



# AGROCHEMICALS - THE ROAD AHEAD

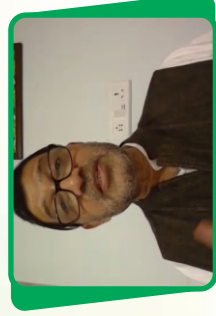
40<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (Virtual)  
12<sup>th</sup> October, 2020



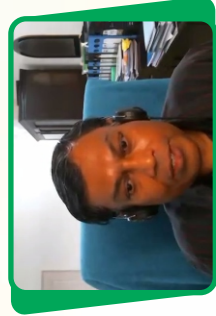
# CropLife India's 40<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting and Open House-Virtual Conference AGROCHEMICALS - The Road Ahead 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020



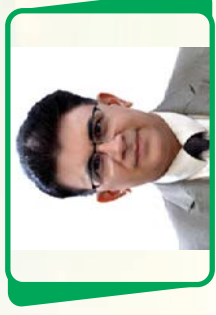
**Shri Parshottambhai Rupala**  
Hon'ble Minister of State,  
Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare,  
Government of India



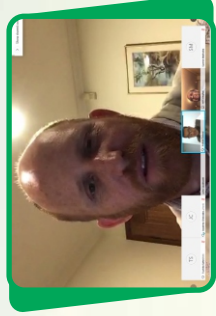
**Dr. Ashok Dalwai**  
CEO  
National Rainfed Area Authority  
Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare



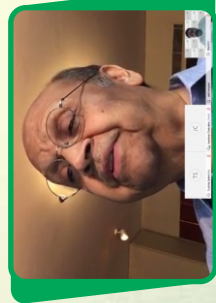
**Mr. Samir Kumar Biswas**  
Additional Secretary,  
Dept. of Chemicals & Petrochemicals,  
Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers



**Dr. S. K. Malhotra**  
Agriculture Commissioner,  
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare



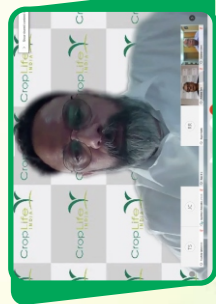
**Mr. John Southwell**  
Counsellor (Agriculture),  
Australian High Commission



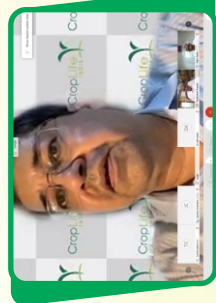
**Mr. Salil Singhal**  
Chairman Emeritus,  
PI Industries Ltd.



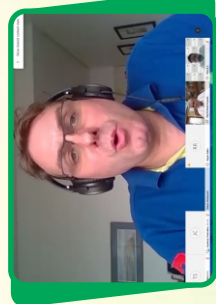
**Mr. K. K. Unni**  
Chairman Emeritus,  
CropLife India



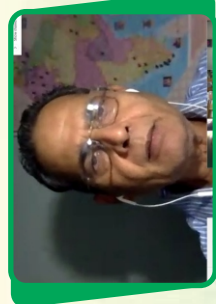
**Dr. K. C. Ravi**  
Chairman  
CropLife India



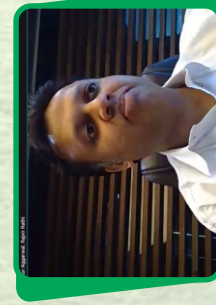
**Mr. Sanjiv Lal**  
MD & CEO  
Rallis India



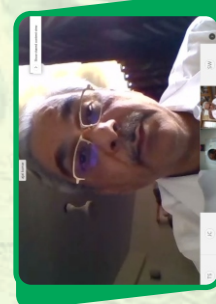
**Mr. Simon-Thorsten Wiebusch**  
Chief Operating Officer,  
Bayer CropScience Ltd., India



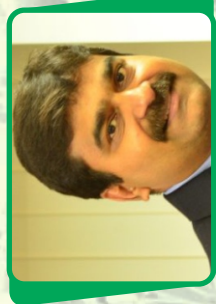
**Mr. Ajit Kumar**  
Vice President - Technical & Development,  
SWAL Corporation



**Mr. Ankur Aggarwal**  
Managing Director,  
Crystal Crop Protection



**Mr. Ajai Kumar**  
Head - Government and Industry Affairs,  
South Asia, Corteva Agr/Science



**Mr. Srinivasa Karavadi**  
Head of Market Development  
India Bangladesh & Sri Lanka,  
Bayer CropScience Ltd.



**Mr. Asitava Sen**  
CEO  
CropLife India



**Mr. Rajvir Rathi**  
Head- Public Affairs, Science & Sustainability,  
Bayer CropScience Ltd.





## 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. They 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 across the World to enable Safe, Secure Food Supply.

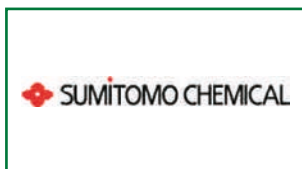
CropLife India members enable farmers adopt new technologies in agriculture, while providing in depth farmer trainings on good farming practices, including responsible use of crop protection products, container management and spraying techniques promotion of safe, responsible & judicious use of crop protection products under Integrated Pest Management approach. CropLife India extensively engages with the farming community including dealers and traders for growing safe, secured and nutritious food committed to responsible crop care and crop production for sustainable development of Indian Agriculture.

CropLife India is a not for profit organization, (registered under Section 8 Companies Act 2013) wholly funded by membership. CropLife India is part of the CropLife International Network; and works closely with CropLife Asia & CropLife International, spread across 91 countries while engaging with diverse stakeholders to drive programs on Anti-Counterfeiting, Product Stewardship, Progressive Regulations, IPR/Data Protection, Policy & Advocacy, Communications & Outreach.



## ASSOCIATION REPRESENTING INDIAN PLANT SCIENCE INDUSTRY

### Our Members



### Our Associate Members





## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- COVID-19 has been an unprecedented global crisis. The various steps taken by the Government during this pandemic time to address the agriculture sector, provided economy the much needed momentum. Covid-19, while challenging the agricultural industry, have provided stakeholders an opportunity to experiment, test, learn and implement innovative ideas.
- **Honourable Prime Minister of India** has implemented new age agriculture market reforms, and emphasized on modernizing agriculture and adoption of new technological innovations in achieving the goal of ***doubling farmers' income***.
- **Agrochemical sector** plays a key role in doubling farmers' income and livelihood and ensuring food security. In India, crop yield losses range between 15 % - 20 % on account of weeds, pests, diseases and rodents. During the pandemic we have seen that the role of pesticides is not only limited to crop protection but also plays a significant role in improving public health and hygiene.
- India is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest producer of agrochemicals (after USA, Japan and China) in the world and looking at the potential, the Government of India has declared it as one of the **12 Champion Sectors**, where India can be a critical player in the global supply-chain. This transformation would require close partnership between the Government, the industry and the farmers and ease of doing business coupled with progressive and stable regulatory framework. CropLife India is committed to support Honourable Prime Minister of India's vision of Doubling Farmers Income by 2022.

- **Pesticide Management Bill (PMB) 2020** is a great opportunity to holistically address emerging needs of Indian agriculture through an enabling regulatory environment, incorporating the learning of ~50 years from the Insecticide Act, 1968 (implemented in 1972). This opportunity must be made the best use of by engaging the relevant stakeholders to make India a potential global leader.
- **Under Article 39.3 of the TRIPS Agreement**, WTO members must provide **Data Protection**; which would facilitate the R&D within the industry and benefit the farmers with newer molecules. A proposed mechanism can be to provide, Data Protection for few years to the first applicant and then the subsequent applicants can follow suit.
- Fast-track introduction of new molecules is a welcome and much needed step for providing benefit to the farmers dealing with diverse crops and emerging pests.
- Enhancing the Indian capabilities is a lesson learnt during the lockdown. We should take necessary steps to enhance Indian capabilities, boosting the domestic market and fuelling the exports as well.
- India has the lowest usage of pesticides per hectare (307 g/ha) as compared to upto 13 kg/ ha in USA, Japan, China or other countries (5 Kg/ Ha in UK, 7 Kg/ Ha in US, 12 Kg/ Ha in Japan and 13 Kg/ Ha in China).; yet, India's agricultural produce get rejected in international markets; due to poor practices. Enhancement of Product Stewardship and Progressive Policies for Minor Crops would eliminate such roadblocks.
- Enabling the use of technology in agriculture, e.g. Drones would help in enhancing efficiency of the farmers and aiding growth of the agriculture industry.





## CropLife India's 40<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting and Open House Virtual Conference

### Agrochemicals – The Road Ahead 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020

CropLife India, an association of 15 R&D driven crop science companies, organized its 40<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Open House on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020; virtually.

Continuing our tradition of creating high –impact thought leadership oriented Open House Sessions; inspired by the CropLife India’s Board and Chief Executive Officer’s vision of achieving enhanced levels of awareness for the crop protection industry and considering the Covid-19 protocols; it was decided that the Open House Session be organized **Virtually**; wherein the discussions and point of view of multiple stakeholders be deliberated on key topics.

Despite their busy schedules, eminent Speakers came on board from the Government of India and crop protection industry, during the Open House Session. The half a day long AGM witnessed an Inaugural and Valedictory sessions, interspersed with a Panel Discussion; with experts and key Government officials’ conglomeration, on the cause of supporting the farmer.

The sessions’ included –

- Inaugural Session: “Policy level changes required to make Agrochemicals, a Champion sector”
- Panel Discussion: “Policy & Regulatory Roadmap for Agrochemicals Sector”
- Valedictory Session

**CropLife India Film**, showcasing the activities and projects undertaken by CropLife India in policy reforms, stewardship and anti-counterfeit, was showcased during the Inaugural Session.

## Highlights

### Inaugural Session

#### “Policy level changes required to make Agrochemicals, a Champion sector”

Mr. Asitava Sen, Chief Executive Officer, CropLife India said while welcoming all participants opined that, “India is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest producer of agrochemicals (after USA, Japan and China) in the world and looking at the potential the Government of India has declared it as one of the **12 Champion Sectors**, where India can be a critical player in the global supply-chain. This transformation will require close partnership between the Government, the Industry and the Farmers. CropLife India is committed to support Honourable Prime Minister of India’s vision of Doubling Farmers Income by 2022”.



**Mr. Sen** said,

- COVID-19 has been an unprecedented global crisis. The various steps taken by government during this pandemic time to address the agriculture sector have given the economy the much needed momentum. Covid-19, while challenging the agricultural industry, have provided stakeholders an opportunity to experiment, test, learn and implement innovative ideas.
- The pandemic struck when farmers were about to harvest their Rabi (winter) crop and preparing for the Kharif. While at that point everyone thought of worst may happen, however coordinated action between Government and Industry, steps to exempt the farm input industries during the critical lockdown phase has helped keep agricultural productivity stable and also kept the economic outlook positive despite a massive de-growth in other sectors.
- Decisions by the government such as procurement of Rabi produce, enhancement of liquidity, deregulation of important commodities, enabling the farmers to sell at a place of choice and contract farming are transformational and will make agriculture in India more competitive as well as profitable.
- In India, crop yield losses range between 15 % - 20 % on account of weeds, pests, diseases and rodents. The changing pest and cropping patterns as well as the impact of climate change would require newer and better agrochemicals. During the pandemic we have seen that the role of agrochemicals is not only limited to crop protection but also plays a significant role in improving public health and hygiene. Scientific and technical assessment of existing chemicals portfolio and sustainable product use is the key to sustainable agricultural productivity and farmer’s income.
- PMB 2020 is a great opportunity to holistically address emerging needs of Indian agriculture through an enabling regulatory environment, incorporating the learning of ~50 years from the Insecticide Act, 1968 (implemented in 1972). This opportunity must be made the best use of by engaging the relevant stakeholders to make India a potential global leader.
- Implementation of International Best Practices like Crop Grouping, Minor Change in formulations, Harmonization of Data, OPEX Model etc. will help further in ease of doing business.



- Precision Agriculture will not only enhance efficiency but will make farming more sustainable. There is a need to develop a larger eco-system that supports India's growth, while positioning it as a responsible global player.
- Use of Drones is one such area which the government wants to focus and should be made a part of PMB. In Asia, small-holder farmers are leading in the adoption of spray drone technology (UAV), with benefits of improved productivity (yield, efficiency), better crop access, and reduced operator exposure. India can be among first Tier of UAV adopters though facilitative regulatory and policy framework.

While delivering the Theme Address, **Dr. K. C. Ravi, Chairman, CropLife India** shared that the need for a predictable, stable and science based policy and regulatory regime for the proper growth of the crop protection sector is imperative. A forward looking progressive **Pesticide Management Bill 2020**, which promotes innovation and new product introduction to address the current and upcoming challenges faced by farmers; while paving the way with introduction of cutting edge technologies like Artificial Intelligence and Drones.



**Dr. Ravi** added,

- By 2050 total calorie requirement will go up from 2495 to 3000; hence the Food grain production would need to increase by 5.5 MT annually. India's population would rise to 170 Crore from the current 130 Crores; which would mean creating Food security for all.
- Key challenges for Research would be to develop technologies and management options in a deteriorating production environment.
- Create infrastructure and evolve institutional arrangements for production, post-harvest and marketing of high-value commodities and their value-added products.
- Crop Protection Industry has played a major role in ensuring food and nutritional security of the nation besides making us one of the key agricultural output countries in the world. Challenges are getting complex with invasion of new pests; build-up of resistance; climate change and associated vagaries of weather.
- As per a study by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) if crop protection products are not used, it would cost a loss of Rs. 80,000 crores annually to Indian farming.
- Per hectare consumption of crop protection products in India is the lowest; usage of pesticides per hectare (307 g/ha) as compared to up to 13 kg/ ha in USA, Japan, China or other countries (5 Kg/ Ha in UK, 7 Kg/ Ha in US, 12 Kg/ Ha in Japan and 13 Kg/ Ha in China). Out of 1175 molecules available globally, only about 270 are registered in India. In contrast, much smaller countries like Vietnam, Pakistan have over 500 registered molecules. USA, EU and Brazil have around 650/750 approved molecules for their farmers.
- Criminalization of offences in PMB 2020 will spoil the environment. Not only, would it discourage new registration of molecules, it would make it difficult to do business in India; which in turn would impact the farmers.

**Dr. K. C. Ravi, Chairman, CropLife India**, summarised the way forward for the Agrochemical industry as follows:

- Need for a predictable, science based policy and regulatory regime for the proper growth of the crop protection sector.
- A forward looking progressive Pesticide Management Act & Rules which promotes innovation and new product introduction to address the current and upcoming challenges faced by farmers.
- Introduction of cutting edge technologies like Artificial Intelligence and Drones.
- Public Private Partnership towards making India a agro chemical hub.

**Shri Parshottambhai Rupala, Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India** shared that "India considers agro-chemical as a champion sector and is all set and open to align this sector with Best International Practices and Regulatory Reforms; by reducing registration timelines of crop protection products. The industry should come forward with suggestions on how to end spurious crop protection chemicals available in the market".



**Shri Rupala** said,

- The Government of India has taken several steps during this lockdown period, particularly for the Indian Agriculture sector, keeping in mind the focus of our Hon'ble Prime Minister; viz. removed the ban on transporting agriculture equipment, making sure that seeds, manure and fertilizers could be transported without any barrier within the country.
- There have been few challenges that are being highlighted in this meeting, viz. presence of 1175 molecules globally but about only 270 are registered in India. While there might be some challenges in terms of the process but the matter will be taken up and resolved at the earliest.
- The Government has decided to appoint an Expert Committee on the proposed ban of 27 molecules, which would undertake a detailed analysis of the situation and all the concerns of the industry will be heard.
- Due to the unprecedented crisis of COVID-19, many countries are in the process of exploring to diversify and de-risk their production bases and supply chains, India has a distinct opportunity to make the best of this shift. However, to capitalize on the opportunity at this critical juncture, ease of doing business coupled with progressive and stable regulatory framework will help boost investors' confidence.
- CropLife India's initiative of training farmers on Safe and judicious use of agrochemicals is commendable and such outreach should increase as the same is imminent for farmers. Government is working towards a cluster-based approach, both from a FPO (Farmer Producer Organization) and awareness perspective. We recommend that organizations should adopt this approach, which would enhance the awareness of agrochemicals.
- A novel concept in this industry would to open generic agrochemical stores for our farmers. Industry should deliberate on this issue and chalk the way forward as these stores would be highly beneficial for the farmers.

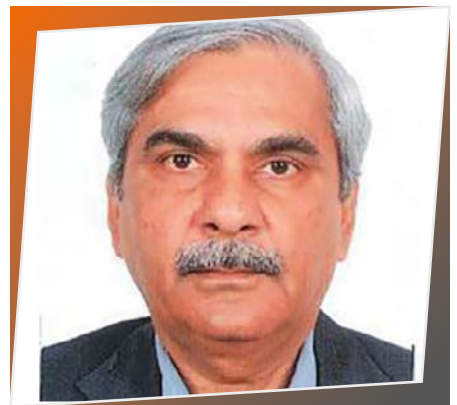
**Participants – Open Discussion with Shri Parshottambhai Rupala, Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**

**Mr. Simon-Thorsten Wiebusch, Chief Operating Officer, Bayer CropScience Ltd., India** said – Government of India has identified Crop Protection Industry as one of the key sectors to drive the economy. Agri Input industry has a key bearing on National Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. Indian Crop Protection Industry is a net exporter as well. With this background, please advise what initiatives are being planned and implemented by the Indian Government to make Agrochemicals, a Champion sector.



**Shri Rupala** opined that Indian Government have taken certain steps, which would ease the export process for companies. Agricultural Infrastructure Fund of Rs 1 Lakh Crore will be introduced, which would aid in investments like cold storage, warehousing and food processing, etc.

**Mr. Ajai Kumar, Head- Government And Industry Affairs, South Asia, Corteva AgriScience** said – Farmers need new products, new technology and new tools to win the fight against ever increasing menace of pests, weeds and crop diseases. In this connection, please advise what are the initiatives being led by the Government to facilitate and nurture new innovations and better/ safer products for the Farming community in India from domestic or from the foreign origin.



**Shri Rupala** shared that Government have been working on the recommendation of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) on this issue. The Government is hopeful of the processes initiated within ICAR, which would soon result in registration of 40-50 new molecules.

**Mr. Sanjiv Lal, Chairman, CropLife India; MD & CEO, Rallis India** said in his **Vote of Thanks** that the timely intervention by Government of India on allowing the movement of farm machinery, seeds, fertilizers and crop protection products have resulted in no dent in the farmers income for Rabi crop and no impact for the Kharif season as well. CropLife India would deliberate on all the inputs provided by Government and would share inputs on all the concerned issues.





## Panel Discussion: “Policy & Regulatory Roadmap for Agrochemicals Sector”

**Mr. Salil Singhal, Chairman Emeritus, PI Industries Ltd.** *Moderator of the session* shared, that the future of the Agro Chemical Industry will be dependent on the way the regulatory mechanism of managing pesticides under the Insecticides Act operates. As the Agrochemical sector is notified as one of the Champion Sectors; the key to growth, is the ability to export at least 60% - 65 % of our products; which in turn will strengthen our domestic business. In order to achieve this, the Regulatory mechanism must be at par with the international laws. We cannot have one set of laws for India, which are non-compliant with the international laws and expect the foreign countries to buy our products.



**Mr. Singhal** stressed on the need to Fast-track registration of new molecules in India. India is world leader in exports of some molecules; however there have been some emerging issues in USA and European Union. In case the molecules are banned, not only will our exports be hit but will have impact on Indian farming as well.

**Mr. Singhal** added that the regulations from the Ministry of Environment & Chemicals needs to be deliberated upon. The proposed changes in the standards, discharge quantum, etc. will pose serious issues in newer manufacturing facilities, expansions, product substitutions, etc. The deliberations should be delved upon as the same would affect the growth of the industry and CropLife India should take it up on priority.

**Mr. Samir Kumar Biswas, Additional Secretary, Dept. of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers** congratulated the industry on this momentous occasion and shared, Government and Industry would work together to bring the recommendations and international best practices, to achieve national goals. The Ministry would look forward to the recommendations from the deliberations held today and work towards them, so that the farmers are benefitted.

**Dr. S. K. Malhotra, Agriculture Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare** stressed on the following –

- **Fast-track introduction of new molecules** – Industry needs to submit proposals for new molecules in India, off-patent and the Government would ensure faster registration of these molecules. Government has created a separate scrutiny category for TIM and FIM cases and experts are working on an enhanced speed to process the applications, specially the Technical molecules. Additionally, Government expects industry should file for higher active ingredient and reduced impurities; a trend which is prevalent in other countries.
- **Greener Chemistries without hazardous/cheaper adjuvants** – Industry should file registration for formulations including of adjuvants/surfactants/solvents, which are economical / less harmful / not banned in other countries; even as per the Stockholm Convention. Government requests industry to move away from the hazardous adjuvants and move towards Greener Chemistries.



- **Internationally acceptable Regulatory Environment** – The Ministry of Agriculture has proposed a Joint-Meeting of all Associations (at least half a day) along with Research Scholars & International experts; so that India is aligned with the international regulatory / safety environment. This meeting should facilitate scientific discussions on greener chemistries and alignment of policies as per the international milieu, which should result in recommendations thus benefiting the Indian industry and farmers.
- **Enhancing Indian capabilities, a lesson learnt during Lockdown** – At one hand, industry displayed exemplary might towards uninterrupted supply during lockdown, after Government gave the nod to continue business of agrochemicals during Lockdown; on the other hand, the dependency on technical / raw materials / adjuvants from other countries came as a bottleneck and we should take necessary steps to enhance Indian capabilities.
- **Emerging Pests** – Industry played a pivotal role in supporting the Government in controlling the pests like the Fall Armyworm. Industry should come forward in controlling emerging pests like Rugose Spiraling Whitefly and Cassava Whitefly, which are entering our country from bordering areas.
- **MRL Issue** – As FSSAI was unable to conduct their meeting for concluding MRL Levels, Ministry of Agriculture decided to issue Certificates, based on Default MRL Levels, as agreed with FSSAI.

Apart from the above, the Ministry has sent most of the samples for NMR analysis and there are no pending cases for indigenous manufacturing applications.

**Mr. John Southwell, Counsellor (Agriculture), Australian High Commission** said that he has been working towards facilitating technical market access, policy exchange, and Australia as a market for India and India as a market for Australia. In June 2020 both [countries agreed to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership](#), during a virtual summit between **Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison** and **Indian Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi**; serves to lift the level of the relationship up to unprecedented levels; while enhancing policy exchanges not only between Governments but between industries, businesses and associations as well. He shared



- **Similarities between Indian and Australian Farming** – India has 30 Crore farmers compared to three lakh in Australia; however there are multiple similarities between the countries viz. variable climate, challenges with water security to name a few. Australia has a national unified approach was adopted for the regulation of agricultural chemicals and veterinary medicines, which was earlier provided individually by States & territories.
- **Alignment with International Standards** – To ensure there is greater interoperability across the globe and in trade of agricultural goods (including agricultural inputs such as agrochemicals); it is imperative that there should be alignment with international standards including those set under [Codex Alimentarius](#).
- **Design of the Regulatory System** - The effectiveness and success of any regulatory system rests on its design. The design should be based on clearly defined principles – hazard and risk; which are based on science and consultative approach.

The regulatory system administered by the [Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority](#) (APVMA) has been designed to include recognition of international data for molecules. APVMA may require additional data to meet the specific legislative requirements, to fully consider the risk and efficacy under Australian conditions which supports fast direct access to the market so that to ensure that farmers can use molecules at an optimal time.

**Mr. K. K. Unni, Chairman Emeritus, CropLife India** said that the agrochemical industry has come a long way; from being highly toxic to shifting to far less toxic chemicals and now being part of the **12 Champion Sectors**. The industry must now focus on –



- **Exports** – Taking cue from the current pandemic, as we continue to export; we should be able to export to China as well and shift our supply chain; which would even benefit many other countries; and in terms of both, Agrochemical and pharmaceutical intermediates. Once the production of intermediates is increased our dependency on other countries would reduce; thus enhancing exports.
- **New Molecules** – 270 molecules are available in India against 1175 across the world. New molecules are the need of the hour as many of them need to be phased out and newer pests are emerging along with greener chemistries.

It is indeed delightful to learn that the Ministry of Agriculture is clearing pending registration files for newer molecules on a fast track, which would provide huge impetus to both the industry and the farmers. Adapting the regulatory System as per the international standards will be a big boost to the industry.

**Participants – Open Discussion with Dr. S. K. Malhotra, Agriculture Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare**

**Mr. Rajesh Dhawan, Head - Registration and Regulatory Affairs, Syngenta India** said that despite issues with good intention to weed out non-serious players, the **New Pre-Scrutiny Checklists** are creating fresh hurdles in the filing of Registration applications for new products, such as repeat rejections due to piecemeal nature of dossier assessment and resultant repeated efforts by applicants to upload the full dossier again, that runs into thousands of pages.



**Mr. Salil Singhal, Chairman Emeritus, PI Industries Ltd.** said that –

- **CIB Secretariat being action oriented** – The secretariat needs to work more efficiently so that the pending cases are resolved at a faster pace.
- **Enhancement of manpower at CIB Secretariat** – Ministry of Agriculture should allocate more human resources to the secretariat, which would enhance the work being done for the farmers' benefit.
- **Outsourcing of Data Scrutiny** – The data scrutiny process should be outsourced to CSIR-Indian Institute of Toxicology Research, Lucknow. This step will facilitate time bound analysis of the applications; as per the approved protocols.



- **Capacity Building Workshop for Registration Process by CropLife India** – A three day programme be organized by CropLife India, which would catalyze the scrutiny of the registration process and aid in skill up gradation of the secretariat.

**Dr. Samunder Singh, Retd. Professor, Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University Hisar** said that while in many parts of the country Phalaris minor pest has been contained, it is still creating havoc in other parts. Similarly many other emerging pests are predominant in the country and industry along with the Government should provide an early resolution.

**Mr. Suresh Pennadam Jeyakaran, Lead – Regulatory Advocacy & Scientific Affairs, Bayer CropScience Limited** said that EU is one of the key markets where Indian Agricultural produce is exported. It however promotes Hazard Based approach/policy of lowering the MRLs of many Pesticides to default value of 0.01 ppm, thereby posing hurdles to export from India. In this context, **Government should oppose and object to the EUs proposals to lower MRLs at the international platform through the WTO.**

**Mr. Ankur Aggarwal, Managing Director, Crystal Crop Protection** said in his Concluding Remarks that while it is exhilarating announcement of Agrochemical Industry being part of **12 Champion Industries**; many policy and changes and ease of doing business measures needs to be adopted to boost the growth apart from aligning our regulatory process with international norms. The presence of eminent speakers boosted our confidence and it is the collaboration between Industry and the Government, which would boost the sector and enhance farmer awareness drives and safe use of agrochemicals.



## Valedictory Session

**Mr. Srinivasa Karavadi, Head of Market Development India Bangladesh & Sri Lanka, Bayer CropScience Limited** while introducing Dr. Dalwai said that his past varied experience and the exemplary work done by him on Self-Assessment schemes for assessment of property tax, Model agriculture produce and livestock marketing promotion and facilitation act 2017, business promotion solicitation act 2018 guidelines for rural agriculture markets; will be of immense value to the industry.



**Dr. Ashok Dalwai, CEO, National Rainfed Area Authority, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India** said "The impact of climate change has a direct/indirect fallout on pests, which creates impact on crops. Our Prime Minister said, we need to be 'Aatmanirbhar', which would mean positioning ourselves in the global market with resilience. India is now looking forward, to promote investment, manufacturing and services; such that we are able to meet the domestic requirements and thereafter integrate ourselves with the global market through enhanced market exports. Agrochemical industry is one of the 12 recognized interventions as champion industry; to create wealth for nation.



The agrochemical industry should consider the following dimensions for the roadmap: taking care of consumers, taking care of the farmer's interest, concern for country's employment and ecological needs – biodiversity". These demands can be met by the following –

- **International Plant Protection Convention** – Adhering to the Phytosanitary Measures proposed by [International Plant Protection Convention](#) of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations would enable seamless transaction of goods and services between countries and continents; without posing technical trade barriers because they are following a different time zone.
- **Data Protection** - [Under Article 39.3 of the TRIPS Agreement](#), WTO members must provide Data Protection; which would facilitate the R&D within the industry and benefit the farmers with newer molecules. A proposed mechanism can be to provide Data Protection for few years to the first applicant and then the subsequent applicants can follow suit.

**Exporting to the World** – India has a virtuous infrastructure and regulatory system to promote, which is better than many other countries in the world. This poses a wonderful opportunity to capture the markets of USA and even China, thus enhancing exports. India needs to be the market hub, to be in the international market and CropLife member companies are well suited for the purpose.

**Newer registrations including Bio - pesticides** – Industry needs to be forthcoming in registering newer products with higher active ingredients; increasing the number of registrations comparable to other countries. This is imminent as the diversity of plants, animals and climate in India is quite varied and farmers should not be devoid of alternatives.

**Farmer Orientation** – Enhancing the awareness of farmers on Safe and judicious use of agrochemicals, right time of usage, dosage; safe disposal of containers; etc. is of prime importance and is part of product stewardship. The first applicant receiving Data Protection should be motivated to support the technology and knowledge transfer to farmers.

India has the lowest usage of pesticides per hectare (307 g/ha) as compared to up to 13 kg/ ha in USA, Japan, China or other countries (5 Kg/ Ha in UK, 7 Kg/ Ha in US, 12 Kg/ Ha in Japan and 13 Kg/ Ha in China); yet, India's agricultural produce get rejected in international markets; which means we are unable to ensure that our crop residues are below the threshold average. This can be of variety of reasons, like obliviousness of farmers, products being used in concentrated terms and unavailability of Label Claim on multiple Minor Crops. The benefits of research in the agrochemical industry is not being transferred to the farmers; which leads to rejections witnessed in Punjab crops or eventualities in Maharashtra. This can be overcome by effective product stewardship and Policies, wherein CropLife can contribute immensely.

**Changing Gears: Selling Services instead of Goods** – The focus of [Atmanirbhar Krishi, Aatmanirbhar Bharat Mission](#) is to transform the Agriculture into a Sustainable Enterprise. One of the steps would be to Sell Services instead of Goods; which means the entire retail chain of the input industry would act like Extension Services and farmers would benefit from optimum utilization of the research. This would enable the use of technology and help in enhancing efficiency. One example would be the use of Drones. Drones' usage is being allowed in agriculture but its usage in agrochemicals is still not viable as the policies and formulations are not supportive. CropLife India should take lead in the same so that the resources are utilized efficiently.

**Dr. K. C. Ravi, Chairman, CropLife India** said that the farming community's profitability has been a major concern and the [Doubling Farmers' Income](#) has been a positive step; which would not only boost the income of the farmer but provide an impetus to the entire agriculture industry.







## TAKING THE MANTLE AHEAD...

CropLife India was honored to receive the august presence of eminent Speakers, representing the Government of India and crop protection industry; during the **Open House Session of 40<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020**, virtually.

CropLife India is pledged to advance sustainable Indian agriculture and we will continue to thrive on this path. CropLife India believes that Food and Income Security of the nation can be aided by innovative crop protection products and inputs.

CropLife India advocates functional and science – based regulatory framework and precision agriculture for enhanced productivity for the farmer. We will continue to focus and support the Government and other stakeholders on the following issues –

- Stakeholder consultation for Pesticides Management Bill (PMB) 2020
- Protection of Regulatory Data – 5 years protection of data from the date of registration for new molecules introduced for the first time in the country
- Reforms in the Secretariat of the Registration Committee (RC) and the Central Insecticides Board (CIB)
- Fast track the scrutiny process for new molecules being registered first time in the country
- Implementation of International Best Practices in regulations which will help in ease of doing business
- Framing guidelines by the Registration Committee for obtaining endorsement on label and leaflets for use of Drone as alternate / additional equipment for spraying of agrochemicals

CropLife India is committed to impart training on responsible and safe use of crop protection products; and quality inputs for improvement of crop yields, while safeguarding natural resources. Being a part of the CropLife International network, representing the Plant Science Industry in 91 countries; we would continue our outreach for a prosperous and healthy India.

## Annual General Meeting in Media

### Govt asks agro-chemicals industry to come out with new molecules

The government asked the agro-chemicals industry to come out with new molecules of global standards for farmers' benefit, while an industry body pitched for stable policy, regulations to boost the sector



A woman reaps wheat crops during the harvest season amidst the nationwide COVID-19 lockdown, near Raispur village in Ghaziabad district of Uttar Pradesh.

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Phased unlocking since June 1 has revived economic activities: Govt

The government on Tuesday asked the agro-chemicals industry to come out with new molecules of global standards for the farmers' benefit, while industry body CropLife India pitched for stable policy and regulatory regime to boost the growth of the sector.

Addressing a digital conference, Minister of State for Agriculture Parshottam Rupala said: "The crop protection industry should share propositions to make crop protection products which are newer, safer and more effective, for the benefit of the farmers".

Indian agro-chemicals industry is a champion sector and is all set and open to align with best international practices and regulatory reforms, a statement issued by the industry body quoted the minister as saying.

Rupala said the government is also looking at a cluster approach for imparting quality education and extension services for the farmers and asked the industry to support this initiative.

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#### Govt asks agro-chemicals industry to come out with new molecules

13 October 2020 | 3 min read

New Delhi, Oct 13 (PTI) The government on Tuesday asked the agro-chemicals industry to come out with new molecules of global standards for the farmers' benefit, while industry body CropLife India pitched for stable policy and regulatory regime to boost the growth of the sector.

Addressing a digital conference, Minister of State for Agriculture Parshottam Rupala said: "The crop protection industry should share propositions to make crop protection products which are newer, safer and more effective, for the benefit of the farmers".

Indian agro-chemicals industry is a champion sector and is all set and open to align with best international practices and regulatory reforms, a statement issued by the industry body quoted the minister as saying.

Rupala said the government is also looking at a cluster approach for imparting quality education and extension services for the farmers and asked the industry to support this initiative.

### Stable policy environment and supportive regulatory system will nurture innovations and help Indian farmers

**New Delhi,** CropLife India, a leading association of 15 R&D driven crop science companies organized its 40th Annual General Meeting, which witnessed the congregation of the Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture, senior Government officials, experts and industry captains on the cause of supporting the farmer.

The Open House - Virtual Conference, included an Inaugural Session, "Policy level changes required to make Agrochemicals, a Champion sector"; a Panel Discussion on "Policy & Regulatory Roadmap for Agrochemicals Sector" and a Valedictory Session.

Shri Parshottambhai Rupala, Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, shared that "India considers agro-chemical as a champion sector and is all set and open to align this sector with Best International Practices and Regulatory Reforms; by reducing registration timelines of crop protection products".

Shri Rupala added, "The crop protection industry should share propositions to make crop protection products which are newer, safer and more effective, for the benefit of the farmers. The Government is also looking at a cluster approach for imparting quality education and extension services for the farmers and industry should support this initiative".

Dr. Ashok Dalwai, CEO, National Rainfed Area Authority, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, opined, "The impact of climate change has a direct/indirect fallout on pests, which creates impact on crops. Prime Minister said, we need to be 'Atmanirbhar', which would mean positioning ourselves in the global market as the new workshop for the world. We should consider the following dimensions for the roadmap: taking care of end consumers, taking care of the farmer's interest, concern for country's employment and ecological needs - biodiversity".

Dr. Dalwai added, "India has a virtuous infrastructure and regulatory system to promote. India needs to be the market hub, to be in the national market. Going forward, globally accepted policy incentives e.g. data protection, digital technology, e.g. drones and services solutions from industry and channel partners will help achieve our goals".

Dr. S. K. Malhotra, Agriculture Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare said, "India needs new molecules, which are safe and effective. Industry needs to come forward & submit the list of such molecules, including higher active ingredients; aligned

with International standards; which will be welcomed. The Government appreciates industry's contribution against fight against invasive pests."

Mr. Salil Singhal, Chairman Emeritus, PI Industries moderated the panel discussion, and Mr. John Southwell, Counsellor (Agriculture), Australian High Commission in India presented the Australian Government's regulatory ecosystem.

Dr. K. C. Ravi, Chairman, CropLife India shared that the need for a predictable, stable and science based policy and regulatory regime for the proper growth of the crop protection sector is imperative.

Mr. Asitava Sen, CEO, CropLife India while welcoming all participants opined that, "India is the 4th largest producer of agro-chemicals in the world and looking at the potential the Government of India has declared it as one of the 12 Champion Sectors, where India can be a critical player in the global supply chain.

### सरकार कृषि रसायन उद्योग को नए अणुओं के साथ बाहर आने के लिए कहती है

सरकार ने मंगलवार को कृषि-रसायन उद्योग को किसानों के लाभ के लिए वैश्विक मानकों के नए अणुओं के साथ बाहर आने के लिए कहा, जबकि उद्योग निकाय क्रॉपलाइफ इंडिया ने क्षेत्र की वृद्धि को बढ़ावा देने के लिए स्थिर नीति और नियामक शासन के लिए पिच की।

एक डिजिटल सम्मेलन को संबोधित करते हुए, कृषि राज्य मंत्री परशोत्तम रूपाला ने कहा- फसल संरक्षण उद्योग को किसानों के लाभ के लिए फसल सुरक्षा उत्पाद बनाने के लिए प्रस्ताव साझा करने चाहिए जो नए, सुरक्षित और अधिक प्रभावी हैं।

भारतीय कृषि रसायन उद्योग एक चैंपियन क्षेत्र है और सभी सेट और सर्वोत्तम अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रथाओं और नियामक सुधारों के साथ संरेखित करने के लिए खुले हैं, उद्योग निकाय द्वारा जारी एक बयान में मंत्री ने कहा है।

रूपाला ने कहा कि सरकार किसानों के लिए गुणवत्तापूर्ण शिक्षा और विस्तार सेवाएं प्रदान करने के लिए एक क्लस्टर दृष्टिकोण देख रही है और उद्योग को इस पहल का समर्थन करने के लिए कहा है। इस अवसर पर बोलते हुए, नेशनल रेनफेड एरिया अथॉरिटी के सीईओ अशोक दलवाई ने कहा कि भारत को मार्केट हब बनने की जरूरत है क्योंकि देश में सेक्टर को बढ़ावा देने के लिए एक बुनियादी ढांचा और विनियामक प्रणाली है। आगे, वैश्विक रूप से स्वीकृत नीतिगत प्रोत्साहन जैसे डेटा सुरक्षा, डिजिटल प्रौद्योगिकी उन्होंने कहा कि उद्योग और चैनल भागीदारों से ज्ञान और सेवाओं के समाधान लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने में मदद करेंगे।

उर्वरक और रसायन मंत्रालय में अतिरिक्त सचिव समीर कुमार विश्वास ने कहा- सरकार और उद्योग राष्ट्रीय लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने के लिए सिफारिशों और अंतरराष्ट्रीय सर्वोत्तम प्रथाओं को लाने के लिए मिलकर काम करेंगे।

### पाक संरक्षण उद्योग ने भेड़तोना लाभ माटे पाक सुरक्षा उत्पादन बनाववा माटे प्रस्ताव वહેंयवा जोईअे: रुपाला

सरकारे मंगलवारे कृषि रसायन उद्योगने भेड़तोना लाभ माटे वैश्विक धोरणोना नवा अणुओनी साथे बंधार आववा माटे ज्ञाव्युं, ज्यारे उद्योग संस्था क्रोपलाइफ इंडियाअे क्षेत्रनी वृद्धिने प्रोत्साहित करवा माटे स्थिर नीति अने नियमनकार शासन माटे पिय करी. अेक डिजिटल संमेलनने संबोधित करवा कृषि राज्य मंत्री परशोत्तम रुपालाअे ज्ञाव्युं, "पाक संरक्षण उद्योगने भेड़तोना लाभ माटे पाक सुरक्षा उत्पादन बनाववा माटे प्रस्ताव वહેंयवा जोईअे, जे नवा, सुरक्षित अने वधु असरकारक छे."

भारतीय कृषि रसायन उद्योग अेक चैंपियन क्षेत्र छे अने तमाम सेट अने सर्वोत्तम अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रथाओ अने नियमनकार

सुधाराओ साथे संरेषित करवा माटे भुव्वा छे, उद्योग संस्था द्वारा प्रसिद्ध निवेदनमां मंत्रीअे ज्ञाव्युं.

रुपालाअे कहुं के सरकार भेड़तोना माटे गुणवत्तापूर्ण शिक्षा अने विस्तार सेवाओ प्रदान करवा माटे क्लस्टर दृष्टिकोण जोई रही छे अने उद्योगने आ पहलेनुं समर्थन करवा माटे कहुं छे.


आ प्रसंगे भोलता नेशनल रेनफेड इंडियाअे बोधो रिट्रीना सीईओ अशोक दलवाईअे ज्ञाव्युं के भारतने मार्केट हब बनाववानी जरूर छे,

कारण के देशमां सेक्टरने प्रोत्साहन आपवा माटे अेक भूगर्भत ढांचा अने नियमनकारी प्रथावी छे. आगण, तमसे कहुं के वैश्विक रूपथी स्वीकृत नीतिगत

प्रोत्साहन जेवा डेटा सुरक्षा, डिजिटल टेक्नोलोजी उद्योग अने येनल (भागीदारो पासेवी) सेन अने सेवाओना समाधान लक्ष्योने प्राप्त करवामां मदद करशे. भारत अने रसायन मंत्रालयना अधिक सचिव समीर कुमार विश्वास ज्ञाव्युं, "सरकार अने उद्योग राष्ट्रीय लक्ष्योने प्राप्त करवा माटे (बलामस्र अने आंतरराष्ट्रीय सर्वोत्तम प्रथाओने) लाववा माटे भणीने काम करशे." भारतने नवा अणुओनी जरूरियात छे, जे सुरक्षित अने प्रभावशाणी होय. अेकिकल्यर कृषि असे के मलहोत्राअे ज्ञाव्युं के आ उद्योगने आगण आने अेवा अणुओनी याद्री रजु करवानी जरूरियात छे, जेमा आतरराष्ट्रीय धोरणोना साथे उच्च सक्रिय तत्व समाविष्ट छे.





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