



Alfalfa Seed

Source: BL

The government is preparing to restrict the entry of **genetically modified (GM) alfalfa (lucerne) fodder seed** into the country, as the US urges India to lower **import duties** on the crop.

- The Indian government is empowered to regulate the entry of **genetically modified (GM) organisms** under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**.
- Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*) derives its name from the Arabic word al-fasfasa, which means **the best forage**.
 - It is a **highly nutritious plant** packed with vitamins (A, C, K, B vitamins), minerals (calcium, magnesium, potassium), **plant-based proteins**, fiber, and antioxidants. It is widely **used as animal feed** and is also consumed by humans for its health benefits
 - Being a **legume**, it has the **ability to fix nitrogen** from the atmosphere into the soil.
- The US is the **world's largest alfalfa producer**, where it is grown **mostly under rainfed conditions**.

Read more: [Genetically Modified \(GM\) Crops](#)

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