



Media Release

Crop Life India, enabling Farmers to responsibly use crop protection products and dispose empty containers in Motihari, Bihar

- CropLife India's two year project on "**The Responsible use of Pesticides and Container Management**", initiated by Union Minister of Agriculture and farmer's welfare , Shri Radha Mohan Singh towards agriculture sustainability thus promoting farmer welfare through education and awareness in Motihari, East Champaran district of Bihar.
- Department of Agriculture & Co-operation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India supports CropLife India initiative to educate and engage farmers on the responsible usage of crop protection products and safe disposal of used empty crop protection containers.
- Government's "**Grow safe food campaign**", targeting farmers reiterates the responsible and sustainable use of crop protection products in agriculture to produce more food crops per hectare.

17 August 2015, Motihari, East Champaran: Demonstrating the need for agriculture sustainability through farmers' welfare, while responsibly using crop protection products and safe disposal of used empty crop protection / pesticide containers, CropLife India initiated the pilot project to train farmers on the "**Responsible Use of Crop Protection Products and Container Management**" in East Champaran District of Bihar. Being supported by the Government of India, under the aegis of "Grow Safe Food" Campaign of Department of Agriculture & Co-operation, Ministry of Agriculture, the pilot project in Bihar was today inaugurated by the honourable Minister of Agriculture, Shri Radha Mohan Singh at the Chandrahi Gandhi Smarak in Motihari block, in the presence of local panchayat, officials of the state agriculture department, representatives from the collector's office, MLAs , farmers from the adjoining villages, farmer families, Master trainers, including CropLife India member companies. The project demonstrates the benefits of responsible use of Crop Protection Products and Container Management through farmers training program covering more than 2000 farmers in different villages in the district, thus encouraging agriculture sustainability through farmer engagement.

The Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmer's welfare Shri Radha Mohan Singh inaugurated the pilot project to promote the right use of crop protection products and safe disposal of triple rinsed used empty pesticides containers in an environmentally sound manner, at Chandrahiya village near Motihari, Bihar on Monday. He applauded the efforts of Crop Life India for initiating this two-year training program for the farmers of the remote villages in East Champaran district, since crop protection products or pesticides are critical inputs in agriculture while they protect crops from pests and diseases. He added, "While it is important for the farmer to work towards enhancing productivity of the crop he grows, adding the right kind of nutrients and crop protection products for good soil health are critical inputs to maintain the quality of the crops grown is maintained thus ensuring safe and secured food for a growing nation". The project was launched under the aegis of the '**Grow Safe Food**' and '**Responsible use of agriculture products**' campaign launched by the Union agriculture ministry earlier.

The program was attended representatives of the CLI member companies, Rajvir Rathi, K.C. Ravi, Rajen Sakalkar, Srivastava Gantakolla CEO, CropLife India who also spoke on the occasion.

Srivastava Gantakolla, CEO, CropLife India, addressing the gathering added, "The objective behind the pilot project is to arrive at a workable and a self- sustaining model built around the challenges faced at household and community levels, while developing a public private partnership to promote right use of crop protection products and safe disposal of triple rinsed used empty pesticides containers in an environmentally sound manner."

The training program included class room as well as field demonstrations, thus creating a practical exposure on the timely & correct application, correct mixing and dosage of crop protection

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chemicals for recommended crops, and usage of personal protection equipment while mixing, loading and spraying crop protection products in the field. The training also stipulates following labels and leaflets instructions on the crop protection containers, adhere to precautions during handling of pesticides and the method of safe disposal of containers. The training strives to precaution farmers on the improper usage of empty containers to store food, edibles, water, animal feed and the impact of traces of left over chemicals on human health, livestock and environment.

The training program covers a wide range of topics including crop / pest knowledge, IPM – identifying beneficial insects, buying and transportation of pesticides, usage of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), correct spraying techniques, maintaining sprayer equipment, secure storage of crop protection products, triple rinsing of empty containers and disposal of empty containers , thus creating education and awareness amongst farmers and farm families. The training program will ensure a workable sustainable model emerging out of the pilot project which will also educate how the farmers could read labels and leaflets carefully before applying Crop Protection Products.”

The training curriculum includes 16 elaborative modules covering a wide range of topics such as IPM, role of beneficial insects including pollinators, judicious and responsible use of chemicals, secure storage of pesticides, impacts of counterfeit and illegal products, use of PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) such as masks and gloves, correct spraying techniques, maintaining sprayers and nozzles, and triple rinsing of used containers.

Stewardship being one of the key engagements for CropLife India, the project aims to impart grass root training to the farming community on responsible usage, secured, storage, container management, safe disposal of empty containers including collection, transportation and incineration of used crop protection containers. The two year program aims to create awareness among farmers, farm families, school children, dealers and distributors of crop protection products on responsible use of crop protection products and safe disposal of empty crop protection containers.

About Crop Life India:

CropLife India is an Association of Technology driven Crop Science Industry, committed to Advancing Sustainable Indian Agriculture. CropLife India promotes the benefits and responsible use of Crop Protection products, as well as sound regulatory frameworks in support of sustainable agriculture in India. CropLife India is part of CropLife International, a global federation of the plant science industry in over 90 countries. CropLife India believes in a strong and science-based regulatory system to protect people and the environment such that timely access to new crops, new pesticides or new uses for existing pesticides should be promoted.

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