

Connecting Innovators with Corporates- Drone Applications in Agriculture & Crop Protection

Wednesday, 29th June 2022, 16:00 hrs to 18:00 hrs IST

On Zoom Webinar

Background

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, during his speech at the recently held Drone Festival of India 2022, had said- "At a time when we are celebrating **Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav**, it is my dream that everyone in India should have a smartphone in his or her hand, every farm should have a drone and every house should have prosperity." The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India had recently announced slew of financial assistance to promote the use of **Kisan Drones** and make drone technology affordable to the farmers and other stakeholders of the sector in crop assessment, digitization of land records, spraying of pesticides and nutrients, etc. Further, the Ministry of Civil Aviation issued The Drone Rules and the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare also issued the SOPs for use of Drone Application with pesticides for crop protection and for spraying soil and crop nutrients in agricultural, forestry, non-cropped areas, etc. In order to strengthen **Atmanirbhar Bharat & 'Make in India'** programs, the Government of India banned the import of drones, except for R&D, defence and security purposes. Coupled with this, the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India also launched the PLI scheme for drones and drone components.

With all the favourable policy support coming in from the Government, a conducive ecosystem would need to be developed in order to ensure faster adoption of drones in Indian Agriculture. All the ecosystem stakeholders- Government, Agricultural Universities, Research Institutions, Corporates, Industry Associations, Drone Training Institutes, Drones manufacturers, Drone service providers, FPOs, farmers, Agri & Rural Entrepreneurs, etc. will have to work in tandem towards achieving this. Many Agri input companies are exploring avenues for improving farmers' stickiness through innovations in products and methods of application. Hence, going forward, the demand for customised **Drone-as-a-service** models (Agricultural applications and Crop protection) is bound to rise by leaps and bounds. A huge opportunity lies ahead for the startups (into Drone manufacturing and offering Drone-as-a-Service) to scale up adoption of Drone applications in Agriculture by way of collaboration with the Agri input Corporates.

ThinkAg (www.thinkag.co.in) and CropLife India (www.croplifeindia.org) would be co-hosting a virtual innovation showcase of some potential Drone-based startups on 29th June 2022, at 16:00 hrs IST, to an audience comprising majorly of Agrochemical companies and other Agri input companies.

The focus is to offer a 'focused platform for partnerships' for the startups to –

- (i) Present their product, service, offering, etc.
- (ii) Highlight use cases specific to the Industry, crops, geographies, etc. and
- (iii) Propose their engagement / business models for Agrochemical companies / Agri input companies.

Post the event, based on any specific requests coming in from the attendee organisations, the co-hosts would connect the stakeholders for one-to-one exploratory discussions.

Program

Opening Remarks- **Hemendra Mathur**, Co-Founder, ThinkAg

Keynote address- **Smt. Shomita Biswas, Joint Secretary (M&T), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Government of India**

Presentation- (90 mins)

Anchor- **Asitava Sen**, Chief Executive Officer, CropLife India

Co-Anchor- **Hemendra Mathur**, Co-Founder, ThinkAg

Drone Presenters-

- **Prem Kumar Vislawath**, Founder & Chief Innovator, Marut Drones

- **Amandeep Panwar**, ED & CEO, BharatRohan Airborne Innovations

- **Deepak Bhardwaj**, Co-Founder & Director, IoTechWorld Avigation

- **Pradeep Palelli**, Co-Founder & CEO, Thanos Technologies

- **Raja Raman**, CBO & Board Member, Dhaksha Unmanned Systems

- **Prayas Saxena**, Founder & CEO, Skylane Dronetech

Concluding Remarks & Vote of Thanks- **Dr. S. Mallikarjunappa**, Senior Advisor (former VP-R&D), Rallis India
