

Media Coverage Report

**CropLife India welcomes Union Budget 2022 -
23 and acclaims the Government
for supporting the use of “Kisan Drones” for
Agrochemical Spraying, crop assessment
& digitization of land records**

February 2022

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9.	The Outreach	Agri industry reacts to FM Sitharaman's Budget speech	Online
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11.	Tellus daily	Business, agri startups welcome Finances's deal with strengthening farm sector	Online
12.	Asiapost	Industry, agri startups welcome Budget's focus on strengthening farm sector	Online
13.	Tradebrains	Industry, agri startups welcome Budget's focus on strengthening farm sector	Online
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17.	The Blogger	Industry, Agri Startups Welcome Budget's Focus On Strengthening Farm Sector	Online

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18.	Creative writing	Industry, agri startups welcome Budget's focus on strengthening farm sector	Online
19.	India top headlines	Industry, agri startups welcome Budget's focus on strengthening farm sector	Online
20.	IHS Markit	CropLife India hails provisions for drones in country's budget	Online
21.	Agrospectrum	CropLife India hails govt's focus on agriculture	Online

PRESS RELEASE

CropLife India welcomes Union Budget 2022-23 and acclaims the Government for supporting the use of “Kisan Drones” for Agrochemical Spraying, crop assessment & digitization of land records

Will Usher youth entrepreneurship and revolutionize Indian Agriculture

New Delhi, 01st February 2022: [CropLife India](#), an association of 15 R&D driven crop science companies, and the **leading voice of the plant science industry in India**, compliments the Government of India for initiating the use of Drones for Agrochemical Spraying in the **Union Budget 2022-23**. The Use of drones will be promoted for crop assessment, digitization of land records, spraying of insecticides and nutrients. The government will facilitate a fund with blended capital raised under the co-investment model through NABARD to finance agri start-ups and rural enterprises in a PPP mode. The fund would finance start-ups for agriculture and rural enterprise relevant for farm produce value chain. The activities of these start-ups will include inter-area support for farmer-producer organizations (FPOs), machineries for farmers on a rental basis at the farm level and IT based services.

The **Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for use of Drone application for crop protection** in agricultural, forestry, non-cropped areas, etc. was released in **December 2021**. This SOP will render guidance to the stakeholders involved in undertaking safe and effective control of Pest and diseases by Drone based application.

Mr. Asitava Sen, Chief Executive Officer, CropLife India shared, "It is extremely delightful to witness the **inclusion of “Kisan Drones” in the Union Budget 2022-23**. The Government’s push towards **Digitalization of Agriculture** coupled with the focus on **Hi-Tech services** would enhance rural entrepreneurship and infuse youth back in the farmlands, boosting the income of the farmers”.

Mr. Sen added, “CropLife India is very happy to be part of the transparent deliberations within Department of Agriculture, Central Insecticide Board and Ministry of Civil Aviation and industry experts in the development of the pragmatic SOP and Guidelines for product Registration requirements for drone application for agrochemicals, in an exemplary schedule. These guidelines will now be studied and set the benchmark for ongoing engagements in other Asian countries.”.

CropLife India and its members have been urging the Government to **reduce the GST on agrochemicals from the current 18% to 12% and provide 200% weighted deduction on R&D expenses by agrochemical companies; both of which would have directly benefited the farmers.**

About [CropLife India](#):

[CropLife India](#) is committed to advancing sustainable agriculture and it is an association of 15 R&D driven member companies in crop protection and the leading voice of the plant science industry in India. We jointly represent ~ 70% of the market and are responsible for 95% of the molecules introduced in the country. Our member companies have annual global R & D spend of 6 billion USD and are firmly committed to engaging with the farming community to enable Safe, Secure Food Supply.

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Edition	Nagpur

Agri activists miffed over idea of natural farming

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Nagpur: The Union Budget has left farm activists from the region disappointed, including Padma Shri Subhash Palekar, whose zero budget farming method had got a mention in 2019.

In the budget of 2019, zero budget farming had a prominent mention as a means to double agriculture income. Four years down the line as once again the finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman spoke of natural farming, Palekar says there seems to be no consistency.

AGRICULTURE

As activists and farmers have expressed doubts over its efficiency, even Palekar has turned down the current idea of natural farming, calling it disastrous.

Palekar told TOI, "It's not my natural farming method which the government seems to follow. There appears to be a shift to a Japanese method by Masunobu Fukoka which cannot be a success. My method is specially known as Subhas Palekar Natural Farming on which there has been hardly any consultation from the government's side."

Meanwhile, activists, who still back the conventional method of farming, say natural farming is going to be an impractical solution.

Anil Ghanvat, president

of Shetkari Sangathana, said announcements on direct transfer of MSP for paddy and wheat procurement has been made keeping in mind elections in Punjab and UP. Farmers of rest of the country have been left out.

"The idea of natural farming also seems to be impractical as it would lead to a major dip in the output. If the government wants pesticide-free farming then genetically modified crops should be allowed," said Ghanvat, who was also a member of court-appointed committee on the now defunct farm laws.

Vaibhav Kashikar of Ankur Seeds said the government must think about the practicability of natural farming as it also impacts the output. Although the idea of using artificial intelligence and machine learning in the sector is a welcome step.

"The announcement on natural farming seems to be a diversion from core issues like agriculture subsidy. There was no word on increasing farm income or wages of farm workers," said Vijay Jawandhia, a veteran farm activist.

Asitava Sen, CEO of Crop Life India, said the idea of spraying agro-chemicals through drones is appreciable. The finance minister also spoke of developing natural farming on a 5-km corridor along the Ganga.

Full report on www.toi.in

Publication	Hindu Business Line
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Agri industry reacts to FM Sitharaman's Budget speech

AJ Vinayak | Updated On: Feb 01, 2022



Here are a few industry reactions to the Union Budget Atul Chaturvedi, President of the Solvent Extractors' Association (SEA) of India, said

SEA of India had been constantly representing to the Government that India's edible oil imports are skyrocketing and seriously compromising edible oil security of the nation needing urgent policy intervention.

He said the announcement made by the Finance Minister for comprehensive scheme to increase domestic production of oilseeds to reduce country's dependence on import of edible oil is a welcome step. "We are also given to understand that financial outlay for increasing oilseed production is likely to be adequate to have a meaningful impact. This initiative should go a long way in helping reduce our dependence on edible oil imports, which are likely to be around ₹1.5 lakh crore during the current year," he said, adding this initiative would be in line with the Prime Minister's vision of Aatmanirbharta.

Amith Agarwal, co-founder and CEO of AgriBazaar (an agritech marketplace), said the Finance Minister's announcement of a comprehensive scheme that reduces the reliance on oilseed imports is good news as it will focus on changing the crop sowing pattern of the Indian farmer. In addition, it will save precious foreign exchange and ensure higher price realization for the Indian farmer.

Millets

Pravesh Sharma, Director of Samunnati Agro, said the theme of this year's Budget seems to be incentivising a forward-looking vision for agriculture. "We also expect the Government to come up with practical solutions to address the pending demand of farmers to provide a legal guarantee of MSP," he said. It is great that 2023 has been declared the 'International Year of Millets', as this crop is currently not considered in the government schemes and producers are largely small and marginal farmers that too mostly in rain-fed regions. It will be important to ensure the growth of integrated value chains so that the benefits of these nutritious crops can flow back to primary producers.

While the overall thrust of the Budget seems to be on infrastructure, agriculture has not been overlooked. Some key areas such as crop diversification and promotion of domestic oilseeds production are important breakthrough ideas and can have long-term benefits to the agriculture sector.

Prashant Parameswaran, MD and CEO of Tata Consumer Soufull, said India is one of the largest producers of millets. Tata Consumer Products has been working with the Indian Institute of Millet Research (IIMR) to unlock the full potential of millets as a healthier and more sustainable alternative to traditional grains. “We aim to do this through innovation as well as spreading awareness and strengthening advocacy for millets. We hope to grow this category by making millets more mainstream through our Tata Soufull brand and making them available to consumers in convenient and modern formats,” he said.

Shauravi Malik and Meghana Narayan, founders of Slurrp Farm, said with 2023 designated as the International Year of Millets, the awareness around the health benefits of millets and also their environment-friendly cultivation methods will only continue to grow. It is heartening to see that the Union Budget puts the grain in focus, especially by way of branding of millet products nationally and internationally.

This will strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the space of these nutri-cereals in India. A new wave of entrepreneurship is sweeping the nation and the move will allow numerous young Indians to bring their ideas to life and build brands for the new-age Indian consumer.

Dairy

Meenesh Shah, Chairman of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), said the NDDB welcomes reduction in alternate minimum tax (MAT) for cooperatives from 18.5 per cent to 15 per cent and surcharge from 12 per cent to 7 per cent for cooperatives having income ₹1 crore to ₹10 crore. He said the decision will boost development initiatives of dairy cooperatives and ensure better remuneration to millions of farmers.

Sheetal Sharad, Vice President and Sector Head Corporate Ratings, ICRA Ltd, said the increased allocation under the Livestock Health and Disease Control programme from ₹8.86 billion in RE 2021-22 to ₹20 billion in 2022-23 BE, reiterates the government's focus on supporting livestock betterment. This is expected to bolster cattle productivity and increase raw milk availability for dairy processors.

The pandemic has exerted pressure on raw milk availability in the recent flush season given the lower than expected coverage of artificial insemination during cattle breeding period in the first and second waves of the pandemic. Reduction in MAT rates for cooperative societies will positively impact margins of dairy cooperatives lending cushion for further capex in dairy processing and passing on benefits to dairy farmers.

Biogas

AR Shukla, President of Indian Biogas Association, said the emphasis on organic farming should cheer the biogas industry. All of the biogas plants produce organic fertiliser. Allocation of the requested Budget for such development under ‘Biogas Fertilizer Fund’ would make it happen. “We hope that the details of the scheme will entail these. Five such projects across the Ganges plain region can kickstart the paradigm shift,” he said.

Welcoming the government's decision to focus on agriculture education, he said all states will be urged to update agriculture university syllabuses to suit the demands of natural zero-budget farming,

modern-day agriculture, value addition, and management. He hoped that biogas fertiliser plants will get a proper place in it.

Technology in agri

Taranjeet Singh Bhamra, CEO and Founder of AgNext Technologies, said the Budget's focus to increase technological intervention in agriculture value chains will further help to cushion the sector against global uncertainties.

The government's dedicated focus to increasing investment in agriculture and the agri-tech sector will allow for all-inclusive development that will benefit farmers as well as agribusinesses. The proposed PPP (Public Private Partnership) mode scheme to promote the delivery of digital and hi-tech services in the agriculture sector will lead to greater cooperation between the private agritech players and public research institutions.

For agri-tech sector, this is a favourable Budget that will pave the way for the robust growth of the agri-tech players, especially the start-ups, to scale domestically and internationally, he said.

Palat Vijayaraghavan, founder and CEO, Lawrencedale Agro Processing India (LEAF), said the agrarian ecosystem players are hampered by lack of transparent access with actionable information. Digitisation solves this challenge by integrating a virtuous loop between farmers and markets, giving better access to information.

“We need integrated full-stack solutions which will digitise marketplaces, payments, workflows, and farmer transaction histories by connecting buyers, farming inputs, suppliers, ag-techs, and banks with FPOs/farmers, helping to create a commercially sustainable ecosystem comprising all relevant agriculture value chain players with equitable commercial exchange mechanisms. Such an initiative will support the farmers through comprehensive training and capacity building in entire lifecycle of the harvest, including post-harvest management to reduce wastage,” Vijayaraghavan added.

Deepak Yadav, founder of GreenSat Innovation Labs Pvt Ltd, said data has become crucial for the success of almost every activity today. In agriculture, thorough data analysis and data-based predictions are critical aspects that aid in improving the income of farmers, yield quantity, and quality of output. The announcement of steps like stress on digital land records, India's own digital currency, and increased usage of drones will establish a big data culture in the agriculture sector. These measures will make it easier for tech-backed agri-tech companies to reach out to an expanded set of farmers. With this Budget, one can say that the gap between Indian farmers and prosperity is getting bridged with each passing day.

Navneet Ravikar, Chairman and Managing Director of Leads Connect Services (an agritech company), said the Budget prioritised agri-tech, especially with the push on DeepTech such as AI and geospatial systems. They will go a long way towards making the industry sustainable and bringing it into the 21 century.

A more positive aspect was monitoring agriculture with Kisan drones as well as digitising land records. They will be the biggest leap towards the adoption of technology, bringing change at a national level.

KC Ravi, Chief Sustainability Officer of Syngenta India Pvt Ltd, said the Budget's emphasis on digital infrastructure for infusion of agriculture technologies in a PPP mode will be the need of the hour in the next 25 years to combat the serious threat of climate change.

Amit Sinha, co-founder of Unnati (a fintech powered agri-tech platform), said the Budget has a strong focus on agriculture with a specific focus on the delivery of high-tech services, funding of start-ups

through Nabard, focus on 'Drone Shakti' for farmers, climate action. There is a good balance of the short-term and long-term measures. It's very forward-looking with a long-reaching impact on how agriculture will grow in India. These initiatives will solve the core problem of improvement of farm productivity and help improve farm incomes significantly, he said.

Prasanna Rao, Managing Director and co-founder of Arya.ag (an integrated grain commerce platform), said the Union Budget has placed agri-tech in the right limelight with the Finance Minister reposing faith on the role of these new-age players to transform the agriculture sector in the country under the PPP mode. Rao said Finance Minister's assurance on government support to FPOs and small farmers to procure farming equipment as well as gain access to technology-led capabilities and services is also in the right direction.

Mayank Tiwari, founder and CEO, ReshaMandi, said the emphasis on public-private partnership on tech-driven agriculture is a welcome note for most of the agri-tech start-ups. It is great to see the government's continued focus on tech development, especially in the fields of artificial intelligence and blockchain. It is truly the Amrit Kaal for India, he said.

Rajesh Aggarwal of Insecticide India Ltd, said the Budget's emphasis on encouraging the use of 'Kisan Drones' for crop assessment, digitisation of land data, and insecticide and nutrient spraying will undoubtedly provide a boost to the agriculture industry and the input industry as well. Spray by drones will help to save on water and will increase the uniformity and efficacy of crop protection and nutrition products.

Jinesh Shah, Managing Partner of Omnivore, said a blended capital fund under Nabard is interesting as it can provide the FPOs with much-needed assistance. Keeping up with the times, the Government's support for drone use in agriculture and stressing the role of start-ups in facilitating 'drone shakti' is a great leap forward for driving precision farming at scale.

Taranbir Singh, co-founder and CEO of FAARMS, said the digitization is the core essence of the overall budget related to the agricultural and rural sector. The Government intends to include the agro-tech industry in PPP which is a big welcoming step and would set the tone for further much-needed initiatives for the farming community. The launch of the digibank, financial literacy and skilling and livelihood will help boost the overall economy of rural India.

Asitava Sen, CEO of CropLife India, said the Government's push towards digitalization of agriculture coupled with the focus on hi-tech services would enhance rural entrepreneurship and infuse youth back in the farmlands, boosting the income of the farmers.

Siraj Chaudhry, MD and CEO of NCML, said the budget has made a sincere attempt to promote the use of technology in agriculture and make it future-ready. The last-mile digital connectivity has the potential to drastically alter the agri landscape of the country and by announcing the completion date of the Bharat Net project by 2025, the budget has attempted to bridge the digital divide between the villages and urban areas by 2025.

The budget proposes to phase out a large number of exemptions applicable on some agri products, chemicals, drugs. Though the fine print is still awaited this decision might have an inflationary effect on agri nutrients, agrochemicals and pesticides which could further stoke food inflation, he said.

D Narain, President, Bayer South Asia and Global Head of Smallholder Farming, said the announcement in this year's budget on strengthening the delivery of digital and hi-tech services to farmers through the public-private partnership model will go a long way in improving the scaling up

of agri value chains and help Indian farmers reap the benefits of technological advancements. Major initiatives like promoting the use of 'kisan drones', funds to finance start-ups for agriculture and rural enterprises, supporting FPOs through these enterprises, and boosting domestic oilseed production, have the potential to transform the sector, he said.

Siddhant Bhomia, co-founder of Krishi Network, said this year's budget is a dream budget for the agriculture sector with a focus on technology-driven solutions. The key themes that come out are tech, capital, and sustainability. The focus on financing startups for agriculture, use of kisan drones, digitization of land records, revision of university courses will help create an impact for a population at scale.

Mughilan Thiru Ramasamy, CEO and co-founder of Skylark Drones, said the introduction of drone shakti will ensure business momentum and drive faster adoption of UAVs in the country. It is encouraging to see the government promoting Digital India and digitisation of various sectors through the integration of UAVs through varied applications and drones as a service.

The announcement to promote the use of 'kisan drones' in the agricultural sector as part of the Budget 2022-23 will enable the drone industry to collaborate with farmers to improve operational efficiency and maximize profitability. This will make India's agricultural sector future-ready.

Pravin Patel, founder of Brio Hydroponics, said the agricultural startup fund will foster innovation and entrepreneurship in the industry, while cutting-edge technology interventions can simultaneously boost sector output and exports. Dedicated funds for field research, as well as an emphasis on associated agro farming, would go a long way toward ensuring the success of starting projects. As agriculture is still largely unstructured and influenced by large landowners, digitization of land records and a minimum support price (MSP) would help minimize all sorts of exploitation, Patel said.

Ankit Chauhan, CFO and co-founder of InfyU LABS, said the Budget will give much needed support in shape of 'kisan drone' and 'drone shakti' programmes, resulting to create a wave of innovation from the emerging agri-tech start-ups leading the agricultural ecosphere to become trillion-dollar economy by 2025.

Kunal Kislay, CEO of Integration Wizards Solutions, said Budget 2022-23 has empowered value creators to invest in India's growth story. Indian agritech startups now have a great opportunity to innovate and help to sustain the economy.

Shardul Sheth, co-founder and CEO of AgroStar, said the expansion of technology focus in the Budget from just tractors and agri-machinery to 'kisan Drones' for crop assessment, digitization of land records, spraying of insecticides and nutrients shows increasing interest in application of IoT to the sector. This budget should help in accelerating the digitalization of the farming community, Sheth said.

Kishor Jha, CEO and founder of Ergos (an agri-tech company), said the installation of optical fibres across rural hinterlands will not only bring uninterrupted access to digital services and ensure the best returns on their produce. The farmers will be able to move from farm-gate to the end buyer directly, efficiently and access small credit from the banks.

Fertilisers and chemicals

Sabyasachi Majumdar, Senior Vice President and Group Head (Corporate Ratings), ICRA Ltd, said that the Government's announcements of promotion of drone-based intervention in pesticide spraying,

digitisation of land records and crop assessment are steps towards mechanisation of farms and improvement in productivity.

“The budgetary allocation for the subsidy for the fertiliser sector for 2022-23 is around ₹1,052.1 billion, which, as per ICRA estimates, is inadequate to meet the sector's requirement for the year which we expect at around ₹1,300-1,400 billion,” he said.

Duty reduction on key feedstocks like acetic acid and methanol is likely to boost the profitability of manufacturers dependent on imports, however it is a negative for domestic manufacturers of these products, he said. Further, several exemptions are proposed to be gradually phased out and a graded duty structure is likely to be followed. This will encourage intermediate product manufacturing for several sectors, including chemicals, and thus is likely to be favourable for the domestic chemical sector.

Nitesh Jain, Director, CRISIL Ratings, said the revision in the fertiliser subsidy budget for fiscal 2022 to ₹140,000 crore from ₹79,500 crore augurs well for the fertiliser industry. It will help meet the increase in input costs and will contain any material build-up of subsidy receivables for fertiliser manufacturers.

Anuj Kumbhat, founder and CEO of WRMS, said the Union Budget promotes chemical-free natural farming to boost sustainable agriculture productivity and income of farmers that will help WRMS align its services better and explore our utmost potential while providing farmers with high-end sustainable agriculture services progressively throughout the country. The budget also brings in picture a comprehensive package of participation of state governments and MSMEs to help farmers adopt natural farming practices; tremendously helpful for us to promote sustainable agriculture at a better pace.

Ritwik Bahuguna, founder of Roots Foundation and Business Director of Wazir Advisors, said the Finance Minister has mentioned that chemical-free farming should be promoted across the country. He said adoption may require targeted policy support – such as input subsidies for organic inputs, including fertilisers and pesticides. In many parts of the country several internationally banned pesticides are still used. There is also a need for sharing information by mobilising self-help groups and grass root organisations in this effort.

RG Agarwal, Group Chairman of Dhanuka Agritech Ltd, said it would have been apt had the Finance Minister also reduced GST and customs duty rates on some of the agro-chemicals products, which would have reduced the overall cost for the farmers.

Sugar

Sabyasachi Majumdar, Senior Vice President and Group Head (Corporate Ratings), ICRA Ltd, said that as a significant step towards increasing blending to meet the target of 20 per cent ethanol blending with petrol by 2025, an additional differential excise duty of ₹2 per litre has been introduced on unblended fuel effective October 1 2022. In the light of increasing crude oil prices globally and the resultant petrol prices in the country, such additional duty and resultant hike in prices to end users would encourage higher usage of blended fuel and accelerate the movement towards achieving the targets provided the necessary distribution infrastructure is created timely. Many large sugar mills are in midst of capacity expansion for distilleries coupled with investments being proposed by grain-based distilleries and through proposed 12 bio-refineries would facilitate the supplies to meet the long term targets.

Others

Highlighting the positive side of Budget 2022-23, Sandeep Sabharwal, CEO of SLCM Group, said the Budget has provided impetus towards inclusive growth in agriculture. Emphasis on skill development in agriculture with reference to university syllabus revision is a step in the right direction to empower the industry, he said, adding logistics under agri sector has been provided the much-needed boost through creation of new logistics parks and efficient railway network.

However, he said a lot of policy making has been done but focus on execution hasn't been pushed as needed. It would have been a welcome decision if institutions providing agri credit like NBFs, agri procurement companies were given some schemes to cover agri-related bad debts just as 'bad bank' has been put in service for commercial banks. Fast-track courts for conflict resolution in the agri sector continues to be a distant reality, he added.

Balram Yadav, Managing Director of Godrej Agrovet, said it is a balanced budget that is focused on infrastructure boost, supporting agriculture sector with incentives and technological fillip. River interlinking projects, Ken-Betwa link will definitely improve farming and livelihood facilities to farmers and local population. He said: "There were expectations which have not found space in the budget, but as the Finance Minister stated, it's a budget that looks at overcoming the pangs of pandemic and focus on the next 25 years of growth."

Ravindra Agarwal, founder and Managing Director of KisanKraft Ltd, said the Union Budget was in line with the expectation with continued fiscal discipline and increase in MSP procurement. Systemic changes for land records, crop diversification, import substitution are going to be very helpful in the long run. "However, in our view farm mechanization, farmer education, and agricultural infrastructure like irrigation, weather stations deserved increased allocations," he said.

Tarun Arora, Director of Finance and Operations of IG International, said there is a vision of the Government for the next 10 years in this budget.

The Government has pushed sustainability along with growth. It has the intent to shift the logistics only from roads to multi-modal for home-grown companies. This will help improve time management. Cargo terminals will help in Gati Shakti's development as a result it will lead to the development of infrastructure. "We were hoping there would be more on the cold chain facility as it's integral to the perishable supply chain as well. Overall, it is a Budget with an aspiration to revive the economy, which will bring further growth to the economy," Arora said. Ram Kaundinya, Director General of Federation of Seed Industry of India (FSII), said the Budget did not spell out any specific initiative for the biotech sector, however, it had a few things for the agri sector, especially the thrust on millets and increasing the domestic production of oilseeds.

"In the Economic Survey, the Government underlined the need for enhanced research in agriculture as well as oilseeds in addition to need for crop diversification. However, no announcements to boost research in breeding and biotechnology were made in the Budget. For instance, it would have been in the fitness of things if the Government had said that modern science and biotech would be used to boost oilseeds production in the country," he said.

Dhires, co-founder and CEO of agri-tech startup Neem Tree Agro Solutions, said the Union Budget 2022-23 caters well to the expectation of the farmers. The Government has presented some great initiatives, which is in alignment with the expectations of agri-tech industry. Stating that the promise to finance start-ups in agriculture and rural enterprises for farm produce value chain in accordance with NABARD is praiseworthy, he said: "We firmly believe that this year is going to be the year of ag-tech start-ups. The year is also important as this is the target year for doubling the farmers' income."

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Industry, agri startups welcome Budget's focus on strengthening farm sector

Mumbai, Feb 1 (PTI) The industry on Tuesday welcomed the Budget's focus on the agriculture sector, including developing infrastructure and expanding the role of technology. "The Budget presented against a backdrop of a strong rebound of the economy has set the foundation for taking agriculture on a sustained higher growth trajectory during the 'Amrit Kal' towards India @100," Syngenta India Chief Sustainability Officer K C Ravi said.

The emphasis on digital infrastructure for infusion of agriculture technologies in public private partnership (PPP) mode will be the need of the hour in the next 25 years to combat the serious threat of climate change, he opined.

"Another significant announcement is the emphasis on use of Kisan Drones for crop assessments, land records, spraying of insecticides and micronutrients, which will be a game changer for the agriculture sector. The implementation of Ken-Betwa link worth Rs 44,605 crore covering 9 lakh hectares addresses the critical need of augmenting irrigation capability," he noted.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday presented the Budget 2022-23 in Parliament that proposed promoting Kisan Drones, chemical-free natural farming, and public-private partnerships for the delivery of digital and high-tech services to farmers across the country.

Godrej Agrovet Managing Director Balram Yadav said it is a balanced Budget that is focused on infrastructure boost, supporting the agriculture sector with incentives and technological fillip.

The decision to revise the syllabus of agricultural universities, and use of Kisan drones for crop assessment, digitisation of land records, and spraying of pesticides is a step in the right direction to modernise the farm sector, he said.

Dhanuka Agritech Group Chairman R G Agarwal said the government's focus on augmenting infrastructure via the Gati Shakti plan and focus on the promotion of usage of drones for various farm activities is a welcome step and would immensely help the agriculture sector.

"However, it would have been also apt had the Finance Minister... reduced GST and customs duty rates on some of the agro-chemicals products, which would have reduced the overall cost for the farmers," he added.

Bayer South Asia President and Global Head of Smallholder Farming D Narain said the announcement in this year's Budget on strengthening the delivery of digital and hi-tech services to farmers through the public-private partnership model will go a long way in improving the scaling up of agri value chains and help Indian farmers reap the benefits of technological advancements.

Rallis India (a subsidiary of Tata Chemicals) MD and CEO Sanjiv Lal said the government took important steps to boost the agricultural sector and it clearly reflects in the Budget proposals.

"The budget has been well thought through aiming to reduce the country's dependence on imports of oilseeds through a comprehensive scheme to increase domestic production.

"In addition to this, the exemption is also being rationalized on tools for the agri-sector which are manufactured in India. Lastly, the announcement of the fiscal year 2022-23 being the International Year of Millets bring a new ray of light for the farmers," he added.

The Solvent Extractors Association of India (SEA) welcomed the announcement made by the finance minister for a comprehensive scheme to increase domestic production of oilseeds to reduce the country's dependence on import of edible oil.

"We are also given to understand that financial outlay for increasing oilseed production is likely to be adequate to have a meaningful impact. This initiative should go a long way in helping reduce our dependence on edible oil imports, which are likely to be around Rs 1.5 lakh crore during the current year and would be in line with our Prime Minister's vision of Atmanirbharta," SEA added.

FMC India president Ravi Annavarapu said provision for capital allocation towards aid for agri and rural start-ups, FPOs and Custom Machinery Hiring Centres for farmers will enhance access of small holder farmers to affordable mechanization.

Samunnati Agro Director Pravesh Sharma opined that the theme of this year's Budget seems to be incentivising a forward-looking vision for agriculture.

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"Similarly, promoting chemical-free natural farming in India is a big step in ensuring healthy produce for Indians and making our agriculture export-ready. Especially for premium markets like Europe, the USA, Japan, etc. Additionally, it will reduce the input expense of the Indian farmer, resurrect soil health, and ensure we take care of mother nature," he added.

IG International Director of Finance and Operations Tarun Arora said the focus on agriculture is much needed for a country like India.

"However, we were hoping there would be more on the cold chain facility as it's integral to the perishable supply chain as well. Overall, it is a Budget with an aspiration to revive the economy, which will bring further growth to the economy," he added.

Asitava Sen, Chief Executive Officer, CropLife India, said, "It is extremely delightful to witness the inclusion of Kisan Drones in the Union Budget 2022-23. The government's push towards digitalization

of agriculture coupled with the focus on hi-tech services would enhance rural entrepreneurship and infuse youth back in the farmlands, boosting the income of the farmers." PTI SM ABM ABM



Publication	Business Standard
Date	02 nd February 2022
Hyperlink	https://wap.business-standard.com/budget/article-amp/industry-agri-startups-welcome-budget-s-focus-on-strengthening-farm-sector-122020101664_1.html

Industry, agri startups welcome Budget's focus on strengthening farm sector

By Press Trust of India | Mumbai | Last Updated at February 01 2022 19:01 IST



The industry on Tuesday welcomed the Budget's focus on the agriculture sector, including developing infrastructure and expanding the role of technology.

"The Budget presented against a backdrop of a strong rebound of the economy has set the foundation for taking agriculture on a sustained higher growth trajectory during the 'Amrit Kal' towards India @100," Syngenta India Chief Sustainability Officer K C Ravi said.

The emphasis on digital infrastructure for infusion of agriculture technologies in public private partnership (PPP) mode will be the need of the hour in the next 25 years to combat the serious threat of climate change, he opined.

"Another significant announcement is the emphasis on use of Kisan Drones for crop assessments, land records, spraying of insecticides and micronutrients, which will be a game changer for the agriculture sector. The implementation of Ken-Betwa link worth Rs 44,605 crore covering 9 lakh hectares addresses the critical need of augmenting irrigation capability," he noted.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday presented the Budget 2022-23 in Parliament that proposed promoting Kisan Drones, chemical-free natural farming, and public-private partnerships for the delivery of digital and high-tech services to farmers across the country.

Godrej Agrovet Managing Director Balram Yadav said it is a balanced Budget that is focused on infrastructure boost, supporting the agriculture sector with incentives and technological fillip.

The decision to revise the syllabus of agricultural universities, and use of Kisan drones for crop assessment, digitisation of land records, and spraying of pesticides is a step in the right direction to modernise the farm sector, he said.

Dhanuka Agritech Group Chairman R G Agarwal said the government's focus on augmenting infrastructure via the Gati Shakti plan and focus on the promotion of usage of drones for various farm activities is a welcome step and would immensely help the agriculture sector.

"However, it would have been also apt had the Finance Minister... reduced GST and customs duty rates on some of the agro-chemicals products, which would have reduced the overall cost for the farmers," he added.

Bayer South Asia President and Global Head of Smallholder Farming D Narain said the announcement in this year's Budget on strengthening the delivery of digital and hi-tech services to farmers through the public-private partnership model will go a long way in improving the scaling up of agri value chains and help Indian farmers reap the benefits of technological advancements.

Rallis India (a subsidiary of Tata Chemicals) MD and CEO Sanjiv Lal said the government took important steps to boost the agricultural sector and it clearly reflects in the Budget proposals.

"The budget has been well thought through aiming to reduce the country's dependence on imports of oilseeds through a comprehensive scheme to increase domestic production.

"In addition to this, the exemption is also being rationalized on tools for the agri-sector which are manufactured in India. Lastly, the announcement of the fiscal year 2022-23 being the International Year of Millets bring a new ray of light for the farmers," he added.

The Solvent Extractors Association of India (SEA) welcomed the announcement made by the finance minister for a comprehensive scheme to increase domestic production of oilseeds to reduce the country's dependence on import of edible oil.

"We are also given to understand that financial outlay for increasing oilseed production is likely to be adequate to have a meaningful impact. This initiative should go a long way in helping reduce our dependence on edible oil imports, which are likely to be around Rs 1.5 lakh crore during the current year and would be in line with our Prime Minister's vision of Atmanirbharta," SEA added.

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Publication	latestly
Date	02 nd February 2022
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India News | Industry, Agri Startups Welcome Budget's Focus on Strengthening Farm Sector

The industry on Tuesday welcomed the Budget's focus on the agriculture sector, including developing infrastructure and expanding the role of technology.

Agency News PTI | Feb 01, 2022 06:36 PM IST



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"In addition to this, the exemption is also being rationalized on tools for the agri-sector which are manufactured in India. Lastly, the announcement of the fiscal year 2022-23 being the International Year of Millets bring a new ray of light for the farmers," he added.

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Publication	Rural Marketing
Date	02 nd February 2022
Hyperlink	https://ruralmarketing.in/stories/budget-2022-croplife-india-welcomes-launch-of-kisan-drones-for-agrochemical-spraying-and-crop-assessment/

Budget 2022: CropLife India welcomes launch of ‘Kisan Drones’ for agrochemical spraying and crop assessment

To promote agricultural drones, the government will facilitate a fund with blended capital raised under the co-investment model through NABARD to finance agri startups and rural enterprises in a PPP mode

By RM Bureau | February 1, 2022



CropLife India, an association of 15 R&D driven crop science companies, has complimented the Government of India for initiating the use of drones for agrochemical spraying in the Union Budget 2022-23. The use of drones will be promoted for crop assessment, digitisation of land records, spraying of insecticides and nutrients. To promote agricultural drones, the government will facilitate a fund with blended capital raised under the co-investment model through NABARD to finance agri startups and rural enterprises in a public-private partnership (PPP) mode. The fund would finance startups for agriculture and rural enterprise relevant for the farm produce value chain. The activities of these startups will include inter-area support for farmer producer organisations (FPOs), machineries for farmers on a rental basis at the farm level and IT-based services.

The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for use of drone application for crop protection in agriculture, forestry and non-cropped areas was released in December 2021. This SOP will render guidance to the stakeholders involved in undertaking safe and effective control of pests and diseases by drone-based application.

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“CropLife India is very happy to be part of the transparent deliberations within Department of Agriculture, Central Insecticide Board and Ministry of Civil Aviation and industry experts in the development of the pragmatic SOP and guidelines for product registration requirements for drone application for agrochemicals, in an exemplary schedule. These guidelines will now be studied and set the benchmark for ongoing engagements in other Asian countries.”

CropLife India and its members have been urging the Government to reduce the GST on agrochemicals from the current 18 per cent to 12 per cent and provide a 200 per cent weighted deduction on R&D expenses by agrochemical companies; both of which would have directly benefited the farmers.

Publication	Topologypro
Date	02 nd February 2022
Hyperlink	https://www.topologypro.one/industry-agri-startups-welcome-budget-s-focus-on-strengthening-farm-sector-211439.html

Industry, agri startups welcome Budget's focus on strengthening farm sector

By Press Trust of India | Mumbai | Last Updated at February 01 2022 19:01 IST



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Publication	Krishak jagat
Date	02 nd February 2022
Hyperlink	https://www.en.krishakjagat.org/india-region/kisan-drones-in-the-union-budget-2022-will-push-digitalization-of-agriculture-croplife-india/

India Region Agriculture Industry

“Kisan Drones” in the Union Budget 2022 will push Digitalization of Agriculture: CropLife India

February 1, 2022 Delhi Bureau

01 February 2022, New Delhi: CropLife India welcomes the Indian government’s decision of initiating the use of Drones for Agrochemical Spraying in the Union Budget 2022-23. The Use of drones will be promoted for crop assessment, digitization of land records, spraying of insecticides and nutrients. The government will facilitate a fund with blended capital raised under the co-investment model through NABARD to finance agri start-ups and rural enterprises in a PPP mode.



Mr. Asitava Sen, Chief Executive Officer, CropLife India

The fund would finance start-ups for agriculture and rural enterprise relevant for farm produce value chain. The activities of these start-ups will include inter-area support for farmer-producer organizations (FPOs), machineries for farmers on a rental basis at the farm level and IT based services.

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CropLife India and its members have been urging the Government to reduce the GST on agrochemicals from the current 18% to 12% and provide 200% weighted deduction on R&D expenses by agrochemical companies; both of which would have directly benefited the farmers.

Publication	The Outreach
Date	02 nd February 2022
Hyperlink	https://theoutreach.in/agri-industry-reacts-to-fm-sitharamans-budget-speech/



Agri industry reacts to FM Sitharaman's Budget speech

February 1, 2022

Atul Chaturvedi, President of the Solvent Extractors' Association (SEA) of India, said SEA of India had been constantly representing to the Government that India's edible oil imports are skyrocketing and seriously compromising edible oil security of the nation needing urgent policy intervention.

He said the announcement made by the Finance Minister for comprehensive scheme to increase domestic production of oilseeds to reduce country's dependence on import of edible oil is a welcome step. "We are also given to understand that financial outlay for increasing oilseed production is likely to be adequate to have a meaningful impact. This initiative should go a long way in helping reduce our dependence on edible oil imports, which are likely to be around ₹1.5 lakh crore during the current year," he said, adding this initiative would be in line with the Prime Minister's vision of Aatmanirbharta.

Amith Agarwal, co-founder and CEO of AgriBazaar (an agritech marketplace), said the Finance Minister's announcement of a comprehensive scheme that reduces the reliance on oilseed imports is good news as it will focus on changing the crop sowing pattern of the Indian farmer. In addition, it will save precious foreign exchange and ensure higher price realization for the Indian farmer.

Millets

Pravesh Sharma, Director of Samunnati Agro, said the theme of this year's Budget seems to be incentivising a forward-looking vision for agriculture. "We also expect the Government to come up with practical solutions to address the pending demand of farmers to provide a legal guarantee of

MSP,” he said. It is great that 2023 has been declared the ‘International Year of Millets’, as this crop is currently not considered in the government schemes and producers are largely small and marginal farmers that too mostly in rain-fed regions. It will be important to ensure the growth of integrated value chains so that the benefits of these nutritious crops can flow back to primary producers.

While the overall thrust of the Budget seems to be on infrastructure, agriculture has not been overlooked. Some key areas such as crop diversification and promotion of domestic oilseeds production are important breakthrough ideas and can have long-term benefits to the agriculture sector.

Prashant Parameswaran, MD and CEO of Tata Consumer Soufull, said India is one of the largest producers of millets. Tata Consumer Products has been working with the Indian Institute of Millet Research (IIMR) to unlock the full potential of millets as a healthier and more sustainable alternative to traditional grains. “We aim to do this through innovation as well as spreading awareness and strengthening advocacy for millets. We hope to grow this category by making millets more mainstream through our Tata Soufull brand and making them available to consumers in convenient and modern formats,” he said.

Shauravi Malik and Meghana Narayan, founders of Slurrr Farm, said with 2023 designated as the International Year of Millets, the awareness around the health benefits of millets and also their environment-friendly cultivation methods will only continue to grow. It is heartening to see that the Union Budget puts the grain in focus, especially by way of branding of millet products nationally and internationally.

This will strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the space of these nutri-cereals in India. A new wave of entrepreneurship is sweeping the nation and the move will allow numerous young Indians to bring their ideas to life and build brands for the new-age Indian consumer.

Dairy

Meenesh Shah, Chairman of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), said the NDDB welcomes reduction in alternate minimum tax (MAT) for cooperatives from 18.5 per cent to 15 per cent and surcharge from 12 per cent to 7 per cent for cooperatives having income ₹1 crore to ₹10 crore. He said the decision will boost development initiatives of dairy cooperatives and ensure better remuneration to millions of farmers.

Sheetal Sharad, Vice President and Sector Head Corporate Ratings, ICRA Ltd, said the increased allocation under the Livestock Health and Disease Control programme from ₹8.86 billion in RE 2021-22 to ₹20 billion in 2022-23 BE, reiterates the government’s focus on supporting livestock betterment. This is expected to bolster cattle productivity and increase raw milk availability for dairy processors. The pandemic has exerted pressure on raw milk availability in the recent flush season given the lower than expected coverage of artificial insemination during cattle breeding period in the first and second waves of the pandemic. Reduction in MAT rates for cooperative societies will positively impact margins of dairy cooperatives lending cushion for further capex in dairy processing and passing on benefits to dairy farmers.

Biogas

AR Shukla, President of Indian Biogas Association, said the emphasis on organic farming should cheer the biogas industry. All of the biogas plants produce organic fertiliser. Allocation of the requested Budget for such development under ‘Biogas Fertilizer Fund’ would make it happen. “We hope that the

details of the scheme will entail these. Five such projects across the Ganges plain region can kickstart the paradigm shift,” he said.

Welcoming the government’s decision to focus on agriculture education, he said all states will be urged to update agriculture university syllabuses to suit the demands of natural zero-budget farming, modern-day agriculture, value addition, and management. He hoped that biogas fertiliser plants will get a proper place in it.

Technology in agri

Taranjeet Singh Bhamra, CEO and Founder of AgNext Technologies, said the Budget’s focus to increase technological intervention in agriculture value chains will further help to cushion the sector against global uncertainties.

The government’s dedicated focus to increasing investment in agriculture and the agri-tech sector will allow for all-inclusive development that will benefit farmers as well as agribusinesses. The proposed PPP (Public Private Partnership) mode scheme to promote the delivery of digital and hi-tech services in the agriculture sector will lead to greater cooperation between the private agritech players and public research institutions.

For agri-tech sector, this is a favourable Budget that will pave the way for the robust growth of the agri-tech players, especially the start-ups, to scale domestically and internationally, he said.

Palat Vijayaraghavan, founder and CEO, Lawrencedale Agro Processing India (LEAF), said the agrarian ecosystem players are hampered by lack of transparent access with actionable information. Digitisation solves this challenge by integrating a virtuous loop between farmers and markets, giving better access to information.

“We need integrated full-stack solutions which will digitise marketplaces, payments, workflows, and farmer transaction histories by connecting buyers, farming inputs, suppliers, ag-techs, and banks with FPOs/farmers, helping to create a commercially sustainable ecosystem comprising all relevant agriculture value chain players with equitable commercial exchange mechanisms. Such an initiative will support the farmers through comprehensive training and capacity building in entire lifecycle of the harvest, including post-harvest management to reduce wastage,” Vijayaraghavan added.

Deepak Yadav, founder of GreenSat Innovation Labs Pvt Ltd, said data has become crucial for the success of almost every activity today. In agriculture, thorough data analysis and data-based predictions are critical aspects that aid in improving the income of farmers, yield quantity, and quality of output. The announcement of steps like stress on digital land records, India’s own digital currency, and increased usage of drones will establish a big data culture in the agriculture sector. These measures will make it easier for tech-backed agri-tech companies to reach out to an expanded set of farmers. With this Budget, one can say that the gap between Indian farmers and prosperity is getting bridged with each passing day.

Navneet Ravikar, Chairman and Managing Director of Leads Connect Services (an agritech company), said the Budget prioritised agri-tech, especially with the push on DeepTech such as AI and geospatial systems. They will go a long way towards making the industry sustainable and bringing it into the 21st century.

A more positive aspect was monitoring agriculture with Kisan drones as well as digitising land records. They will be the biggest leap towards the adoption of technology, bringing change at a national level.

KC Ravi, Chief Sustainability Officer of Syngenta India Pvt Ltd, said the Budget's emphasis on digital infrastructure for infusion of agriculture technologies in a PPP mode will be the need of the hour in the next 25 years to combat the serious threat of climate change.

Amit Sinha, co-founder of Unnati (a fintech powered agri-tech platform), said the Budget has a strong focus on agriculture with a specific focus on the delivery of high-tech services, funding of start-ups through Nabard, focus on 'Drone Shakti' for farmers, climate action. There is a good balance of the short-term and long-term measures. It's very forward-looking with a long-reaching impact on how agriculture will grow in India. These initiatives will solve the core problem of improvement of farm productivity and help improve farm incomes significantly, he said.

Prasanna Rao, Managing Director and co-founder of Arya.ag (an integrated grain commerce platform), said the Union Budget has placed agri-tech in the right limelight with the Finance Minister reposing faith on the role of these new-age players to transform the agriculture sector in the country under the PPP mode. Rao said Finance Minister's assurance on government support to FPOs and small farmers to procure farming equipment as well as gain access to technology-led capabilities and services is also in the right direction.

Mayank Tiwari, founder and CEO, ReshaMandi, said the emphasis on public-private partnership on tech-driven agriculture is a welcome note for most of the agri-tech start-ups. It is great to see the government's continued focus on tech development, especially in the fields of artificial intelligence and blockchain. It is truly the Amrit Kaal for India, he said.

Rajesh Aggarwal of Insecticide India Ltd, said the Budget's emphasis on encouraging the use of 'Kisan Drones' for crop assessment, digitisation of land data, and insecticide and nutrient spraying will undoubtedly provide a boost to the agriculture industry and the input industry as well. Spray by drones will help to save on water and will increase the uniformity and efficacy of crop protection and nutrition products.

Jinesh Shah, Managing Partner of Omnivore, said a blended capital fund under Nabard is interesting as it can provide the FPOs with much-needed assistance. Keeping up with the times, the Government's support for drone use in agriculture and stressing the role of start-ups in facilitating 'drone shakti' is a great leap forward for driving precision farming at scale.

Taranbir Singh, co-founder and CEO of FAARMS, said the digitization is the core essence of the overall budget related to the agricultural and rural sector. The Government intends to include the agro-tech industry in PPP which is a big welcoming step and would set the tone for further much-needed initiatives for the farming community. The launch of the digibank, financial literacy and skilling and livelihood will help boost the overall economy of rural India.

Asitava Sen, CEO of CropLife India, said the Government's push towards digitalization of agriculture coupled with the focus on hi-tech services would enhance rural entrepreneurship and infuse youth back in the farmlands, boosting the income of the farmers.

Siraj Chaudhry, MD and CEO of NCML, said the budget has made a sincere attempt to promote the use of technology in agriculture and make it future-ready. The last-mile digital connectivity has the potential to drastically alter the agri landscape of the country and by announcing the completion date of the Bharat Net project by 2025, the budget has attempted to bridge the digital divide between the villages and urban areas by 2025.

The budget proposes to phase out a large number of exemptions applicable on some agri products, chemicals, drugs. Though the fine print is still awaited this decision might have an inflationary effect on agri nutrients, agrochemicals and pesticides which could further stoke food inflation, he said.

D Narain, President, Bayer South Asia and Global Head of Smallholder Farming, said the announcement in this year's budget on strengthening the delivery of digital and hi-tech services to farmers through the public-private partnership model will go a long way in improving the scaling up of agri value chains and help Indian farmers reap the benefits of technological advancements. Major initiatives like promoting the use of 'kisan drones', funds to finance start-ups for agriculture and rural enterprises, supporting FPOs through these enterprises, and boosting domestic oilseed production, have the potential to transform the sector, he said.

Siddhant Bhomia, co-founder of Krishi Network, said this year's budget is a dream budget for the agriculture sector with a focus on technology-driven solutions. The key themes that come out are tech, capital, and sustainability. The focus on financing startups for agriculture, use of kisan drones, digitization of land records, revision of university courses will help create an impact for a population at scale.

Mughilan Thiru Ramasamy, CEO and co-founder of Skylark Drones, said the introduction of drone shakti will ensure business momentum and drive faster adoption of UAVs in the country. It is encouraging to see the government promoting Digital India and digitisation of various sectors through the integration of UAVs through varied applications and drones as a service.

The announcement to promote the use of 'kisan drones' in the agricultural sector as part of the Budget 2022-23 will enable the drone industry to collaborate with farmers to improve operational efficiency and maximize profitability. This will make India's agricultural sector future-ready.

Pravin Patel, founder of Brio Hydroponics, said the agricultural startup fund will foster innovation and entrepreneurship in the industry, while cutting-edge technology interventions can simultaneously boost sector output and exports. Dedicated funds for field research, as well as an emphasis on associated agro farming, would go a long way toward ensuring the success of starting projects. As agriculture is still largely unstructured and influenced by large landowners, digitization of land records and a minimum support price (MSP) would help minimize all sorts of exploitation, Patel said.

Ankit Chauhan, CFO and co-founder of InfyU LABS, said the Budget will give much needed support in shape of 'kisan drone' and 'drone shakti' programmes, resulting to create a wave of innovation from the emerging agri-tech start-ups leading the agricultural ecosphere to become trillion-dollar economy by 2025.

Kunal Kislay, CEO of Integration Wizards Solutions, said Budget 2022-23 has empowered value creators to invest in India's growth story. Indian agritech startups now have a great opportunity to innovate and help to sustain the economy.

Shardul Sheth, co-founder and CEO of AgroStar, said the expansion of technology focus in the Budget from just tractors and agri-machinery to 'kisan Drones' for crop assessment, digitization of land records, spraying of insecticides and nutrients shows increasing interest in application of IoT to the sector. This budget should help in accelerating the digitalization of the farming community, Sheth said. Kishor Jha, CEO and founder of Ergos (an agri-tech company), said the installation of optical fibres across rural hinterlands will not only bring uninterrupted access to digital services and ensure the best

returns on their produce. The farmers will be able to move from farm-gate to the end buyer directly, efficiently and access small credit from the banks.

Fertilisers and chemicals

Sabyasachi Majumdar, Senior Vice President and Group Head (Corporate Ratings), ICRA Ltd, said that the Government's announcements of promotion of drone-based intervention in pesticide spraying, digitisation of land records and crop assessment are steps towards mechanisation of farms and improvement in productivity.

"The budgetary allocation for the subsidy for the fertiliser sector for 2022-23 is around ₹1,052.1 billion, which, as per ICRA estimates, is inadequate to meet the sector's requirement for the year which we expect at around ₹1,300-1,400 billion," he said.

Duty reduction on key feedstocks like acetic acid and methanol is likely to boost the profitability of manufacturers dependent on imports, however it is a negative for domestic manufacturers of these products, he said. Further, several exemptions are proposed to be gradually phased out and a graded duty structure is likely to be followed. This will encourage intermediate product manufacturing for several sectors, including chemicals, and thus is likely to be favourable for the domestic chemical sector.

Nitesh Jain, Director, CRISIL Ratings, said the revision in the fertiliser subsidy budget for fiscal 2022 to ₹140,000 crore from ₹79,500 crore augurs well for the fertiliser industry. It will help meet the increase in input costs and will contain any material build-up of subsidy receivables for fertiliser manufacturers. Anuj Kumbhat, founder and CEO of WRMS, said the Union Budget promotes chemical-free natural farming to boost sustainable agriculture productivity and income of farmers that will help WRMS align its services better and explore our utmost potential while providing farmers with high-end sustainable agriculture services progressively throughout the country. The budget also brings in picture a comprehensive package of participation of state governments and MSMEs to help farmers adopt natural farming practices; tremendously helpful for us to promote sustainable agriculture at a better pace.

Ritwik Bahuguna, founder of Roots Foundation and Business Director of Wazir Advisors, said the Finance Minister has mentioned that chemical-free farming should be promoted across the country. He said adoption may require targeted policy support – such as input subsidies for organic inputs, including fertilisers and pesticides. In many parts of the country several internationally banned pesticides are still used. There is also a need for sharing information by mobilising self-help groups and grass root organisations in this effort.

RG Agarwal, Group Chairman of Dhanuka Agritech Ltd, said it would have been apt had the Finance Minister also reduced GST and customs duty rates on some of the agro-chemicals products, which would have reduced the overall cost for the farmers.

Sugar

Sabyasachi Majumdar, Senior Vice President and Group Head (Corporate Ratings), ICRA Ltd, said that as a significant step towards increasing blending to meet the target of 20 per cent ethanol blending with petrol by 2025, an additional differential excise duty of ₹2 per litre has been introduced on unblended fuel effective October 1 2022. In the light of increasing crude oil prices globally and the resultant petrol prices in the country, such additional duty and resultant hike in prices to end users would encourage higher usage of blended fuel and accelerate the movement towards achieving the targets provided the necessary distribution infrastructure is created timely. Many large sugar mills are in midst of capacity expansion for distilleries coupled with investments being proposed by grain-based

distilleries and through proposed 12 bio-refineries would facilitate the supplies to meet the long term targets.

Others

Highlighting the positive side of Budget 2022-23, Sandeep Sabharwal, CEO of SLCM Group, said the Budget has provided impetus towards inclusive growth in agriculture. Emphasis on skill development in agriculture with reference to university syllabus revision is a step in the right direction to empower the industry, he said, adding logistics under agri sector has been provided the much-needed boost through creation of new logistics parks and efficient railway network.

However, he said a lot of policy making has been done but focus on execution hasn't been pushed as needed. It would have been a welcome decision if institutions providing agri credit like NBFCs, agri procurement companies were given some schemes to cover agri-related bad debts just as 'bad bank' has been put in service for commercial banks. Fast-track courts for conflict resolution in the agri sector continues to be a distant reality, he added.

Balram Yadav, Managing Director of Godrej Agrovet, said it is a balanced budget that is focused on infrastructure boost, supporting agriculture sector with incentives and technological fillip. River interlinking projects, Ken-Betwa link will definitely improve farming and livelihood facilities to farmers and local population. He said: "There were expectations which have not found space in the budget, but as the Finance Minister stated, it's a budget that looks at overcoming the pangs of pandemic and focus on the next 25 years of growth."

Ravindra Agarwal, founder and Managing Director of KisanKraft Ltd, said the Union Budget was in line with the expectation with continued fiscal discipline and increase in MSP procurement. Systemic changes for land records, crop diversification, import substitution are going to be very helpful in the long run. "However, in our view farm mechanization, farmer education, and agricultural infrastructure like irrigation, weather stations deserved increased allocations," he said.

Tarun Arora, Director of Finance and Operations of IG International, said there is a vision of the Government for the next 10 years in this budget.

The Government has pushed sustainability along with growth. It has the intent to shift the logistics only from roads to multi-modal for home-grown companies. This will help improve time management. Cargo terminals will help in Gati Shakti's development as a result it will lead to the development of infrastructure. "We were hoping there would be more on the cold chain facility as it's integral to the perishable supply chain as well. Overall, it is a Budget with an aspiration to revive the economy, which will bring further growth to the economy," Arora said. Ram Kaundinya, Director General of Federation of Seed Industry of India (FSII), said the Budget did not spell out any specific initiative for the biotech sector, however, it had a few things for the agri sector, especially the thrust on millets and increasing the domestic production of oilseeds.

"In the Economic Survey, the Government underlined the need for enhanced research in agriculture as well as oilseeds in addition to need for crop diversification. However, no announcements to boost research in breeding and biotechnology were made in the Budget. For instance, it would have been in the fitness of things if the Government had said that modern science and biotech would be used to boost oilseeds production in the country," he said.

Dhires, co-founder and CEO of agri-tech startup Neem Tree Agro Solutions, said the Union Budget 2022-23 caters well to the expectation of the farmers. The Government has presented some great initiatives, which is in alignment with the expectations of agri-tech industry. Stating that the promise



to finance start-ups in agriculture and rural enterprises for farm produce value chain in accordance with NABARD is praiseworthy, he said: "We firmly believe that this year is going to be the year of ag-tech start-ups. The year is also important as this is the target year for doubling the farmers' income."

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Industry, agri startups welcome Budget's focus on strengthening farm sector

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The industry on Tuesday welcomed the Budget's focus on the agriculture sector, including developing infrastructure and expanding the role of technology.

"The Budget presented against a backdrop of a strong rebound of the economy has set the foundation for taking agriculture on a sustained higher growth trajectory during the 'Amrit Kal' towards India @100," Syngenta India Chief Sustainability Officer K C Ravi said.

The emphasis on digital infrastructure for infusion of agriculture technologies in public private partnership (PPP) mode will be the need of the hour in the next 25 years to combat the serious threat of climate change, he opined.

"Another significant announcement is the emphasis on use of Kisan Drones for crop assessments, land records, spraying of insecticides and micronutrients, which will be a game changer for the agriculture sector. The implementation of Ken-Betwa link worth Rs 44,605 crore covering 9 lakh hectares addresses the critical need of augmenting irrigation capability," he noted.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday presented the Budget 2022-23 in Parliament that proposed promoting Kisan Drones, chemical-free natural farming, and public-private partnerships for the delivery of digital and high-tech services to farmers across the country.

Godrej Agrovet Managing Director Balram Yadav said it is a balanced Budget that is focused on infrastructure boost, supporting the agriculture sector with incentives and technological fillip. The decision to revise the syllabus of agricultural universities, and use of Kisan drones for crop assessment, digitisation of land records, and spraying of pesticides is a step in the right direction to modernise the farm sector, he said.

Dhanuka Agritech Group Chairman R G Agarwal said the government's focus on augmenting infrastructure via the Gati Shakti plan and focus on the promotion of usage of drones for various farm activities is a welcome step and would immensely help the agriculture sector.

"However, it would have been also apt had the Finance Minister... reduced GST and customs duty rates on some of the agro-chemicals products, which would have reduced the overall cost for the farmers," he added.

Bayer South Asia President and Global Head of Smallholder Farming D Narain said the announcement in this year's Budget on strengthening the delivery of digital and hi-tech services to farmers through the public-private partnership model will go a long way in improving the scaling up of agri value chains and help Indian farmers reap the benefits of technological advancements.

Rallis India (a subsidiary of Tata Chemicals) MD and CEO Sanjiv Lal said the government took important steps to boost the agricultural sector and it clearly reflects in the Budget proposals.

"The budget has been well thought through aiming to reduce the country's dependence on imports of oilseeds through a comprehensive scheme to increase domestic production.

"In addition to this, the exemption is also being rationalized on tools for the agri-sector which are manufactured in India. Lastly, the announcement of the fiscal year 2022-23 being the International Year of Millets bring a new ray of light for the farmers," he added.

The Solvent Extractors Association of India (SEA) welcomed the announcement made by the finance minister for a comprehensive scheme to increase domestic production of oilseeds to reduce the country's dependence on import of edible oil.

"We are also given to understand that financial outlay for increasing oilseed production is likely to be adequate to have a meaningful impact. This initiative should go a long way in helping reduce our dependence on edible oil imports, which are likely to be around Rs 1.5 lakh crore during the current year and would be in line with our Prime Minister's vision of Atmanirbharta," SEA added.

FMC India president Ravi Annavarapu said provision for capital allocation towards aid for agri and rural start-ups, FPOs and Custom Machinery Hiring Centres for farmers will enhance access of small holder farmers to affordable mechanization.

Samunnati Agro Director Pravesh Sharma opined that the theme of this year's Budget seems to be incentivising a forward-looking vision for agriculture.

"I appreciate the government's stance to continue the MSP regime, however, the key would be involving the private sector for building efficiency in MSP procurement. We also expect the government to come up with practical solutions to address the pending demand of farmers to provide a legal guarantee of MSP," he noted.

Licious co-founder Vivek Gupta said, "I am also hopeful that the co-investment model, facilitated through NABARD to finance start-ups for agriculture and rural enterprise will unlock more opportunities there." The capping of the surcharge on the long-term capital gains payable on financial assets, at 15 per cent, is good news for investors in equity shares of start-ups, he added.



AgriBazaar co-founder and CEO Amith Agarwal said one of the key initiatives which will have a ripple effect for the rural economy is the announcement of laying of optical fibre line in villages under the BharatNet project under PPP in 2022-23.

"Similarly, promoting chemical-free natural farming in India is a big step in ensuring healthy produce for Indians and making our agriculture export-ready. Especially for premium markets like Europe, the USA, Japan, etc. Additionally, it will reduce the input expense of the Indian farmer, resurrect soil health, and ensure we take care of mother nature," he added.

IG International Director of Finance and Operations Tarun Arora said the focus on agriculture is much needed for a country like India.

"However, we were hoping there would be more on the cold chain facility as it's integral to the perishable supply chain as well. Overall, it is a Budget with an aspiration to revive the economy, which will bring further growth to the economy," he added.

Asitava Sen, Chief Executive Officer, CropLife India, said, "It is extremely delightful to witness the inclusion of Kisan Drones in the Union Budget 2022-23. The government's push towards digitalization of agriculture coupled with the focus on hi-tech services would enhance rural entrepreneurship and infuse youth back in the farmlands, boosting the income of the farmers."

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Business, agri startups welcome Finances’s deal with strengthening farm sector

The business on Tuesday welcomed the Finances’s deal with the agriculture sector, together with growing infrastructure and increasing the position of know-how.

“The Finances offered in opposition to a backdrop of a powerful rebound of the financial system has set the muse for taking agriculture on a sustained larger development trajectory throughout the ‘Amrit Kal’ in direction of India @100,” Syngenta India Chief Sustainability Officer Ok C Ravi mentioned.

The emphasis on digital infrastructure for infusion of agriculture applied sciences in public non-public partnership (PPP) mode would be the want of the hour within the subsequent 25 years to fight the intense risk of local weather change, he opined.

“One other vital announcement is the emphasis on use of Kisan Drones for crop assessments, land information, spraying of pesticides and micronutrients, which will probably be a recreation changer for the agriculture sector. The implementation of Ken-Betwa hyperlink value Rs 44,605 crore masking 9 lakh hectares addresses the essential want of augmenting irrigation functionality,” he famous.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday offered the Finances 2022-23 in Parliament that proposed selling Kisan Drones, chemical-free pure farming, and public-private partnerships for the supply of digital and high-tech companies to farmers throughout the nation.

Godrej Agrovet Managing Director Balram Yadav mentioned it’s a balanced Finances that’s centered on infrastructure increase, supporting the agriculture sector with incentives and technological fillip.

The choice to revise the syllabus of agricultural universities, and use of Kisan drones for crop evaluation, digitisation of land information, and spraying of pesticides is a step in the precise path to modernise the farm sector, he mentioned.

Dhanuka Agritech Group Chairman R G Agarwal mentioned the federal government’s deal with augmenting infrastructure by way of the Gati Shakti plan and deal with the promotion of utilization of drones for varied farm actions is a welcome step and would immensely assist the agriculture sector.

“Nevertheless, it could have been additionally apt had the Finance Minister... decreased GST and customs responsibility charges on among the agro-chemicals merchandise, which might have decreased the general price for the farmers,” he added.

Bayer South Asia President and International Head of Smallholder Farming D Narain mentioned the announcement on this 12 months’s Finances on strengthening the supply of digital and hi-tech companies to farmers by way of the public-private partnership mannequin will go a great distance in

enhancing the scaling up of agri worth chains and assist Indian farmers reap the advantages of technological developments.

Rallis India (a subsidiary of Tata Chemical compounds) MD and CEO Sanjiv Lal mentioned the federal government took essential steps to spice up the agricultural sector and it clearly displays within the Finances proposals.

“The price range has been nicely thought by way of aiming to cut back the nation’s dependence on imports of oilseeds by way of a complete scheme to extend home manufacturing.

“Along with this, the exemption can be being rationalized on instruments for the agri-sector that are manufactured in India. Lastly, the announcement of the fiscal 12 months 2022-23 being the Worldwide 12 months of Millets deliver a brand new ray of sunshine for the farmers,” he added.

The Solvent Extractors Affiliation of India (SEA) welcomed the announcement made by the finance minister for a complete scheme to extend home manufacturing of oilseeds to cut back the nation’s dependence on import of edible oil.

“We’re additionally given to know that monetary outlay for growing oilseed manufacturing is more likely to be satisfactory to have a significant impression .This initiative ought to go a great distance in serving to cut back our dependence on edible oil imports, that are more likely to be round Rs 1.5 lakh crore throughout the present 12 months and could be in keeping with our Prime Minister’s imaginative and prescient of Atmanirbharta,” SEA added.

FMC India president Ravi Annavarapu mentioned provision for capital allocation in direction of support for agri and rural start-ups, FPOs and Customized Equipment Hiring Centres for farmers will improve entry of small holder farmers to inexpensive mechanization.

Samunnati Agro Director Pravesh Sharma opined that the theme of this 12 months’s Finances appears to be incentivising a forward-looking imaginative and prescient for agriculture.

“I respect the federal government’s stance to proceed the MSP regime, nonetheless, the important thing could be involving the non-public sector for constructing effectivity in MSP procurement. We additionally anticipate the federal government to provide you with sensible options to handle the pending demand of farmers to offer a authorized assure of MSP,” he famous.

Licious co-founder Vivek Gupta mentioned, “I’m additionally hopeful that the co-investment mannequin, facilitated by way of NABARD to finance start-ups for agriculture and rural enterprise will unlock extra alternatives there.”

The capping of the surcharge on the long-term capital positive factors payable on monetary property, at 15 per cent, is nice information for buyers in fairness shares of start-ups, he added.

AgriBazaar co-founder and CEO Amith Agarwal mentioned one of many key initiatives which can have a ripple impact for the agricultural financial system is the announcement of laying of optical fibre line in villages beneath the BharatNet undertaking beneath PPP in 2022-23.

“Equally, selling chemical-free pure farming in India is an enormous step in guaranteeing wholesome produce for Indians and making our agriculture export-ready. Particularly for premium markets like Europe, the USA, Japan, and many others. Moreover, it is going to cut back the enter expense of the Indian farmer, resurrect soil well being, and guarantee we maintain mom nature,” he added.



IG Worldwide Director of Finance and Operations Tarun Arora mentioned the deal with agriculture is way wanted for a rustic like India.

“Nevertheless, we had been hoping there could be extra on the chilly chain facility because it’s integral to the perishable provide chain as nicely. Total, it’s a Finances with an aspiration to revive the financial system, which can deliver additional development to the financial system,” he added.

Asitava Sen, Chief Govt Officer, CropLife India, mentioned, “This can be very pleasant to witness the inclusion of Kisan Drones within the Union Finances 2022-23. The federal government’s push in direction of digitalization of agriculture coupled with the deal with hi-tech companies would improve rural entrepreneurship and infuse youth again within the farmlands, boosting the revenue of the farmers.

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Industry, agri startups welcome Budget’s focus on strengthening farm sector

February 1, 2022

The industry on Tuesday welcomed the Budget’s focus on the agriculture sector, including developing infrastructure and expanding the role of technology.

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The emphasis on digital infrastructure for infusion of agriculture technologies in public private partnership (PPP) mode will be the need of the hour in the next 25 years to combat the serious threat of climate change, he opined.

“Another significant announcement is the emphasis on use of Kisan Drones for crop assessments, land records, spraying of insecticides and micronutrients, which will be a game changer for the agriculture sector. The implementation of Ken-Betwa link worth Rs 44,605 crore covering 9 lakh hectares addresses the critical need of augmenting irrigation capability,” he noted.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday presented the Budget 2022-23 in Parliament that proposed promoting Kisan Drones, chemical-free natural farming, and public-private partnerships for the delivery of digital and high-tech services to farmers across the country.

Godrej Agrovet Managing Director Balram Yadav said it is a balanced Budget that is focused on infrastructure boost, supporting the agriculture sector with incentives and technological fillip.

The decision to revise the syllabus of agricultural universities, and use of Kisan drones for crop assessment, digitisation of land records, and spraying of pesticides is a step in the right direction to modernise the farm sector, he said.

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IG International Director of Finance and Operations Tarun Arora said the focus on agriculture is much needed for a country like India.

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Industry, agri startups welcome Budget's focus on strengthening farm sector

by PTI News | Feb 1, 2022 | 6:25 pm

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Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday presented the Budget 2022-23 in Parliament that proposed promoting Kisan Drones, chemical-free natural farming, and public-private partnerships for the delivery of digital and high-tech services to farmers across the country.

Godrej Agrovet Managing Director Balram Yadav said it is a balanced Budget that is focused on infrastructure boost, supporting the agriculture sector with incentives and technological fillip. The decision to revise the syllabus of agricultural universities, and use of Kisan drones for crop assessment, digitisation of land records, and spraying of pesticides is a step in the right direction to modernise the farm sector, he said.

Dhanuka Agritech Group Chairman R G Agarwal said the government's focus on augmenting infrastructure via the Gati Shakti plan and focus on the promotion of usage of drones for various farm activities is a welcome step and would immensely help the agriculture sector.

"However, it would have been also apt had the Finance Minister... reduced GST and customs duty rates on some of the agro-chemicals products, which would have reduced the overall cost for the farmers," he added.

Bayer South Asia President and Global Head of Smallholder Farming D Narain said the announcement in this year's Budget on strengthening the delivery of digital and hi-tech services to farmers through the public-private partnership model will go a long way in improving the scaling up of agri value chains and help Indian farmers reap the benefits of technological advancements.

Rallis India (a subsidiary of Tata Chemicals) MD and CEO Sanjiv Lal said the government took important steps to boost the agricultural sector and it clearly reflects in the Budget proposals.

“The budget has been well thought through aiming to reduce the country’s dependence on imports of oilseeds through a comprehensive scheme to increase domestic production.

“In addition to this, the exemption is also being rationalized on tools for the agri-sector which are manufactured in India. Lastly, the announcement of the fiscal year 2022-23 being the International Year of Millets bring a new ray of light for the farmers,” he added.

The Solvent Extractors Association of India (SEA) welcomed the announcement made by the finance minister for a comprehensive scheme to increase domestic production of oilseeds to reduce the country’s dependence on import of edible oil.

“We are also given to understand that financial outlay for increasing oilseed production is likely to be adequate to have a meaningful impact. This initiative should go a long way in helping reduce our dependence on edible oil imports, which are likely to be around Rs 1.5 lakh crore during the current year and would be in line with our Prime Minister’s vision of Atmanirbharta,” SEA added.

FMC India president Ravi Annavarapu said provision for capital allocation towards aid for agri and rural start-ups, FPOs and Custom Machinery Hiring Centres for farmers will enhance access of small holder farmers to affordable mechanization.

Samunnati Agro Director Pravesh Sharma opined that the theme of this year’s Budget seems to be incentivising a forward-looking vision for agriculture.

“I appreciate the government’s stance to continue the MSP regime, however, the key would be involving the private sector for building efficiency in MSP procurement. We also expect the government to come up with practical solutions to address the pending demand of farmers to provide a legal guarantee of MSP,” he noted.

Licious co-founder Vivek Gupta said, “I am also hopeful that the co-investment model, facilitated through NABARD to finance start-ups for agriculture and rural enterprise will unlock more opportunities there.” The capping of the surcharge on the long-term capital gains payable on financial assets, at 15 per cent, is good news for investors in equity shares of start-ups, he added.

AgriBazaar co-founder and CEO Amith Agarwal said one of the key initiatives which will have a ripple effect for the rural economy is the announcement of laying of optical fibre line in villages under the BharatNet project under PPP in 2022-23.

“Similarly, promoting chemical-free natural farming in India is a big step in ensuring healthy produce for Indians and making our agriculture export-ready. Especially for premium markets like Europe, the USA, Japan, etc. Additionally, it will reduce the input expense of the Indian farmer, resurrect soil health, and ensure we take care of mother nature,” he added.

IG International Director of Finance and Operations Tarun Arora said the focus on agriculture is much needed for a country like India.



“However, we were hoping there would be more on the cold chain facility as it’s integral to the perishable supply chain as well. Overall, it is a Budget with an aspiration to revive the economy, which will bring further growth to the economy,” he added.

Asitava Sen, Chief Executive Officer, CropLife India, said, “It is extremely delightful to witness the inclusion of Kisan Drones in the Union Budget 2022-23. The government’s push towards digitalization of agriculture coupled with the focus on hi-tech services would enhance rural entrepreneurship and infuse youth back in the farmlands, boosting the income of the farmers.

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Date	02 nd February 2022
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CropLife India Welcomes Launch of ‘Kisan Drones’ for Agrochemical Spraying and Crop Assessment

By Rural Marketing | 2 February 2022

CropLife India, an association of 15 R&D driven crop science companies, has complimented the Government of India for initiating the use of drones for agrochemical spraying in the Union Budget 2022-23, according to RuralMarketing. The use of drones will be promoted for crop assessment, digitisation of land records, spraying of insecticides and nutrients.

To promote agricultural drones, the government will facilitate a fund with blended capital raised under the co-investment model through NABARD to finance agri startups and rural enterprises in a public-private partnership (PPP) mode. The fund would finance startups for agriculture and rural enterprise relevant for the farm produce value chain. The activities of these startups will include inter-area support for farmer producer organizations (FPOs), machineries for farmers on a rental basis at the farm level and IT-based services.

The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for use of drone application for crop protection in agriculture, forestry and non-cropped areas was released in December 2021. This SOP will render guidance to the stakeholders involved in undertaking safe and effective control of pests and diseases by drone-based application.

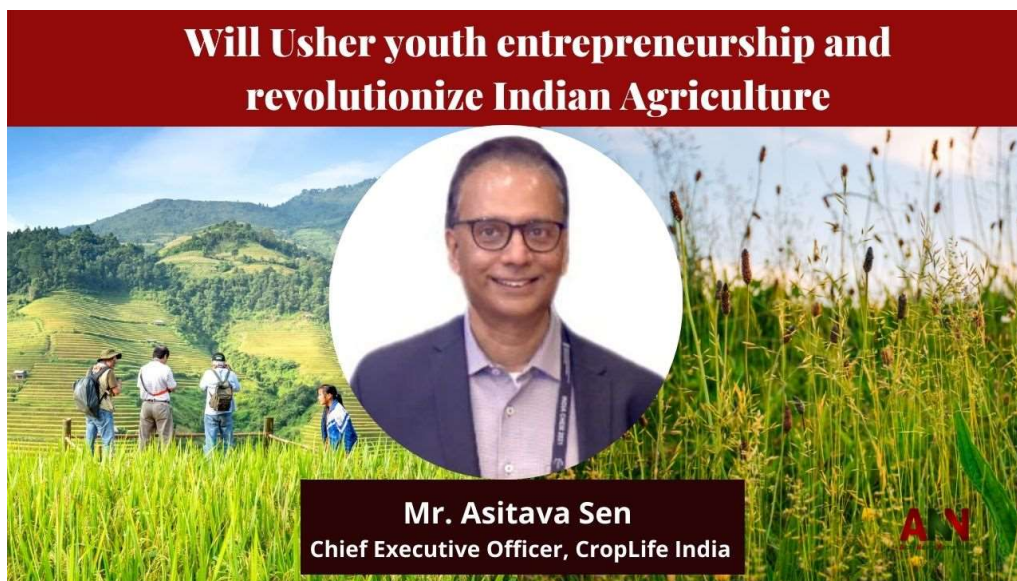
Asitava Sen, Chief Executive Officer, CropLife India, said, “It is extremely delightful to witness the inclusion of ‘Kisan Drones’ in the Union Budget 2022-23. The Government’s push towards digitalization of agriculture coupled with the focus on hi-tech services would enhance rural entrepreneurship and infuse youth back in the farmlands, boosting the income of the farmers.

“CropLife India is very happy to be part of the transparent deliberations within Department of Agriculture, Central Insecticide Board and Ministry of Civil Aviation and industry experts in the development of the pragmatic SOP and guidelines for product registration requirements for drone application for agrochemicals, in an exemplary schedule. These guidelines will now be studied and set the benchmark for ongoing engagements in other Asian countries.

Publication	Agrinewsnetwork
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Will Usher youth entrepreneurship and revolutionize Indian Agriculture

Wednesday 2nd of February 2022 10:31:06 AM



It is extremely delightful to witness the inclusion of “Kisan Drones” in the Union Budget 2022-23. The Government’s push towards *Digitalization of Agriculture* coupled with the focus on Hi-Tech services would enhance rural entrepreneurship and infuse youth back in the farmlands, boosting the income of the farmers.

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CropLife India and its members have been urging the Government to reduce the GST on agrochemicals from the current 18% to 12% and provide 200% weighted deduction on R&D expenses by agrochemical companies; both of which would have directly benefited the farmers.

Publication	Agropages
Date	02 nd February 2022
Hyperlink	https://news.agropages.com/News/NewsDetail---41792.htm

CropLife India acclaims the Government for supporting the use of “Kisan Drones” for Agrochemical Spraying, crop assessment & digitization of land records

-- Will Usher youth entrepreneurship and revolutionize Indian Agriculture

CropLife India, an association of 15 R&D driven crop science companies, and the **leading voice of the plant science industry in India**, compliments the Government of India for initiating the use of Drones for Agrochemical Spraying in the Union Budget 2022-23. The Use of drones will be promoted for crop assessment, digitization of land records, spraying of insecticides and nutrients. The government will facilitate a fund with blended capital raised under the co-investment model through NABARD to finance agri start-ups and rural enterprises in a PPP mode. The fund would finance start-ups for agriculture and rural enterprise relevant for farm produce value chain. The activities of these start-ups will include inter-area support for farmer-producer organizations (FPOs), machineries for farmers on a rental basis at the farm level and IT based services.

The **Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for use of Drone application for crop protection** in agricultural, forestry, non-cropped areas, etc. was released in **December 2021**. This SOP will render guidance to the stakeholders involved in undertaking safe and effective control of Pest and diseases by Drone based application.

Mr. Asitava Sen, Chief Executive Officer, CropLife India shared, "It is extremely delightful to witness the **inclusion of “Kisan Drones” in the Union Budget 2022-23**. The Government’s push towards **Digitalization of Agriculture** coupled with the focus on **Hi-Tech services** would enhance rural entrepreneurship and infuse youth back in the farmlands, boosting the income of the farmers”.

Mr. Sen added, “CropLife India is very happy to be part of the transparent deliberations within Department of Agriculture, Central Insecticide Board and Ministry of Civil Aviation and industry experts in the development of the pragmatic SOP and Guidelines for product Registration requirements for drone application for agrochemicals, in an exemplary schedule. These guidelines will now be studied and set the benchmark for ongoing engagements in other Asian countries.”.

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Publication	Krishi jagran
Date	02 nd February 2022
Hyperlink	https://krishijagran.com/news/union-budget-2022-agri-experts-industrialists-share-their-views/

Agriculture Experts & Industrialists Share Their Views On Budget 2022

Abha Toppo Updated 2 February, 2022 2:16 PM IST Published on 1 February, 2022 4:12 PM IST



Centre will pay Rs. 2.37 lakh crore towards procurement of wheat, paddy under MSP operations

Budget 2022: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman today (1 Feb) presented the annual Budget that was focused on ensuring assured income to the farming community with an announcement of Rs. 2.37 lakh crore as direct payments for minimum support price (MSP) to wheat and paddy growers for the fiscal year 2022-23. She said that "Farm procurement value for FY23 to be ₹2.37 trillion".

It is worth mentioning that the announcement has come after year-long farmers' protest demanding guaranteed MSP for farm produce ended with the Centre repealing three controversial farm laws.
Experts' Views on Budget 2022

Let's know what the agriculture experts and industrialists feel about the budget 2022. Were they happy or disappointed with it?

D Narain, President, Bayer South Asia and Global Head of Smallholder Farming said, "Despite the pandemic's impact on the Indian economy, the agriculture sector has been resilient and continues to be a key driver of economic growth. The announcement in this year's budget on strengthening the delivery of digital and hi-tech services to farmers through the public-private partnership model will go a long way in improving the scaling up of Agri value chains and help Indian farmers reap the benefits of technological advancements. Major initiatives like promoting the use of 'Kissan drones', funds to

finance start-ups for agriculture and rural enterprises, supporting FPOs through these enterprises, and boosting domestic oilseed production, have the potential to transform the sector. At Bayer, we will continue to work with the government and the farmers to boost incomes, deliver on sustainability goals and accelerate rural entrepreneurship and development.”

Simon Wiebusch, Country Divisional Head, Crop Science Division of Bayer for India, Bangladesh & Sri Lanka (IBSL) commented, “Agriculture forms the backbone of India’s economy, facilitating rural employment, development and food security. As part of the agricultural input industry which is an important contributor to this journey of growth, making Indian farmers more sustainable and prosperous, we welcome the continued impetus on agriculture in the Union Budget 2022. We hope that the measures to streamline the Agri value chain and enhance farm productivity through the PPP model will increase smallholder farmer incomes. Boosting domestic oilseed production, ensuring direct monetary benefits to farmers for their agricultural produce, encouraging the use of drones for agriculture and strengthening FPOs through innovation and technology, are steps in the right direction. As a life sciences company with 125 years presence in India, we aim to spearhead efforts towards improving rural prosperity through modern technology and global best practices to support smallholder farmers.”

R. G. Agarwal, Group Chairman, Dhanuka Agritech Ltd. commented that "The Government's focus on augmenting infrastructure via the 'Gati Shakti' plan, focus on the promotion of usage of drones for various farm activities including crop assessment, digitisation of land records, spraying of insecticides and nutrients is indeed a welcome step and would immensely help the agriculture sector. It would have been also apt had the Finance Minister also reduced GST and customs duty rates on some of the agro-chemicals products, which would have reduced the overall cost for the farmers."

Vimal Alawadhi, MD, Best Agrolife Ltd. welcomed the growth-oriented Budget where the Government focused on the overall development of the economy. The Government’s intent to improve the agriculture sector was visible in the Budget announcements. Though we expected various measures for the Indian Agrochemical industry, there was no announcement regarding the industry's growth. Similarly, the farm sector was also eagerly waiting for the reforms to reduce the cost of farm inputs and modern technologies required for increasing the farmer’s income and pushing up the agriculture sector’s growth beyond 3.9%.

He added that in line with the Government’s focus on modern-day agriculture, we will continue educating the farmers about the judicious use of safe agrochemicals.

Rajesh Aggarwal, Insecticide India Ltd. says, this year's budget has a special emphasis on encouraging the use of Kisan Drones for crop assessment, digitization of land data, and insecticide & nutrient spraying. This will undoubtedly provide a boost to the agriculture industry and the input industry as well. Spray by drones will help to save on water and will increase the uniformity and efficacy of crop protection and nutrition products. Tax incentives for agribusiness startups will benefit the overall agriculture sector. The government has also announced that money will be made available through NABARD to finance agricultural and rural enterprise startups relevant to the farm product value chain. All of these actions will tremendously benefit farmers. The government has also reduced the cost of mobile phones, which will encourage more small and marginal farmers to adopt the technology.

Taranjeet Singh Bhamra, CEO & Founder, AgNext Technologies* said, I would like to commend the government for putting forward an enterprising vision of India at 100. The agriculture sector has proven its resilience from external shocks like the COVID pandemic, with growth at 3.9% in FY2021-

22, an increase from 3.6% last year. The budget's focus to increase technological intervention in agriculture value chains will further help to cushion the sector against global uncertainties.

The government's dedicated focus to increasing investment in the agriculture and the agritech sector will allow for all-inclusive development that will benefit farmers as well as agribusinesses. The proposed PPP (Public Private Partnership) mode scheme to promote the delivery of digital and hi-tech services in the agriculture sector will lead to greater cooperation between the private agritech players and public research institutions.

Fiscal support from the government will provide the necessary impetus for the growth of the rural economy and the export potential of India's agri-commodities. For agritech sectors, this is a favorable budget that will pave the way for robust growth of the agritech players, especially the start-ups, to scale domestically and internationally. The emerging agritech startups will enjoy the dual benefits afforded to the sunrise agritech sector and start-up ecosystem in the budget of 2022.

Amit Sinha, Co-Founder, Unnati said, "Budget has a strong focus on agriculture with a specific focus on the delivery of high tech services, funding of startups through NABARD, focus on "Drone Shakti" for farmers, climate action. There is a good balance of the short term and long term measures. It's very forward-looking with a long-reaching impact on how Agriculture will grow in India. These initiatives will solve the core problem of improvement of farm productivity and help improve farm incomes significantly".

Prasanna Rao, MD & Co-founder, Arya.ag said, The Union Budget has set the ball rolling for the agritech sector in the country. The special focus around the post-harvest considerations related to millet farming is a welcome step and will help enhance the country's farm produce quotient. The Budget has also placed agritech in the right limelight with the Finance Minister reposing faith on the role of these new age players to transform the agriculture sector in the country under the PPP mode. Furthermore, Finance Minister's assurance on government support to FPOs (Farmer Producer Organizations) and small farmers to procure farming equipment as well as gain access to technology-led capabilities and services is also in the right direction. Overall the intent to inculcate a strong element of digitization in form of Kisan drones for crop assessment, in the agri value chain, will leapfrog India's place in the global agriculture landscape. Pertaining to start-ups, the move to extend the tax incentive scheme till March, 2023 is encouraging and will benefit a large set of players.

Sandeep Sabharwal, CEO, SLCM Group said Budget 2022-23 has provided impetus towards inclusive growth in Agriculture. Announcements on digitalization, NABARD fund with blended capital to fund startups is also a welcome move. Emphasis on skill development in agriculture with reference to university syllabus revision is a step in the right direction to empower the industry. Logistics under agri sector has been provided the much needed boost through creation of new logistics parks and efficient railway network.

On the other hand, a lot of policy making has been done but focus on execution hasn't been pushed as needed. industry demands like Rationalize GST , getting cheaper Insurance for Agri has not been given required attention. It would have been a welcome decision if institutions providing Agri credit like NBFC's , Agri procurement companies were given some schemes to cover Agri related bad debts just as Bad bank has been put in service for commercial banks. Fast Track courts for conflict resolution in the agri sector continue to be a distant reality.

Amit Saraogi, Managing Director, Anmol Feeds, Chairman for Livestock Taskforce, CII for Eastern Regional Council, Director Member of MCC Chambers of Commerce & Industry and Chairman of

Council on Animal Husbandry, Fisheries & Rural the year 2021-2022 said, the livestock and animal husbandry sector contributes 4.11% to GDP and 25.6% to total agriculture GDP, yet there was inadequate attention presented to the sector in the Union Budget of 2022. Duty reduction on certain inputs required for shrimp aquaculture to promote its exports is a welcome move as it will further boost entrepreneurial mindset and help in job creation. Lowering production cost of shrimp hatchery and feed will promote growth in the sector. The fisheries and aquaculture sector has tremendous potential to generate livelihood and income. However, marine and dairy products were left untouched by the budget. Like announcements made for wheat and paddy farmers, MSP was needed to be fixed for the poultry sector as well. This would have benefited the poultry farmers to a large extent. The industry also expected a viable solution towards controlling the ever spiraling of the raw material prices as it has been plaguing the already overburdened industry. The budget for Blue Revolution has not been outlaid.

He added that the blended capital fund to startups for agriculture & rural enterprise will be valuable for the sector. Making optimum utilization of technology and IT in the farming sector is required for modernization of the industry and keeping up with the post digital world. While development of infrastructure, roads and railways will also benefit the agriculture sector in terms of efficient logistical and supply chain management, the industry expected a lot more from the Budget to support farmers who are the backbone of our country.

Ajay Kakra, Leader – Food and Agriculture, PwC India said, “The focus on start-ups and AgriTech in the budget will be helpful for the development of a digital ecosystem and technology inclusion in the agri sector. However, most industry aspirations remain unmet.

Balram Yadav, Managing Director of Godrej Agrovet said, “It is a balanced budget that is focused on infrastructure boost, supporting agriculture sector with incentives and technological fillip. River interlinking projects, Ken-Betwa link will definitely improve farming and livelihood facilities to farmers and local population. The decision to revise syllabi of agricultural universities, and use of Kisan drones for crop assessment, digitization of land records, spraying of insect pesticides is a step in the right direction to modernize the agriculture sector. Introduction of post offices into the core banking sector will provide an impetus to financial inclusion in the rural parts of the country. Yes, there were expectations which have not found space in the budget, but as the FM stated, it’s a budget that looks at overcoming the pangs of pandemic and focus on the next 25 years of growth.”

Subhashis Banerjee, CIO, ARTPARK (AI & Robotics Technology Park) said, "Using Drones for crop assessment, digitization of land records as well as spraying of insecticides and nutrients is a great initiative taken by the Indian government. The agriculture sector will be transformed with the use of drones as well as other futuristic technologies. Govt should take steps to enhance this technology and map the efficacy of such measures so that there is quantifiable data for future decision making. At ARTPARK, we are already supporting General Aviation under ARTPARK innovation program to bring this initiative by the government into reality."

D.R.E Reddy, CEO and Managing Partner, CRCL LLP said, "The Union Budget 22-23 have taken a growth-oriented approach for most of the sector focusing majorly on agriculture, farming, education and health sector. Starting with the PM Gati Shakti which will put forth the economy giving a boost to the supply chain and employing over 44% of the population in this sector while continuing to contribute to the country’s gross value. The encouragement to Agricultural universities will create necessary awareness of organic farming, modern-day agriculture, and will enable to provide better career opportunities for the upcoming generation. The idea of the Kisan drone for crop assessment, digitization of land records, spraying of insecticides and nutrients will give inclusive development to farming. With this phase, India is to grow at 9.27%, the highest among all large economies. With a

focus on contributing to the environment, chemical-free natural farming focusing on soil, biodiversity and human well-being is a welcome move.

Overall major decisions taken are favouring in striking a balance between boosting rural demand and investing in infrastructure while continuing on the path of fiscal consolidation to maintain macro stability."

Siraj Chaudhry, MD & CEO, NCML said, the budget has made a sincere attempt to promote the use of technology in Agriculture and make it future-ready. The last mile digital connectivity has the potential to drastically alter the Agri landscape of the country and by announcing the completion date of the Bharat Net project by 2025, the budget has attempted to bridge the digital divide between the villages and urban areas by 2025. Steps like the provision of funds through NABARD for Agri start-ups and rural enterprises will help in infusing capital in the budding ecosystem of value chain start-ups along with ensuring delivery of digital and hi-tech services to farmers and stakeholders of Agri value chains. With the availability of cheaper funds, these value chain start-ups will be able to widen their reach and help in providing much-needed technical support to farmers. Emphasis on the use of Kisan drones for crop assessments, digitization of land records are welcome steps and would help companies involved in the gathering of crop and weather data.

The announcement of a domestic scheme to reduce dependence on oilseed imports seems to be in line with the previously announced National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm with a financial outlay of Rs.11,040 crores for reducing the edible oil imports. There is a real need to align the academic research in Agriculture with the market and the proposed reforms in the syllabi of Agricultural universities to align it with the needs of modern-day agriculture has been a long-standing demand of the Agriculture sector which finally seems to be fulfilled.

He added that the budget proposes to phase out a large number of exemptions applicable on some Agri products, chemicals, drugs. Though the fine print is still awaited this decision might have an inflationary effect on Agri nutrients, agrochemicals and pesticides which could further stoke food inflation.

CropLife India, an association of 15 R&D driven crop science companies, and the leading voice of the plant science industry in India, compliments the Government of India for initiating the use of Drones for Agrochemical Spraying in the Union Budget 2022-23. The use of drones will be promoted for crop assessment, digitization of land records, spraying of insecticides and nutrients. The government will facilitate a fund with blended capital raised under the co-investment model through NABARD to finance agri start-ups and rural enterprises in a PPP model. The fund would finance start-ups for agriculture and rural enterprise relevant for the farm produce value chain. The activities of these start-ups will include inter-area support for farmer-producer organizations (FPOs), machinery for farmers on a rental basis at the farm level, and IT-based services.

Asitava Sen, Chief Executive Officer, CropLife India shared, "It is extremely delightful to witness the inclusion of "Kisan Drones" in the Union Budget 2022-23. The Government's push towards Digitalization of Agriculture coupled with the focus on Hi-Tech services would enhance rural entrepreneurship and infuse youth back in the farmlands, boosting the income of the farmers".

Sen added, "CropLife India is very happy to be part of the transparent deliberations within Department of Agriculture, Central Insecticide Board and Ministry of Civil Aviation and industry experts in the development of the pragmatic SOP and Guidelines for product Registration requirements for drone application for agrochemicals, in an exemplary schedule. These guidelines will now be studied and set the benchmark for ongoing engagements in other Asian countries."

Raman Bhatia, Founder & Managing Director, Servotech Power Systems Limited said, the key decisions made on the renewable energy front illustrated in the Union Budget 2022 precisely addresses the most critical challenges halting India's speedy transition to a clean new era. The allocation of additional Rs 19,500 cr to the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) for the development of high-efficiency solar modules, thoughtful policies & action plans, supporting incentives for green bonds would not only accelerate our pace to achieve the 2030 target of 280 GW of installed solar capacity but would also help deliver on the 2070 net-zero emissions target commitment made by PM Narendra Modi at the COP26 summit held last year in Glasgow and play a pivotal role in tackling the global crisis of climate change.

Sanjiv Lal, MD and CEO, Rallis India, "Firstly, I must compliment the government for the pro-agriculture budget. The Government took important steps to boost the agricultural sector and it clearly reflects in the budget proposals. The involvement of Kisan drones for crop assessment, land records, and spraying of insecticides will not just drive the use of technology in the agriculture sector but also open up a spectrum of new development opportunities for farmers. The digital delivery of hi-tech services to farmers using the PPP model, with the involvement of public sector research, institutions, and other stakeholders of the agriculture value chains, is a key reform needed to keep up with the new era of digitization. The budget has been well thought through aiming to reduce the country's dependence on imports of oilseeds through a comprehensive scheme to increase domestic production. In addition to this, the exemption is also being rationalized on tools for the agri-sector which are manufactured in India. Lastly, the announcement of the fiscal year 2022-23 being the International Year of Millets bring a new ray of light for the farmers."

Ram Kaundinya, Director General, Federation of Seed Industry of India (FSII) said, "The Budget did not spell out any specific initiative for the biotech sector, however, it had a few things for the agri sector—especially the thrust on millets and increasing the domestic production of oilseeds. In the Economic Survey, the government underlined the need for enhanced research in agriculture as well as oilseeds in addition to the need for crop diversification. However, no announcements to boost research in breeding and biotechnology were made in the Budget. For instance, It would have been in the fitness of things if the government had said that modern science and biotech would be used to boost oilseeds production in the country. Also some incentives for crop diversification from rice and wheat to Oilseeds would have been very appropriate. Our industry sought restoration of tax-deductibility of research expenditure but looks like it has not been approved."

George Rajkumar, Country President, Grundfos India said, "Budget 2022 has laid the foundation for India@100 with the Government showing its commitment towards a sustainable and a greener future for Indians. With India expected to grow at 9.27%, the much-needed impetus towards climate action has been observed in this year's budget. The allocation of INR 60,000 crores towards the 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal' initiative to connect 3.8 crore households with tap water connection is commendable and will also boost the country's water infrastructure. While nearly half of our population is residing in urban areas, the focus on sustainable measures for megacities must also include sustainable management of water and wastewater to prevent loss of water, improve recycling and also reduce destruction from natural calamities such as floods and droughts. The roadmap of transitioning towards a circular economy across sectors is also a welcoming move and will have a direct impact on our fight against climate change. The introduction of sovereign green bonds for funding of green infrastructure and the energy audit mechanisms for large commercial buildings will be a game-changer for infrastructure projects, enabling further carbon reduction while we grow our economy by leaps and bounds."

Deepak Yadav, Founder, GreenSat Innovation Labs Pvt Ltd. said, the budget for 2022 has given both impetus and direction to the Agri-tech revolution, which has been gaining momentum in the country

for the last few years. With the rapid penetration of technology and agriculture being the primary industry; it is encouraging to see the government take steps towards the promotion of this trend. The introduction of funding for start-ups via Nabard will help resolve the seed capital issues faced by numerous entrepreneurs. Today, data has become crucial for the success of almost every activity. In agriculture, thorough data analysis and data-based predictions are critical aspects that aid in improving the income of farmers, yield quantity, and quality of output. The announcement of steps like stress on Digital land records, India's own digital currency, and increased usage of drones will establish a Big Data culture in the agriculture sector. These measures will make it easier for tech-backed agri-tech companies to reach out to an expanded set of farmers. With this budget, one can say that the gap between Indian farmers and prosperity is getting bridged with each passing day.

Dr. Kishore Indukuri, Founder & MD, Sid's Farm said, "We at Sid's Farm welcome the initiatives for farmers in the Union Budget of 2022. As a boost to our vision of natural farming, the Government has announced the promotion of chemical-free natural farming throughout the country. That the Government will launch a scheme of PPP mode with the involvement of public sector research and extension institutions along with private agritech players and stakeholders of agri value chains, is also an encouraging step towards creating efficient building blocks and greater reach. All in all, a good budget for the agri sector."

Dhires, Co-founder and CEO of agri-tech startup Neem Tree Agro Solutions, says that The union budget 2022, caters well to the expectation of the farmers. Their pending MSP of 2.37 lakh crores for the Rabi season wheat and Kharif season paddy will be directly paid to them in their bank accounts, which I feel is an upright step. Availability of credit facilities has always been an area for the government to ponder upon and the budget 2022 deals with it in an effective way. Also key steps like the introduction of domestic schemes to reduce dependency on oilseed imports and infrastructure development by railways for small farmers was the need of the hour and I feel good to see it being incorporated in the Budget.

The expectations of the agritech industry was exorbitant from this year's Union budget and the Government has presented some great initiatives, which is in alignment with the expectations. The promise to finance start-ups in agriculture and rural enterprises for farm produce value chain in accordance with NABARD is praiseworthy. Use of Kisan Drones for crop assessments, land records and spraying of insecticides is very convenient. We firmly believe that this year is going to be the year of ag-tech start-ups, the year is also important as this is the target year for doubling the farmers' income. Mrityunjaya Singh, Managing Director, CLAAS Agricultural Machinery Pvt. Ltd. says, "We at CLAAS India have always believed in the welfare of farmers by promoting effective farm practices. The outlay of direct MSP in the Union Budget for paddy & wheat will be a boon to small & medium-sized farmers. The focus on digital intervention to improve farming efficiency will further boost this subject where a lot of action is already being seen through start-up enterprises. The inclusion of post-harvest processes, targeted use of biomass in Thermal power plants will result in major protection of the environment. CLAAS sees this as an opportunity to grow further in India and make farmers' lives even better with the support of the government."

Ramesh Doraiswami, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, National Bulk Handling Corporation (NBHC) said, "We welcome the proposals announced in the Union Budget presented by the Hon'ble Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman yesterday. The Budget priority on stimulating growth and employment through a substantial infra-led capital investment of Rs.7.5 lakh crores is commendable. Another notable feature of the Union Budget is its support to technology-led growth. Agriculture sector has been given further impetus through initiatives such as the Oilseeds mission,

promotion of Kisan Drones for crop assessment/protection, direct MSP benefit credit to farmers, support to organic farming and the post-harvest value chain.”



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ड्रोन द्वारा Agrochemical छिड़काव के लिए CropLife India ने की भारत सरकार की सराहना

क्रॉपलाइफ इंडिया, (CropLife India) ने केंद्रीय बजट 2022-23 में एग्रोकेमिकल (Agrochemical) छिड़काव के लिए ड्रोन (Drone) के उपयोग की शुरुआत करने के लिए भारत सरकार की सराहना करते हुए कहा है कि सरकार द्वारा यह एक उचित कदम है। फसल मूल्यांकन, भूमि अभिलेखों के डिजिटलीकरण, कीटनाशकों और पोषक तत्वों के छिड़काव के लिए ड्रोन के उपयोग को बढ़ावा दिया जाएगा।



क्रॉपलाइफ इंडिया, (CropLife India) ने केंद्रीय बजट 2022-23 में एग्रोकेमिकल (Agrochemical) छिड़काव के लिए ड्रोन (Drone) के उपयोग की शुरुआत करने के लिए भारत सरकार की सराहना करते हुए कहा है कि सरकार द्वारा यह एक उचित कदम है। फसल मूल्यांकन, भूमि अभिलेखों के डिजिटलीकरण, कीटनाशकों और पोषक तत्वों के छिड़काव के लिए ड्रोन के उपयोग को बढ़ावा दिया जाएगा। पीपीपी मोड में कृषि स्टार्ट-अप और ग्रामीण उद्यमों को वित्तपोषित करने के लिए सरकार नाबार्ड के माध्यम से सह-निवेश मॉडल के तहत जुटाई गई मिश्रित पूंजी के साथ एक फंड की सुविधा प्रदान करेगी। यह फंड कृषि उपज मूल्य श्रृंखला के लिए प्रासंगिक कृषि और ग्रामीण उद्यम के लिए स्टार्ट-अप को वित्तपोषित करेगा। इन स्टार्ट-अप की गतिविधियों में किसान-उत्पादक संगठनों (एफपीओ) के लिए अंतर-क्षेत्रीय समर्थन, किसानों के लिए कृषि स्तर पर किराये के आधार पर मशीनरी और आईटी आधारित सेवाएं शामिल होंगी।

कृषि, वानिकी, गैर-फसल क्षेत्रों आदि में फसल सुरक्षा के लिए ड्रोन एप्लिकेशन के उपयोग के लिए मानक संचालन प्रक्रिया (एसओपी) दिसंबर 2021 में जारी की गई थी। यह एसओपी कीट के सुरक्षित और प्रभावी नियंत्रण में शामिल हितधारकों को मार्गदर्शन प्रदान करेगा।

क्रॉपलाइफ इंडिया के मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी असितवा सेन ने साझा किया, "केंद्रीय बजट 2022-23 में" किसान ड्रोन "को शामिल करते हुए देखना बेहद सुखद है। कृषि के डिजिटलीकरण की दिशा में सरकार का जोर हाई-टेक पर ध्यान केंद्रित करना है। सेवाओं से ग्रामीण उद्यमिता बढ़ेगी और किसानों की आय में वृद्धि करते हुए युवाओं को खेतों में वापस लाया जाएगा।

सेन ने आगे कहा, "क्रॉपलाइफ इंडिया कृषि विभाग, केंद्रीय कीटनाशक बोर्ड और नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय और उद्योग के विशेषज्ञों के बीच पारदर्शी विचार-विमर्श का हिस्सा बनकर बहुत खुश है, जो ड्रोन एप्लिकेशन के लिए उत्पाद पंजीकरण आवश्यकताओं के लिए व्यावहारिक एसओपी और दिशानिर्देशों के विकास में एग्रोकेमिकल्स के लिए, एक अनुकरणीय अनुसूची में है। अब इन दिशा-निर्देशों का अध्ययन किया जाएगा और अन्य एशियाई देशों में चल रहे कार्यक्रमों के लिए बेंचमार्क स्थापित किया जाएगा।

क्रॉपलाइफ इंडिया और इसके सदस्य सरकार से कृषि रसायनों पर जीएसटी को मौजूदा 18% से घटाकर 12% करने का आग्रह कर रहे हैं और कृषि रसायन कंपनियों द्वारा अनुसंधान एवं विकास खर्चों पर 200% भारित कटौती प्रदान करते हैं जिसका सीधा फायदा किसानों को होगा।

Publication	The Blogger
Date	02 nd February 2022
Hyperlink	https://www.theblogger.in/industry-agri-startups-welcome-budgets-focus-on-strengthening-farm-sector/

INDUSTRY, AGRI STARTUPS WELCOME BUDGET'S FOCUS ON STRENGTHENING FARM SECTOR

Feb 1, 2022



The industry on Tuesday welcomed the Budget's focus on the agriculture sector, including developing infrastructure and expanding the role of technology.

"The Budget presented against a backdrop of a strong rebound of the economy has set the foundation for taking agriculture on a sustained higher growth trajectory during the 'Amrit Kal' towards India @100," Syngenta India Chief Sustainability Officer K C Ravi said.

The emphasis on digital infrastructure for infusion of agriculture technologies in public private partnership (PPP) mode will be the need of the hour in the next 25 years to combat the serious threat of climate change, he opined.

"Another significant announcement is the emphasis on use of Kisan Drones for crop assessments, land records, spraying of insecticides and micronutrients, which will be a game changer for the agriculture sector. The implementation of Ken-Betwa link worth Rs 44,605 crore covering 9 lakh hectares addresses the critical need of augmenting irrigation capability," he noted.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday presented the Budget 2022-23 in Parliament that proposed promoting Kisan Drones, chemical-free natural farming, and public-private partnerships for the delivery of digital and high-tech services to farmers across the country.

Godrej Agrovet Managing Director Balram Yadav said it is a balanced Budget that is focused on infrastructure boost, supporting the agriculture sector with incentives and technological fillip. The decision to revise the syllabus of agricultural universities, and use of Kisan drones for crop assessment, digitisation of land records, and spraying of pesticides is a step in the right direction to modernise the farm sector, he said.

Dhanuka Agritech Group Chairman R G Agarwal said the government's focus on augmenting infrastructure via the Gati Shakti plan and focus on the promotion of usage of drones for various farm activities is a welcome step and would immensely help the agriculture sector.

"However, it would have been also apt had the Finance Minister... reduced GST and customs duty rates on some of the agro-chemicals products, which would have reduced the overall cost for the farmers," he added.

Bayer South Asia President and Global Head of Smallholder Farming D Narain said the announcement in this year's Budget on strengthening the delivery of digital and hi-tech services to farmers through the public-private partnership model will go a long way in improving the scaling up of agri value chains and help Indian farmers reap the benefits of technological advancements.

Rallis India (a subsidiary of Tata Chemicals) MD and CEO Sanjiv Lal said the government took important steps to boost the agricultural sector and it clearly reflects in the Budget proposals. "The budget has been well thought through aiming to reduce the country's dependence on imports of oilseeds through a comprehensive scheme to increase domestic production.

"In addition to this, the exemption is also being rationalized on tools for the agri-sector which are manufactured in India. Lastly, the announcement of the fiscal year 2022-23 being the International Year of Millets bring a new ray of light for the farmers," he added.

The Solvent Extractors Association of India (SEA) welcomed the announcement made by the finance minister for a comprehensive scheme to increase domestic production of oilseeds to reduce the country's dependence on import of edible oil.

"We are also given to understand that financial outlay for increasing oilseed production is likely to be adequate to have a meaningful impact. This initiative should go a long way in helping reduce our dependence on edible oil imports, which are likely to be around Rs 1.5 lakh crore during the current year and would be in line with our Prime Minister's vision of Atmanirbharta," SEA added.

FMC India president Ravi Annavarapu said provision for capital allocation towards aid for agri and rural start-ups, FPOs and Custom Machinery Hiring Centres for farmers will enhance access of small holder farmers to affordable mechanization.

Samunnati Agro Director Pravesh Sharma opined that the theme of this year's Budget seems to be incentivising a forward-looking vision for agriculture.

"I appreciate the government's stance to continue the MSP regime, however, the key would be involving the private sector for building efficiency in MSP procurement. We also expect the

government to come up with practical solutions to address the pending demand of farmers to provide a legal guarantee of MSP," he noted.

Licious co-founder Vivek Gupta said, "I am also hopeful that the co-investment model, facilitated through NABARD to finance start-ups for agriculture and rural enterprise will unlock more opportunities there."

The capping of the surcharge on the long-term capital gains payable on financial assets, at 15 per cent, is good news for investors in equity shares of start-ups, he added.

AgriBazaar co-founder and CEO Amith Agarwal said one of the key initiatives which will have a ripple effect for the rural economy is the announcement of laying of optical fibre line in villages under the BharatNet project under PPP in 2022-23.

"Similarly, promoting chemical-free natural farming in India is a big step in ensuring healthy produce for Indians and making our agriculture export-ready. Especially for premium markets like Europe, the USA, Japan, etc. Additionally, it will reduce the input expense of the Indian farmer, resurrect soil health, and ensure we take care of mother nature," he added.

IG International Director of Finance and Operations Tarun Arora said the focus on agriculture is much needed for a country like India.

"However, we were hoping there would be more on the cold chain facility as it's integral to the perishable supply chain as well. Overall, it is a Budget with an aspiration to revive the economy, which will bring further growth to the economy," he added.

Asitava Sen, Chief Executive Officer, CropLife India, said, "It is extremely delightful to witness the inclusion of Kisan Drones in the Union Budget 2022-23. The government's push towards digitalization of agriculture coupled with the focus on hi-tech services would enhance rural entrepreneurship and infuse youth back in the farmlands, boosting the income of the farmers.

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Date	02 nd February 2022
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Industry, agri startups welcome Budget's focus on strengthening farm sector

February 1, 2022

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Date	02 nd February 2022
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CropLife India hails provisions for drones in country's budget IHS Markit

2 Feb 2022 - Crop Science | Headline Analysis

Agrochemical industry association CropLife India has commended the Indian government's provisions for agricultural drones in the national budget, which was presented on February 1st. It notes that the government's focus on implementing drone-based agrochemical spraying through funding arrangements for start-ups and rural enterprises will boost the sector. The funding will include blended capital raised under a co-investment model through the country's National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). NABARD is an apex regulatory body for overall regulation of regional rural banks and apex cooperative banks in India.

CropLife India's chief executive officer, Asitava Sen, hails the inclusion of "kisan drones" (farming drones) in the national budget, for which the association put forth a range of **suggestions** to the government in November.

In December, India released a standard operating procedure (SOP) involving the use of drones for the application of pesticides in agriculture, forestry and non-cropped areas.

Analyst Contact Details: Akashpratim Mukhopadhyay

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CropLife India hails govt's focus on agriculture



GOVERNMENT'S FOCUS ON IMPLEMENTING DRONE-BASED AGROCHEMICAL SPRAYING TO BOOST THE SECTOR

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