



Media Release

CropLife Educates Farmers on Safe Use and Disposal of Pesticides' Containers in Gujarat villages

- *CropLife India flags off a farmer welfare initiative focusing on building awareness about handling and disposal of agro chemical containers in two villages of Bharuch District in Gujarat.*
- *The project initiated in December 2016, establishes the benefits of responsible use of Crop Protection Products and Container Management through farmer training programs under the aegis of "Grow Safe Food" Campaign of Department of Agriculture & Co-operation & Farmers' Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, thus ensuring agriculture sustainability through farmer engagement.*

21 November 2017, Bharuch: In keeping with its conviction to educate farmers on Safe and Responsible Use of Pesticides and Container Management, CropLife India today conducted a farmer interaction and Container collection Management event in two villages, namely Borbatha Bet and Sajod in Bharuch District of Gujarat. The India Pilot Project which aims to alleviate growing concerns of farmer welfare pertaining to the responsible use of pesticides, use of personal protection equipment, and disposal of agro-chemical containers, is now in its second phase of capacity building.

Chief Guests at the events, **Mr. Mahendra Bhai Patel, Chief Scientist, KVK Bharuch** and **Dr. K.G. Patel, Dean, Agricultural University, Navsari Campus Bharuch**, echoed the same feeling, "This is a commendable initiative led by CropLife India to educate the farmers of Bharuch on the use of crop protection products and disposal of used containers. This programme brings us closer to achieving the **Grow Safe Food** mission and helps us protect the interests and well-being of our farmers. The training will ultimately benefit not just farmers, but also their families, schoolchildren, and government officials by creating a framework for imparting such education. This initiative positively impacts the quality and productivity of the crops, and aims to improve the living conditions of farmers".

He reiterated on the cooperation extended by the Pollution control board in making the license to operate the pilot available in due course of time, however requested to seek relaxation in the procedures including terms of operation and charges required to be paid upfront in this unique initiative in the interest of the safety of society.

Brij Uberoi, CEO, CropLife India, addressing the audience added, "The key to our farmer literacy drive in Bharuch is self-sustainability. We achieve this by creating a model that engages at the household level and works with the community to solve the challenges faced by the farmers in this region". He stressed on the need for private and public participation to promote safe use of personal protection equipment and ensure safe disposal of pesticide containers in accordance with the guidelines. "Our work at the village level will define the success of the **Grow Safe Food** Campaign under the aegis of Ministry of Agriculture Cooperation and Farmer's Welfare and we hope to achieve this within two years. CropLife has built a significant footprint in the district thus far, covering many villages and over 2000 farmers under the program for safe and scientific methods of crop production technologies."

Today's two events saw a gathering of more than 500 farmers, which was coordinated and Vote of Thanks imparted by **Ms. Sony Mamgai, CropLife India, Secretariat**.

CropLife India has conducted the project across four villages – Borbatha Bet, Dhanturiya, Sajod and Kanshiya – having identified 2000 farmers who received classroom and field training. CropLife India is also taken the engagement to women self-help groups and has conducted awareness programs covering 650 students in 4 schools. CropLife India has similar projects being executed in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Bihar and the endeavour is to extend them to other states across the country.

Crop Life India

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The program covers trainings for farmers, including classroom teaching and practical field training sessions. The training curriculum includes 16 elaborative modules covering a wide range of topics such as Integrated Pest Management, 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.

CropLife India inaugurated its Pilot Project on “Safe & Responsible Use of Pesticides and Container Management” in December 2016 at Bharuch District, Gujarat; in the presence of **Shri Ishwar Singh Patel, Hon’ble Minister of Co-operation, Shri. Dushyantbhai Patel, MLA Bharuch** and other Senior Government Officials.

About CropLife 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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