



**Customs Training, Kolkata - REACT Seminar**  
**Hotel Oberoi Grand, Kolkata, 29<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

**CropLife India participated in the Kolkata Customs training workshop held for the Custom officials of Kolkata Customs organized by the REACT organization.**

REACT shared the information well in advance that the Port of Kolkata is a riverine port in the city of Kolkata, India, located around 203 kilometers (126 mi) from the Sea. It is the oldest operating port in India, and was constructed by the British East India Company. It has two distinct dock systems - Kolkata Docks at Kolkata and a deep water dock at Haldia Dock Complex, Haldia. As of March 2018, the port is capable of processing annually 650,000 containers, mostly from Nepal, Bhutan, and India's northeastern states. Kolkata port is the primary port for import of cargo for landlocked countries such as Nepal and Bhutan as well as convenient for exports/transshipment of Bangladesh cargo. This information helped us to prepare ourselves better for the training.

The training workshop has been attended by many Custom officials from the Custom formation of Kolkata like Kolkata Customs (port), Kolkata Customs (air Cargo), Customs Preventive (including land border) etc.

**CropLife India looked this platform as an opportunity to organise a session for Customs on demonstration of portable FTIR technology along with a brief presentation on 29th January, 2019 in Kolkata.**

As we have been seeking CBEC support for conducting these types of training across India, hence, thought to give a live demo/ experience of the latest technology to sensitize on the subject & also to utilize the identified strength & opportunity of training the Customs in Kolkata. **Following are the key highlights of the seminar:**

- CropLife India gave a presentation to Customs officials on Counterfeit and Illegal Pesticides to explain the consequences of counterfeit/ illegal pesticides, the serious impact it can cause to Farmers' life, Agricultural industry, Govt. etc and informed them about the role of CropLife in Agricultural sector.
- CropLife India distributed Anti-counterfeit Annual Newsletter 2019 along with a pendrive uploaded with the relevant information about CropLife & FTIR technology with the participants for their future references. Customs found Annual ACF Newsletter very helpful and went thru it thoroughly to understand about our working.
- CropLife India suggested the use of Portable FTIR technology as screening tool for illegal pesticides and recommend that it could be very helpful if taken directly to farmers, for in market operations and for customs to identify whether the pesticide is legitimate quick and simple.

- CropLife India suggested that it can facilitate infusion of Portable FTIR technology through demonstration to Customs and Pilot Project in collaboration with Pesticides Regulators. However, Customs officials found this session of demonstration interesting and asked few questions for which they got satisfactory answers.
- Apart from this, many brands have participated & gave presentation & displayed their genuine and counterfeit material/ products for other participant's awareness.
- Overall, a good seminar to make Customs officials and other participants aware of the issues, which are not only related to Agricultural industry but also, affecting other popular brands available in the market.

### Glimpses of REACT-Customs Kolkata Seminar



