

# FACT SHEET



## CROP PROTECTION: CONTRIBUTION TO INDIAN AGRICULTURE

*“Every year in India, pests and diseases eat away, on an average, 20-30% of food, worth about Rs 45000 crore, produced by the farmers.”* states the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals in its written reply to Parliamentary Standing Committee, 2012-13.



Crop protection products, commonly referred to as pesticides or agrochemicals, play a vital role in controlling pests, harmful insects, weeds, fungi and other undesirable pests or diseases that infect, consume or damage crops, thereby significantly reducing the quantity and quality of food production, while the benefits of agricultural innovation goes to farmers and consumers. Crop protection products are manufactured as technical grades and converted into formulations for agricultural use.

## IMPROVING FARM PRODUCTIVITY BY REDUCING PRE AND POST-HARVEST LOSSES

The importance of crop protection products in agriculture is enormous because they are considered as one of the major tools to protect crops and increase the yield. Today, the crop protection sector is a fast developing industry, which is open to innovation while being propelled by factors like growing population, and the need for minimizing crop damage. An estimated 2.5 billion people in the developing world depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. By 2050 small holding farmers will need to double their production to ensure rural prosperity and global food security.

---

*Pesticides comprise a wide range of products for both agriculture and home applications including insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, sanitizers, growth regulators, rodenticides and soil fumigants*

---

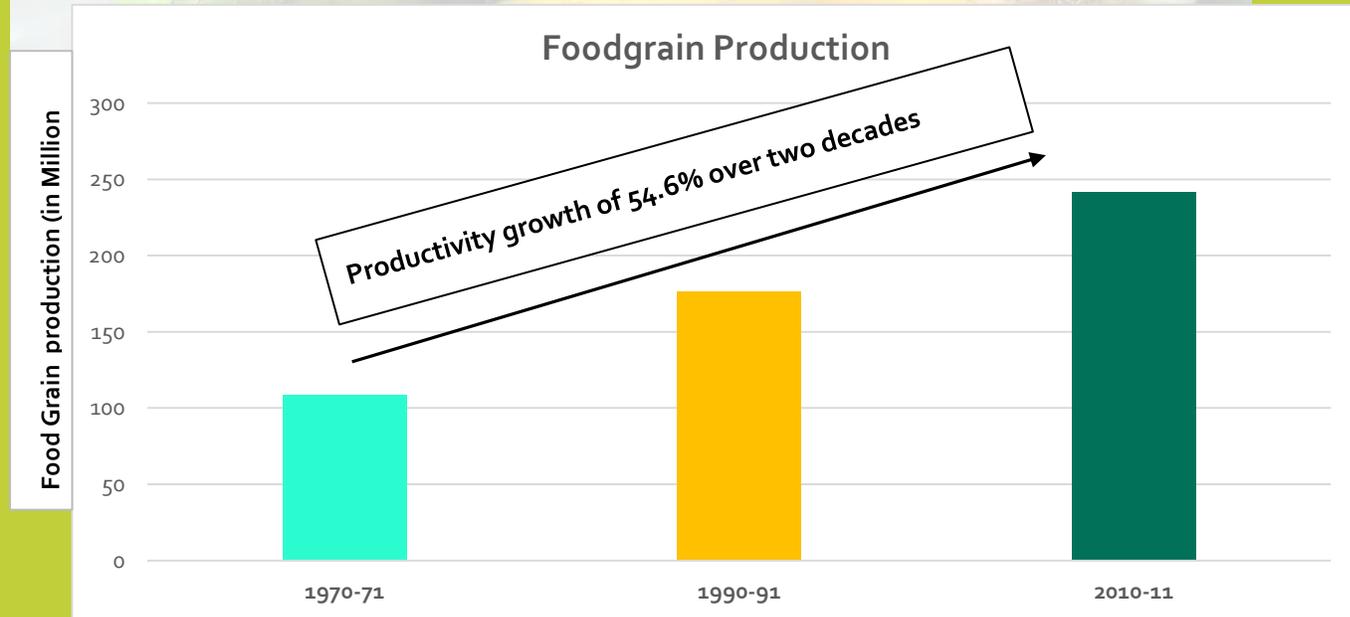
# FACT SHEET



Small holding farmers in India, China, and sub-saharan Africa account for around 35% of global grain (corn, soyabean, wheat and rice) production. However they lack access to technology, education, and agronomy, training, information on climate change, pests, insects and diseases in crops which hinders their productivity. This means without using more water or other natural resources while using chemical inputs like fertilizers and pesticides as efficiently as possible. Use of Safe and synthetic crop protection products in the country has helped alleviate the estimated 45% gross loss of crops due to infestation of pests and diseases.

## BUILDING A SAFE AND FOOD SECURED NATION

India has to ensure food security for population of 1.21 billion while facing reduction in cultivable land resource and dwindling water resources. This necessitates the use of pesticides or crop protection products in a judicious manner within the confines of a regulatory framework of the country.



**55.13% growth in Foodgrain production from 1970-71 to 2010-11**