years or more to be passed, says Sunkeswari Raghavendra Rao, an adviser to the government's Department of Biotechnology.

COMMERCIAL CAUTION

India's government seems to be treading much more cautiously on commercial cultivation of transgenic crops than on field trials — although farmers in neighbouring Bangladesh began cultivating GM brinjal last year. (Some policy-makers who do not want to be named are concerned that the brinjal, or its seeds, will make its way into India anyway, over the porous Indo-Bangladesh border.)

But the government seems reluctant to engage in transparent debates about the pros and cons of pushing forward the use of GM biotechnology in India, as well as about the details of field trials being allowed in the country. Details of GEAC meetings that used to be publicly posted on its website now no longer appear online, and GEAC officials would not talk to *Nature* for this article. "I find this secrecy shocking and absurd," says Pushpa Bhargava, a retired molecular biologist whom the Supreme Court has nominated to attend GEAC meetings. And the government has come under fire for freezing the bank accounts of the Indian branch of environmental NGO Greenpeace. It has cited financial irregularities, which Greenpeace denies, but a widely leaked intelligence report prepared for Modi last year stated that the group's anti-GM campaigning was thwarting India's development. ■



GM CROP TRIALS

Transgenic field crop trials have taken place in eight Indian states and territories over the past year.

SOURCE: GEAC DOCUMENTS SEEN BY *NATURE*

CORRECTIONS

The graphic in the News story 'Pluto mission hunts for hazards' (*Nature* **521,** 14–15; 2015) put Nix on the wrong orbital path. The correct image can be seen at go.nature.com/sbpxsu. The News story 'Pint-sized DNA sequencer impresses first users' (*Nature* **521,** 15–16; 2015) mistakenly stated that the MinION device has problems reading long, repetitive regions of DNA sequence. It should have said that those difficulties occur in sections of genome that are rich in long stretches of a single DNA base. And the reference list in the News story 'Mysterious galactic signal points LHC to dark matter (*Nature* **521,** 17–18; 2015) omitted two entries. The complete list can be seen at go.nature.com/mzopta.