

# CropLife India AGM deliberates on digitisation of Indian ag



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Matters such as the agricultural deployment of drones were discussed at the annual general meeting of agrochemical industry association CropLife India. The session saw participation from India's Minister of Agriculture, Narendra Singh Tomar, and CropLife International's president and CEO, Giulia Di Tommaso, besides representatives from government and the agrochemical industry.

Mr Tomar highlighted that the government is considering the introduction of drones in the nation's agricultural ecosystem, adding that a "Digital Agriculture Mission" has been set afoot to expedite the technology's adoption. Furthermore, he noted that various memoranda of understanding (MoU) have been forged with private sector entities in a bid to advance the digitisation of farming activities. His sentiments were echoed by Dr Ashok Dalwai, the chief executive officer of the National Rainfed Area Authority, who observed that the domestic crop protection industry must leverage research and development facilities to align its operations with the government's policies on drones and artificial intelligence (AI).

The conversation also revolved around the need for new molecules with enhanced safety and efficacy, with participants urging the industry to roll out active ingredients that conform to global standards. CropLife India stressed that the government must constitute a "predictable, stable and science-based policy and regulatory regime", adding that such steps would pave the way for adoption of technologies including drones and AI.

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