

Enabling Farmers to responsibly use and dispose crop protection containers

- *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.*
- *Two year project initiated towards agriculture sustainability thus promoting farmer welfare through education and awareness in East Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh.*

31 July 2015, Kakinada: Demonstrating the need for agriculture sustainability through farmers' welfare, through responsible use of crop protection products and safe disposal of used empty crop protection / pesticide containers, CropLife India is undertaking farmer training programs on **"Responsible Use of Crop Protection Products and Container Management"** in East Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh. The farmer interaction sessions organized today at Tatiparti village, Kakinada, amongst farmers, farm families, villagers, project coordinators, state government officials, Master trainers, including CropLife India member companies, aims to seek feedback from field master trainers, farmers and the state department of agriculture officials, which includes expectation and learnings from farmers. The pilot project initiated in January 2015, demonstrates the benefits of responsible use of Crop Protection Products and Container Management through farmers training program under the aegis of "Grow Safe Food" Campaign of Department of Agriculture & Co-operation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, thus ensuring agriculture sustainability through farmer engagement.

Dr. S.N Sushil, Plant Protection Advisor to Government of India, Department of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage, presiding over the farmer interactive session today at Tatiparti village, Kakinada, said, ***"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. I am happy to note that the program is progressing well and hope to see a workable sustainable model emerge out of the pilot project being conducted in East Godavari District. I appeal to farmers that they should always read label and leaflets carefully before applying Crop Protection Products."***

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 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.

Srivastava Gantakolla, CEO, CropLife India, addressing the interaction 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."***

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. This pilot project in the villages of Tatiparthi and Edida, in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh beginning 9 January 2015, was inaugurated in the presence of Dr. Ram Asre, Additional Plant Protection Advisor and National Incharge, Central IPM, Shri. S.V.S.N Varma, MLA Pithapuram, East Godavari District, Shri. Satyanarayana, Panchyat President, Tatiparti Village, Smt. Padmashree, Assistant Director of Agriculture (ADA), East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh. 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.

Mr. Satyanarayana, Village President, Tatiparti Village, East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh, appreciated the role of Croplife India, in initiating this project in his village since farmers have immensely benefitted from this training program. He added, "We as part of the program should actively involve ourselves to spread this awareness to farmers in the nearby villages creating a movement towards promoting awareness on responsible use of crop protection products in addition to educating fellow farmers in the village. "

Shri Padmashree, Assistant Director of Agriculture (ADA), East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh, congratulated the involvement of CropLife India and encouraged the increased engagement of more farm families towards education and awareness, including protection measures taken while applying crop protection products at village level regularly.

The project has gained a steady pace and has been appreciated by the both the state department Agricultural authorities and the farming community. It covers 2000 farmers, 7 farmer training groups from each village of Tatiparthi and Edida in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh. Trainings for farmers include classroom teaching and practical field training sessions for farmers. 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.

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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