NanJing Ko *Taiwan*
It is so wonderful to learn that you are using GM seeds to protect papaya from virus infection. However,…papaya ringspot is not the only virus we have in the field. I strongly suggest we use the combination of plant health management and GM plants to combat existing problems. That will even reduce poison damage to our environment and the burden of the global warming issue. Isn't it better to use more integrated approaches instead of one single measure to control pathogens? I hope this helps Indian papaya production.

Maneesh Kumar *New Delhi*
It's good to know that genetic engineering provides a more precise way of obtaining the desired traits in a plant.

Puttaraj A. Choukimath *Mumbai*
The article shows how best we can benefit from the Indo-U.S. agricultural research cooperation.

Devendra Mulji Mehta
Baroda, Gujarat
I like this article the most because it gives an insight on a new science by creating awareness to reduce food shortages in the future.


Tamil Nadu Agricultural University aims to eliminate a virus plaguing India's papaya crops.

How GM Crops Work

Will a Genetically Modified Papaya Seed Help Indian Farmers?

Sultan Ahmed Ismail *Chennai*
I sincerely appreciate that the author has been candid in framing the title as I would wish to ask the same question: "Will a genetically modified papaya seed help Indian farmers?" The story in the magazine projects a rosy picture. I would appreciate if the nature of tests conducted by the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University were also revealed in that article. I am afraid they might confine their experiments only to "viral resistance." How does this technology alter the coat of the leaf, petiole, trunk and root and in what way? Are there experiments to study the soil quality, microbial and faunal density and diversity in those plantations? Papaya seeds are sometimes used as an adulterant in black pepper. What would be its impact on such accidental human consumption?

Your article mentions "….James says that case actually shows that the system works, that a gene found to cause an allergy can be identified and removed." When? After it had caused allergy to some human beings? How could (Mr. James) be so optimistic…as to state, "Monsanto will not come back and say, 'You owe us some royalties now that the 10 years is over' "? What happens if they do decide to ask, in case India by 2020 becomes a lead producer of such papaya?

With so many open ended questions, on one side I feel sad that TNAU as an institution of several years succumbs to borrow technology, and that, too, not a sustainable one, while on the other I congratulate you on framing the title with an element of doubt.

S. Raghunatha Prabhu *Alappuzha, Kerala*
"Exploring New Frontiers Together" and other articles on space topics were very informative, interesting and curiosity inducing, as well as a good source of reference. The accompanying photographs and other sketches and pictures are a collector's delight and help broaden readers' horizons. Adding profiles of a few astronauts would have been very appropriate and useful.

Chinmay Anand Paul *Balasore, Orissa*
It is absorbing, gripping the interest of the reader from start to finish. Deepanjali Kakati has presented an array of facts illustrated with photos that bespeak the Indo-U.S. joint venture in space missions.


Exploring New Frontiers Together

Nirmalendu Chakraborty
Cooch Behar, West Bengal
It is superb to get a mosaic of 53 images of the moon's surface containing mineral compositions. A really splendid cover.

Tasneem Zainul Imani
Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
It is quite colorful and has an interesting caption to go along with the picture.

Anjani Kumar Sinha *New Delhi*
I rate it a seven for its accuracy. However, the cover should have more aesthetic appeal.

Tukaram Santram Mote *Aurangabad, Maharashtra*
The photography is very high quality. Science and technology will help to find precious minerals on the moon.