



Background Paper and a Report on the National Conference

CropLife India's 42nd AGM and National Conference on Sustainable Growth of Agriculture for Self-Reliant India

27th - 28th September 2022



CropLife India's
42nd Annual General Meeting and

National Conference for Self-Reliant India

27 - 28 September 2022, New Delhi



Shri. Kalish Choudhary
Honble Minister of State for
Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Government of India



Shri. Surya Pratap Shahi
Minister of Agriculture
Government of Uttar Pradesh



Shri. Singireddy Niranjan Reddy
Minister of Agriculture, Marketing, Cooperation
Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs
Government of Telangana



Shri. B C Patil
Honble Minister of Agriculture
Government of Karnataka



Shri. Kamal Patel
Honble Minister of Agriculture and
Farmers Welfare
Government of Madhya Pradesh



Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra
Former Secretary
DARE and Director, General-ICAR
Government of India



Mr. Praveen Pandeshi
Member -Administration,
Capacity Building Commission



Prof. Indra Mani
Vice Chancellor
Vasantao Naik Marathwada
Krishi Vidyapeeth
Parbhani, Maharashtra



Dr. S C Dubey
Assistant Director General
Indian Council of Agricultural
Research (ICAR)



Dr. Sanjay Arya
Secretary
Central Insecticide Board and
Registration Committee
(CBIRC)
Ministry of Agriculture and
Farmer Welfare
Government of India



Dr. Suresh Kumar Malhotra
Project Director
ICAR - Directorate of
Knowledge
Management in Agriculture



Mr. Abhishek Burman
General Aeronautics
Pvt Ltd



Dr. Vandana Tripathy
Network Coordinator (ANP)
and
Scheme Incharge (MPRNL)
All India Network Project
on Pesticides
Residues - ICAR



Mr. Mariano Beheran
Minister - Agriculture Attaché
Embassy of Argentina



Dr. R. K. Malik
Country Coordinator
CIMMYT



Mr. Ron Verdook
Minister-Counselor for
Agricultural Affairs
Embassy of the
United States of America



Mr. Shashank Kumar
CEO and Co-founder
DeHeat



Dr. Siang Hoo TAN
Executive Director
CropLife Asia



Mr. Yasharth Bhardwaj
Head - Waste Management,
EPR and compliance,
The Shakti Plastic Industries



Mr. Mand Kishore Aggarwal
Chairman
Crystal Crop Protection Limited



Dr. K C Ravi
Chairman
CropLife India



Mr. Anil Kakkar
Vice Chairman
CropLife India



Mr. Srinivasa Kumar Karavadi
Vice Chairman
CropLife India



Mr. Sanjiv Lal
Managing Director & CEO
Rallis India Limited



Ms. Vedika Kapoor
Head - Government and
Industry Affairs
(South Asia)
CortevaAgriscience



Mr. Vivek Sharma
Head - Marketing,
Agricultural Solutions
(South Asia)
BASF India Limited



Mr. Rahul Dhanuka
Chief Operating Officer
Dhanuka Agritech Limited



Mr. Ankur Aggarwal
Managing Director
Crystal Crop Protection Limited



Mr. Dharmesh Gupta
Managing Director
Bharat CerisAgri
Science Limited



Mr. Raju Kapoor
Public & Industry Affairs
FMC India Private Limited



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Contents

Page No.

- About CropLife India 3
- Association Representing Indian Plant Science Industry 3
- Agrochemicals in India – A Background Note 4
- National Conference on “Sustainable Growth of Agriculture for Self-Reliant India” - Proceedings 12
- Key Takeaways 12
- Inaugural Session - Day 2 - Agriculture Transformation during '*Amrit Kaal*' - Role of Crop Protection 14
- Special Plenary Session 1 - Day 2 - Perspective of State Governments 17
- Special Plenary Session 2 - Day 2 – International Perspective: India @ 100 19
- Panel 2 - Day 2 - Enhancing Crop Protection Efficiency 20
- Panel 3 - Day 2 - Ease of Doing Business - The Path Ahead 22
- Special Plenary Session - Day 1 24
- Media Coverage 26

About CropLife India

CropLife India is a leading industry association of both Indian and Global R & D driven crop science organizations. CropLife India jointly represents around 70% of the Indian crop protection market and are responsible for 95% of the molecules introduced in the country. Our member companies have an annual global R & D spend of over INR 50,000 crores.

Our member companies were established in India as far back as the 1950s. We continue to work hand-in-hand with the Government to build the agriculture sector – from introduction of several newer and safer molecules, direct investment of building factories, jobs creation, bringing in agriculture innovation and working endlessly over the years with multi-stakeholders to enhance agriculture productivity. All member companies are firmly committed to engage with the farming community to enable Safe, Secure and Sustainable 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 non - profit organization, (registered under Section 8 company) wholly funded by membership. CropLife India is a 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

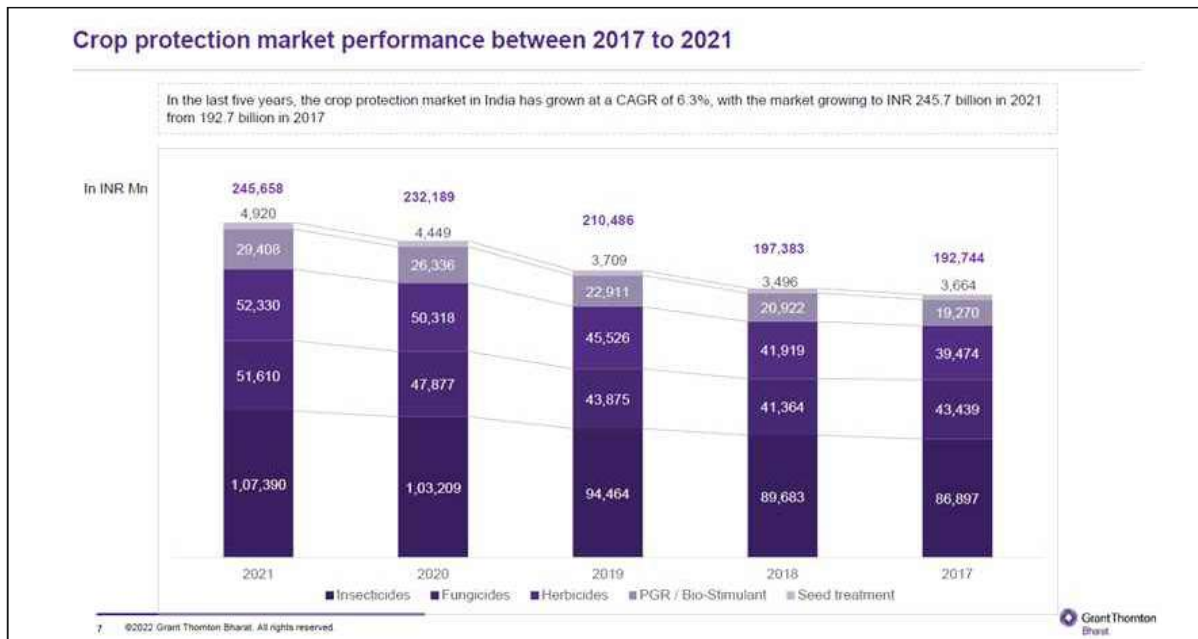


Agrochemicals in India – A Background Note



India's agro-chemical industry has come a long way in past 75 years and with right policy and enabling environment this sector holds promise for a flourishing future in next 25 years.

In the last five years, the crop protection market in India has grown at a CAGR of 6.3%, with the market growing to INR 245.7 billion in 2021 from 192.7 billion in 2017 and is expected to reach a level of INR 35,500 crores by 2027.



Government of India has termed the next 25 years as the **"Amrit Kaal"**. For the agrochemical sector partnerships and implementation would be the key to realize its potential. There is a need to engage with all stakeholders to ensure a predictable, science-based policy and regulatory regime for further enhancing the ability of the crop protection sector to make our farmers and Indian agriculture sustainable — to which CropLife India is committed.

The crop protection industry has been contributing significantly to not only enhancing productivity but also to the sustainable growth of Indian agriculture. The agrochemical products in India, which have significantly helped reduce production losses from pest and disease attacks, owe their introduction to the R&D based crop sciences industry. Such products have enabled India to tackle national crop emergencies like control of Phalaris minor weed in wheat, Heliothis armigera bollworm in cotton or brown planthopper insect pest in rice over the years.

The R&D based crop protection industry has been launching new molecules with increased efficacy and reduced application rates over time. The application rates, in the case of insecticides such as organophosphates (malathion, chlorpyrifos, etc) and carbamates (carbaryl, aldicarb, etc) during the 1960s and 1970s were as high as 1000 – 3,000 grams of active ingredient per hectare. By the eighties, with the advent of cartap and synthetic pyrethroids, the rates came down to 50-500 grams per hectare. From the nineties to the early 2000s, there was further advancement through moderate toxicity chemicals like triazoles and neonicotinoids, having dosages of 25-200 grams per hectare. Since the mid-2000s, the active ingredient application has fallen to well below 100 grams; in some cases — such as sulfonylureas and diamides — it is as less as 4 grams per hectare. The pursuit towards greener chemistries continues and the industry is well aware of its responsibility to reduce the environmental footprint.

The notion that India consumes a lot of agrochemicals is another misconception around Crop protection industry. While the global average consumption of pesticides is 3 Kg/Ha., India consumes only 0.3 Kg/Ha. In contrast, China consumes 13.06 Kg/Ha., Japan 11.8 Kg/Ha., and Brazil 4.7 Kg/Ha. In fact, Indian agriculture productivity per hectare is very low because of unavailability of newer and better technology chemicals.

Another critical aspect is that while there are 1175 molecules available globally, only 318 are registered in India. A further breakdown reveals that only about 75 molecules and their combinations are being used to protect 140 million hectares of diverse Indian agricultural crops.





The US, EU and Brazil have around 450-750 approved molecules. Even country like Vietnam has more than 500 registered molecules.

These statistics indicate the fact that our farmers have limited choice to fight against the ever-increasing host of pest and diseases. Therefore, it is imperative that the industry is provided an enabling environment to bring newer and greener chemistries for the benefit of the farmers.

It is pertinent to note that for any new crop protection molecule to reach the market, it takes more than 11 years of intensive R&D efforts and an average investment of around \$ 300 million.

Following few policy initiatives will take the Indian agrochemical sector to newer heights:

There is a need for a predictable science-based policy and regulatory regime for building a robust manufacturing base in the country.

- **Registration Timelines** – Internationally, time required to register products is much less as compared to India. There is an imminent need to look at the registration timelines and bring it in line with international norms without compromising on the safety and efficacy and sustainable aspects.
- All registration categories under section 9(3) for molecules to be introduced first time in the country should be given priority. **New molecule introduction** needs to be encouraged and facilitated
- There is a need to adopt **Global Best Practices** -
 - **Minor Changes legislation** - At present any minor changes to the recipe is like a new registration and leads to enormous delays. Internationally minor changes are allowed without the need for elaborate data requirements all over again. The Ministry of Agriculture has constituted a committee to look into this issue in 2014. India should also allow minor changes without the requirement of large amount of data.
 - **Upgradation of Labs** - India should implement Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) requirements in letter and spirit and encourage data generation under Good Laboratory Practice (GLP). Peer review on toxicological data should be adopted by India similar to the pattern adopted by OECD member countries.



- Government should avoid any hasty decision to ban or a policy environment restricting use and introduction of new molecules. In fact, industry and Government should work towards ensuring that the farmers are equipped with the best technologies to produce more from less in an environmentally sustainable manner.
- The **Pesticide Management Bill** is another opportunity to bring in a predictable progressive science-based legislation in place of the age-old Insecticide Act of 1968.
- Provisions like criminalization of offences in the PMB need to be relooked. The offenders need to be dealt with but the genuine players should not suffer.
- Similarly, some of the regulatory provisions like re-registrations and certain provisions will affect ease of doing business. And more importantly will restrict new molecule introductions so necessary for the farmers in an extremely complex environment and pest pressures.
- It also needs to ensure that there is adequate duration of protection of regulatory data for the first-time registrants. This will enable them to not only recoup some of their investments but also steward the product properly. A period of exclusivity is granted by countries across the world for first time registrants in accordance with the WTO and TRIPS guidelines. In fact, it would ensure "Innovation Protection" and would encourage more discoveries in India leading to creating a robust manufacturing base.
- The Government has rightly identified **Artificial Intelligence** as the future of agriculture and would help growers in making the right decision with respect to spraying technologies, product usage and help in identifying deficiencies and interventions for soil etc. All avenues to enable penetration of new and scale neutral technologies like drones and apps should be explored for making farming sustainable.
- Manufacturing and logistics infrastructure - India needs to create a world class manufacturing and logistics infrastructure by way of industrial parks, easy environment clearances, centralized pollution treatment plants, power, water and other infrastructure. State of the art infrastructure in roads and ports facility would also help reduce time and cost besides boosting competitiveness.

Most important is a need for private sector and the Government to work towards bringing in newer and safer technologies through public private partnerships. The Government has identified agrochemicals as a **champion sector** and a blueprint has to be designed for making the sector more robust. Both domestic and





multinational companies have helped the sector grow tremendously in India. The strengths of both can be harnessed to take Indian agriculture and the Indian farmer to greater heights.

Crop Protection products have been playing a pivotal role in protecting the produce of the farmers across the globe from diseases and pests at various stages of the crop. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), in a recent study had estimated that the loss in value terms of India's agriculture produce due to weeds alone would be to the tune of over Rs 80,000 crores, without the use of crop protection products.

It is pertinent to mention here, if farming was not already difficult, with crops having to compete with 30,000 species of weeds, 3,000 species of worms and 10,000 species of plant-eating insects the newer and more complex pests like Fall Army Worm (FAW) and locusts combined with climate change are threatening the very existence of farming. In addition, bugs, molds and rodents threaten farmers' post-harvest and the Crop Protection products are the only solution that can prolong the life of crops and prevent post-harvest losses.

With support of the Central and State Governments, focus on new technologies as well as an enabling environment, Crop protection industry will surely witness its **Amrit Kaal**.





National Conference on
“Sustainable Growth of Agriculture for Self-Reliant India”
- Proceedings

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Key Takeaways

- The usage of Drones in agriculture, is the most sustainable model wherein the efficiency of the technology creates extremely low carbon footprints, increasing yield, improving soil fertility, the non-judicious use of agrochemicals is eliminated, MRLs are controlled, water saving is at 96% and overall, lesser input cost and higher output income to the farmers.
- The Government has formed another committee to work on the crop wise SOP for Kisan Drones and the same will be released soon.
- The priority should be introduction of new molecules and facilitating new technologies, innovations, and chemistries to the farmers. The Government and the industry need to collaborate so that the newer molecules are accepted in the regulatory system, under Ease of Doing Business.
- **Ease of Doing Business** is a continuous process and the Government is keen to take initiative and address all concerns of the stakeholders, however, priority areas may be set so the consensus be achieved after thorough discussions.
- In case of Direct Seeded Rice (DSR), weed is a big issue. A mix of pre- and post-emergence herbicides would help, but in case of complex flora, it becomes a little complicated and unaffordable for farmers.
- Business to farmers and business to last mile connect are the solutions to tap the untapped opportunities.
- A predictable science-based policy and regulatory regime, for building a robust manufacturing base in the country, while reworking the registration timelines as per international practices along with provision of Data Protection; is a pressing priority.
- Need of the hour is to explore and promote all avenues to ensure penetration of new and scale neutral technologies like drones, AI and apps that make farming sustainable.
- India should strive to create a world class manufacturing and logistics infrastructure by way of industrial parks, easy environmental clearances, naturalized pollution treatment plants, power, water and other infrastructure to reduce time and costs besides boosting competitiveness.
- Private sector and Government should work together towards bringing newer and safer technology through public private partnerships.
- **Crop grouping** is an important policy that needs implementation which will discourage off label usage.
- Increasing production/productivity or sustainability are important, but our attention should not be only focused around production technologies, productivity and growth of physical size of the output, but also on how market realization by farmers, can improve.

Inaugural Session- Day 2

Agriculture Transformation during 'Amrit Kaal' - Role of Crop Protection



Mr. Anil Kakkar, Vice Chairman, CropLife India and Vice President, Sumitomo Chemical India Ltd., started the day's discussions by sharing the Government of India's message of self-reliant India and agriculture being one of the most important sector. **Mr. Kakkar** shared his gratitude to the audience, who have been the ardent stakeholders of the crop protection industry, lauded the contributions of the fellow colleagues, Directors of CropLife India, members of the other associations and extended a warm welcome to the National Conference.

CropLife India members are committed towards making India self-reliant and Agriculture is an imminent part of it. The crop protection industry has been making an immense contribution to Indian Agriculture in the last 75 years and is committed to contribute during the "Amrit Kaal"; added the **Vice Chairman, CropLife India.**

Dr. K. C. Ravi, Chairman, CropLife India and Chief Sustainability Officer, Syngenta India Pvt. Ltd., in his **theme address** apprised that Agrochemical industry has contributed tremendously to increasing the productivity and profits of farmers around the world.

India's agrochemical industry has come a long way in the last 75 years. We truly believe that with the right policy and enabling environment, this sector holds the promise of a prosperous future in the next 25 years. According to an estimate, the market size of the agrochemical industry in India, comprising domestic and international players, is around Rs. 250 billion, which is expected to reach Rs 355 billion by 2027. We are celebrating 75 years of India's independence and the year 2047 will be an important year. **Amrit Kaal** is the time to salute all those who have contributed to the development of this country. Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri gave the famous slogan 'Jai Jawan - Jai Kisan'. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee added 'Jai Vigyan' and our Prime Minister added 'Jai Anusandhan'. Prime Minister's Special Attention -Kisan Drones - will become the best new friends of Indian farmers in days to come. This will help in saving time, cost and increasing productivity as well as ensuring safety. Partnerships will play an important role in making the best use of **Amrit Kaal.**

CropLife India has introduced about 95% of the molecules for the first time in the country and spends over US\$ 6 billion annually to provide cutting edge technology to our farmers to help realise the vision of '**Chhota Kisan - Bane Desh Ki Shaan**' through scale neutral technology on a large scale.



The industry is moving towards green chemical and has been fulfilling its environmental responsibility. There is a misconception that agrochemicals are used more in India. R&D based crop science has reduced the amount of pesticides use from 1000 to 3000 grams in 1960s and 70s, to less than 100 grams and even less than 4 grams today, contributing directly to sustainable agriculture, he added. He summarised by stating that the industry needs to be given an enabling environment to bring out new and green chemicals, and farmers need training to spray at the right time, in the right quantity and in the right way.

There is a need for a predictable, stable and science based policy and regulatory regime for the proper growth of the crop protection sector; 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.

There are 1175 molecules available globally while around 300 are registered in India. There are approximately 450 to 750 approved molecules in the US, Europe and Brazil. Even countries like Vietnam and Pakistan have more than 500 registered molecules. These figures only point to the harsh fact that our farmers have limited options to fight against the growing number of pests and

diseases. According to a figure, only about 75 of these 300 agrochemicals and their formulations are used to protect 140 million hectares of diverse Indian agricultural crops in our country. It's extremely important that Indian farmers are provided with longer range insecticides to fight against insects, diseases, weeds and other attacks; and to insure the same, the industry needs to be given an enabling environment to bring out new and green chemicals.

Delivering the **Keynote Address on 'Amrit Kaal': Role of Crop Protection**, Mr. Nand Kishore Aggarwal, Chairman, Crystal Crop Protection Limited, urged the industry members to take a resolution together for self-reliance in agri-inputs, in order to justify **Amrit Kaal**. To achieve this, he continued, Industry and Government should come together, more than one thousand molecules are registered in the world, but only 300 in India, we need introduction of new molecules to protect our crops and increase our production. In order to enhance our exports, the Government and industry has to work in tandem and sort issues under 'Ease of Doing Business'.

In his **Inaugural address**, Chief Guest, **Shri Kailash Choudhary, Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India**, shared that there is utmost need to employ the latest technology for agriculture and enhance farmer awareness for the same.



The challenge lies, he added in striking a balance between environment protection, growth and agriculture, and development of industry. Drone technology can play a big role as it offers multiple benefits like spraying of agrochemicals, determination of the amount of fertilizers and nutrients to be used, among others. He emphasised that the industry should work towards traceability, PPP, utilising CSR funds for farmer awareness among others, and deliberation in the form of this conference is a good starting point.

Shri Choudhary added that the Crop Protection Industry has been playing a key role in enhancing the productivity of Indian agriculture in key crops and invited the industry for Public– Private Partnerships to take Indian agriculture and the Indian farmers on a sustained growth path.

In his Vote of Thanks, **Mr. Srinivasa Karavadi, Vice Chairman, CropLife India and Head of Market Development India, Bangladesh & Sri Lanka, Bayer Crop Science Ltd.**, thanked the Honourable minister for motivating and sharing his vision of self-reliant India, and assured that the industry would not leave any stone unturned in its efforts towards achieving that vision. "CropLife India and its member companies have always believed in and demonstrated a constructive partnership approach with the Government and other stakeholders. We would like to continue to contribute in strengthening the collaborative ecosystem".

Special Plenary Session I -Day 2 Perspective of State Governments



Shri B C Patil, Minister of Agriculture, Karnataka, in his opening remarks stated that Agrochemical sector has recently been identified by Government as one of the twelve champion sectors where India has the potential to become a global hub for manufacturing and export. While highlighting the recent initiatives of central and state governments like Kisan Drones, he also appreciated the R&D and other initiatives, to complement the Government efforts, by various agrochemical industry entities.

Shri Patil shared that a Helpline is providing guidance to farmers in Karnataka. To give boost to the State agriculture, the Karnataka Government has increased the reservation of students from the families of farmers in admissions to B.Sc. Agriculture, from 40 % to 50 %.

Taking forward the discussion, **Mr. Anil Kakkar, Vice Chairman, CropLife India and Vice President Sumitomo Chemical India Ltd.**, thanked the minister, and added that CropLife India, as an association is doing a lot of stewardship all over the country and for any farmer welfare and prosperity initiative, CropLife would be honoured and happy to work as a partner.

Shri S Niranjan Reddy, Minister of Agriculture, Telangana, underlined that food not only caters to hunger, but also to successful and healthy generations. He emphasized that Telangana is working extensively on water conservation, farm power, credit, insurance etc. through dedicated schemes. He added that making agriculture lucrative for the younger generation should be the focus, only then sustainability can be ensured, it can be made lucrative only by innovation and latest technology.

Shri Reddy shared that Telangana has created clusters of agriculture for every 5,000 acres with one agriculture officer responsible for educating the farmers on soil health, usage of fertilizers and pesticides, diversification of crops, etc.

Under Mission Kakatiya, 46000 water tanks and water bodies in Telangana were restored. Due to concerted efforts, water has brought about the biggest revolution in Telangana.



Shri Kamal Patel, Minister of Agriculture, Madhya Pradesh, opined that agriculture was not given the requisite importance at the time of independence and there was inclination towards industry, leading to our farmers, along with other people living in our villages, like laborers, were forced to flee to the cities in search of better prospects; and that's the reason our country's narrative had its shares of issues.

Shri Patel shared that Madhya Pradesh has been taking many key initiatives like insurance to safeguard the interests of small holder farmers and make the farmers self-reliant. **Shri Patel** invited the industry to work with the State Government on stewardship and other initiatives

Shri Surya Pratap Sahi, Minister of Agriculture, Uttar Pradesh, started by expecting that more and more enterprises serving the agrochemical requirements would come up in the state and the country along with the existing players for a healthy competition and innovation.

Shri Sahi mentioned that the crop protection industry should continue to develop greener chemistries for sustainable growth. **Shri Sahi** invited the crop protection industry to invest in Uttar Pradesh which is on a trajectory towards becoming a food basket of the country as well as, of the world.

Mr. Rahul Dhanuka, Director, CropLife India and Chief Operating Officer, Dhanuka Agritech Limited, concluded the discussion with a vote of thanks and by reemphasising the need to continue on the path of farmer centric development.

Special Plenary Session II- Day 2

International Perspective: India @ 100



Mr. Sanjiv Lal, Director, CropLife India and Managing Director & CEO, Rallis India Limited, in his welcome speech shared that India is well positioned to significantly expand its domestic manufacturing capacities, and while the industry is working with the Government for optimum policy support to tap these emerging opportunities, it would be relevant to hear from country partners on their perspective regarding India as an agriculture based nation.

Mr. Siang Hee TAN, Executive Director, CropLife Asia and Session Moderator, started the session by stating that the fundamental challenge for India is its regulatory system. Does the framework support India to take a quantum leap in the next 25 years or not, is the question.

Mr. Siang Hee requested the fellow panellists to share their perspective on what India should be doing differently so that the Indian small-holder farmers come to an equitable income, change their lives and start contributing to the growth of the export potential. We are well aware that a lot of field needs to be covered for the Indian farmer, so that he is able to leverage the value as compared to the US maize farmers.

Mr. Ronald Verdonk, Minister Counsellor for Agriculture Affairs, Embassy of the United States of America, remarked on the overall trading relationship between India and United States, USA being one of the few markets with which India enjoys a trade surplus. With climate change, India is going to have much more pronounced monsoonal swings and vagaries in terms of precipitation, he added. The world looks towards India to be the provider, but it has got its own bit of challenges, like low yields, dependence on monsoon, small farm sizes, and rising input costs to name a few. The cold chain is improving, but there are still a lot of gaps and there's not enough processing of agricultural produce. Additionally, agrochemical and seed industry suffer from relatively weak enforcement with regards to intellectual property and data protection, making MNCs reluctant to share and deploy latest technologies and products.

Mr. Mariano Beheran, Minister Agricultural Attache, Embassy of Argentina, underscored the need to produce more, but without over-exploiting the limited natural resources, and opined that technology is going to play a key role. He stressed, that we are already grappling with climate change, water scarcity, new diseases and pests, shortage of affordable quality inputs, and infrastructure.

Mr. Vivek Sharma, Director, CropLife India and Head – Marketing, Agricultural Solutions (South Asia), BASF India Limited, while thanking the speakers observed that the core message from the panel is to have a right package in terms of technology, policy framework, regulations, global outlook, enabling environment, and country to country collaboration.

Panel II-Day 2 Enhancing Crop Protection Efficiency



Initiating the session **Dr. Indra Mani, Vice Chancellor, Vasantnao Naik Marathwada, Krishi Vidyapeeth**, narrated the Kisan Drone journey, how minimum use hours were defined, how SOPs were drawn for the agrochemical application, and later committees worked on even drone technology part, soil nutrient application, and then drew the guidelines.

Dr. Mani opined that the Future of Kisan Drone is very bright and farmers are going to be benefitted, hence, sufficient demonstrations of this technology at the farm level should be done. He iterated that another committee has also been formed to work on the crop wise SOP and will be released soon.

Dr. R. K. Malik, Country Coordinator, CIMMYT, shared that crop diversification and even varietal diversification is seldom practised in intensive cropping states. With increase in labor cost, energy, cost, input cost, yield has to increase too to ensure profitability, but it is stable. Added to it is the increased variability due to climate change and threat posed by falling water table. DSR (Direct Seeded Rice) offers a solution and has been adopted by various countries for years now due to various reasons – water shortage, high labour cost, etc.

Dr Malik added that De-risking is important to sustain DSR technology in India. In case of DSR, weed is a big issue. A mix of pre- and post-emergence herbicides would help, but in case of complex flora, it becomes a little complicated and unaffordable for farmers, we have to look for solutions.

Mr. Abhishek Burman, Chief Executive Officer, General Aeronautics, initiated the discussion around Agri value chain and its four components, pre-production, production, processing and commercialization. He stressed on the various application for which we use the drone technology today and the technology readiness level.

Mr. Burman stated that Drone is the most sustainable model wherein the efficiency of the technology creates zero carbon footprint, increasing yield, improving soil fertility, the overuse of agrochemicals is eliminated, MRLs are controlled, water saving is at 96% and overall, lesser input cost and higher output income to the farmers.

Mr. Shashank Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, DEHAAT, centred his piece around Digitisation and Agritech in India. He stated that the idea is to offer one stop solution to the farmers by digitising the entire value chain right from the district to the block/village retail point or a collection center, and directly serving the farmers using mobile technology.



Mr. Shashank concluded that Business to farmers and business to last mile connect is the only solution to tap the untapped opportunity.

Mr. Yatharth Bhardwaj, Head (Waste Management), Shakti Plastic Industries, stressed on the need to talk about the containers and plastic for the agrochemicals, a topic often ignored. He highlighted the need to strictly implement the Plastic Waste Management rules, which were there in place since 2016, but recently enforced strictly.

Mr. Bhardwaj's takeaways included that reverse logistics could play an important role in avoiding reuse of empty containers and recycling them into benches, pallets etc. It is advisable to encourage farmer for triple rinsing and not to use EPC for consumption/household purposes.

Ms. Vedika Kapoor, Director, CropLife India and Head - Government and Industry Affairs (South Asia), Corteva, concluded the session and thanked all the panelists for sharing their experience in the sector.



Panel III - Day 2

Ease of Doing Business – The Path Ahead



Mr. Ankur Aggarwal, Director, CropLife India and Managing Director, Crystal Crop Limited introduced the panelists and highlighted their considerable experience and expertise in the field of ease of doing business and policy development. He appreciated the timeliness of the panel discussions as the centre's emphasis is on self-sustainability for *'Atmanirbhar Bharat'* and it is all about ease of doing business.

Mr. Raju Kapoor, Co-Lead, Advocacy & Communication, and Director – Public & Industry Affairs, FMC India Private Limited, in his opening remarks as moderator of the discussion, said, today India not just aspires to be self-sufficient in food grain production but to be the food bowl of the world. For this, the need is to have right policies in place and reap benefits from latest technology. He asked the panelists to reflect on their initial thoughts and then discuss in detail.

Initiating the discussion **Dr. S. K. Malhotra, Project Director, ICAR – Directorate of Knowledge Management in Agriculture**, said that the plant protection industry has always been very vibrant and proactive in bringing innovation, whether in a crisis like COVID or for improving efficiency. Touching upon the issue of application and scrutiny, he added that the system has become more robust and speedier due to online applications but

admitted that faster scrutiny remains an issue. He also emphasized that the priority should be introduction of new molecules and facilitating new technologies, innovations, and chemistries to the farmers. One solution that all of us together have to identify is, how to fit the new molecules into our regulatory system and make our system more efficient and respond faster.

Dr. Rajesh Dhawan, Lead - Regulatory Affairs, CropLife India and Head Crop Protection - Syngenta India Pvt. Limited, noted that our system has come a long way from being a “player-regulator system” to “partner in success system”.

Dr. Sanjay Arya, Secretary, CIB&RC, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, informed the house on commitment of Central Insecticide Board & Registration Committee for ensuring the ease of doing business. He opined, that the new registration guidelines introduced have much needed clarity on minimum requirements that were missing so far. In order to benefit all the stakeholders, he also highlighted the engagement with the Centre for Good Governance to work on stabilising, enhancing efficiency, and ensuring transparency in the new system.

Mr. Ankur and Dr. Rajesh reiterated the requirement of a forum for regular stakeholder meetings just as in pre-COVID era every Friday. To this, **Dr. Sanjay** responded, that it is still a practice, but happening through virtual platforms and in future in-person possibilities shall also be explored.

Mr. Raju Kapoor, highlighted the importance of 3D – Discuss, Decide and Deliver, amongst Government, Regulator and Industry. He added, that much has been accomplished on the first 2 D's, and now the need of the hour is to Deliver.

Dr. S. C. Dubey, Assistant Director General (PP), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), remarked that Ease of Doing Business has to be worked on two fronts, first within the industry and then with the Government, and there is a lot of confidence building that has to be done between the Industry and the Government.

Dr. S. K. Malhotra, Project Director, ICAR – Directorate of Knowledge, Management in Agriculture, expressed satisfaction over the discussion over the revised guidelines, and how some decisions were taken on the spot regarding suggestions from the industry, a few others were accepted for inclusions, and only a few were pending as part of policy decisions.

Dr. Vandana Tripathy, Network Coordinator (AINP) All India Network Project on Pesticides, Residues – ICAR, remarked that all the labs are now equipped and NABL accredited, leading to ease of data generation. Moreover, crop grouping is an important policy that needs implementation which will discourage off label usage.

Mr. Kapoor, suggested that minor changes which does not impact the larger combination, should be accepted as it is, rather than treating it as a new formulation, requiring new data to be submitted, taking years.

To this, **Dr. Dubey** responded that changes although minor, have to be assessed in the light of resultant implication – whether on efficacy, toxicological impact, biosafety etc. Therefore, ease can be brought in when deficits are removed from the applicant sides as well.

Dr. P. K. Singh, Agriculture Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, underlined that Ease of Doing Business is a continuous process and the Government is keen to take initiative and address all concerns of the stakeholders, however, some priority areas may be set so the consensus may be achieved after thorough discussions.

Dr. Sanjay quickly added that a new initiative has been initiated called “Know Your Company” on lines of KYC, which will discourage non serious players. **Mr. Aggarwal** remarked that despite several Government reminders only 314 companies have submitted mandatory business documents. **Mr. Sanjay**, expressed that it is difficult to know the real business of a firm, whereas authentication of registration document is easy, to this end, Know Your Company has been initiated.

Dr. Rajesh Dhawan, Lead - Regulatory Affairs, CropLife India and Head Crop Protection - Syngenta India Pvt. Limited, offered his vote of thanks and concluded by highlighting the key takeaways of the panelists. He reiterated that crop grouping principles of data generation and MRL fixation are very close to ease of doing business and in many countries it has been adopted successfully, and therefore India needs to have Crop Grouping implementation in place. All the stakeholders like FSSAI, ICAR & CIB&RC may be requested to conclude this issue. Also, Minor Change while removing hazardous solvents without making drastic changes may be guided through Minor change guidelines.

Special Plenary Session - Day 1



Mr. Anil Kakkar, Vice Chairman, CropLife India and Vice President, Sumitomo Chemical India Ltd., while delivering the welcome address, highlighted the need for national conference to deliberate upon sustainable growth of agriculture for self-reliant India, and thanked all the speakers of the day, also underlining a good mix of bureaucrats, industry leaders and experts.

Dr K. C. Ravi, Chairman, CropLife India and Chief Sustainability Officer, Syngenta India Pvt. Ltd., delivered the theme address and hoped that in the next 25 years, termed **"Amrit Kaal"**, partnerships among stakeholders would hold the key.

Dr Ravi enumerated the below policy initiatives:

- A predictable science-based policy and regulatory regime, for building a robust manufacturing base in the country, while reworking the registration timelines as per international practices.
- Avoiding hasty decisions to ban or a policy environment which restricts use and introduction of new molecules.
- To bring in a predictable progressive science-based legislation in place of the age-old insecticide act of 1968, while ensuring adequate duration of protection of regulatory data for the first-time registrants in India.
- Exploring and promoting all avenues to ensure penetration of new and scale neutral technologies like drones, AI and apps that make farming sustainable.
- To create a world class manufacturing and logistics infrastructure by way of industrial parks, easy environmental clearances, naturalized pollution treatment plants, power, water and other infrastructure to reduce time and costs besides boosting competitiveness.
- Private sector and government to work towards bringing newer and safer technology through public private partnerships.

Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Former Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR, Government of India, started by mentioning the 3Cs which have impacted our lives – COVID, Conflict (Ukraine War) and Climate Change. He said that we have come a long way from ship to mouth situation to self-sufficiency and recently faced the problem of plenty too, but for a secure future creating awareness among stakeholders, particularly the farmers, even leaders, regarding using chemicals in a safe manner, in order to enhance efficiency, efficacy, and to reduce the cost; is very important in Indian context. To feed this huge population, what is required is, the market intelligence, market study so that appropriate demand-supply gaps are examined and adequately addressed to lead at the global level. From promoting one district one product, to cluster production, he continued, we need technology driven agricultural growth and the industry has tremendous role to play. With precision agriculture, he stated, you can economize on everything, on inputs, the chemicals, the seeds, water etc., and if you can reduce the footprint of all those on environment, obviously you will have sustainable growth.

Mr. Praveen Pardeshi, Member – Administration, Capacity Building Commission, delivering his special address, argued that Government's focus is not on doubling agricultural production rather on doubling farmer's income, because India's farmers income is roughly one fourth to one seventh of the average income, despite India being the largest producer of milk, second largest producer of fruits and vegetables in the world, and second largest producer of wheat and rice. He even stated had we reached the productivity levels of even our neighbours, or levels of Punjab across India, we wouldn't know where to keep the grains, and even worse, we wouldn't know, how to sustain the farmers because the prices would crash.

A RBI study shows that the average farm gate prices of most agricultural goods is around 40% less, therefore, he stated, we need to ensure that farmers get what they deserve for producing what they're already producing.

Mr. Pardeshi continued, his argument is not that increasing production/productivity or sustainability are not important, but that our focus and attention should not be only focused around production technologies, productivity and growth of physical size of the output, but also on how market realization by farmers, can improve. **Mr. Pardeshi** offered the solution of private sector and government working together with farmers/producer groups, to buy on a predictable price, to increase farm income and not just production.

Towards the end of the open discussion, **Mr. Srinivasa Karavadi, Vice Chairman CropLife India and Head of Market Development India, Bangladesh & Sri Lanka, Bayer Crop Science Limited**, offered his vote of thanks and assured the panel, on behalf of all the industry colleagues and former office bearers of CropLife India contributing back to the farmer community and society at large.

Media Coverage

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NEWS

Use of Modern Technology is Essential in Agriculture Sector for Enhancing Crop Yield and Safeguarding the Environment - Shri Kailash Choudhary

Updated 30/09/2022

New Delhi, Delhi, India (NewsVail)

- immense opportunities for Public - Private Partnerships
- Four State Agriculture Ministers, Government Think Tanks & Agro-chemical Industry deliberance on Sustainable Growth of Agriculture for Self-Reliant India during the National Conference organized on the occasion of 42nd AGM of CropLife India

CropLife India, the leading association of domestic and Multinational R&D driven crop science companies organized a two day National Conference on the occasion of its 42nd AGM, which witnessed the congregation of the Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmer Welfare, Four Agriculture Ministers from the key States of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka, senior Government officials, experts and industry leaders.

The Theme of the National Conference was "Sustainable Growth of Agriculture for Self Reliant India". The theme of the inaugural session was "Agriculture Transformation during 'Amrit Kaal' - Role of Crop Protection". A Special Plenary Session - "Perspectives of State Governments" focused on the achievements in agriculture in the four key States of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka. A Special Plenary Session II focused on the "International Perspective: India @100", a special session focused on "Enhancing Crop Protection Efficiency" and the Session - III was divided into "Ease of Doing Business - The Path Ahead".

In his Inaugural address, **Shri Kailash Choudhary**, Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, stated that, "There is utmost need to employ the latest technology for agriculture and enhance farmer awareness for the same. Drone technology can play a big role as it offers multiple benefits like spraying of agro-chemicals, determination of amount of fertilizers and nutrients to be used, among others."

KJ KRISHI JAGRAN

CropLife India's 42nd AGM: "The Biggest Challenge for Humankind is to Conserve Soil"

One of India's top events in the agriculture industry took place in the heart of the capital today. Besides organizing its 42nd Annual General Meeting, CropLife India has also organized the national conference on 'Sustainable Growth of Agriculture for Self Reliant India' at Hyatt Regency in New Delhi.

Binile Kumar | Updated 26 September, 2022 5:51 PM IST



5:48 PM Dharmesh Gupta, Director, CropLife India & Managing Director at Bharat Cerris Agriscience Limited concluded the event with a vote of thanks.

CropLife India national conference brainstorms agchem policy ecosystem

30 Sep 2022 - Crop Science | Headline Analysis

IHS Markit

Agrochemical industry association CropLife India's recently concluded annual general meeting saw sectoral players and lawmakers deliberate on a wide range of topics including digital agriculture, and the requirement of new crop protection molecules. The roundtable also involved discussions with the country's pesticide regulatory authorities on expediting registration timelines and streamlining processes to fast-track the introduction of new crop protection chemistries, besides dialogue on the importance of recycling empty pesticide containers.

The two-day event was marked by representatives from the government highlighting steps undertaken to expand the adoption of farm drones and other precision agriculture technologies, besides presenting an overview of financial provisions implemented in the form of subsidies to achieve mainstream usage of such innovations. They also focused on the importance of public-private partnerships for the industry to stay on a "sustained growth path" and urged agrochemical players to expand their presence across various Indian states. Additionally, they stressed the importance of water management, and the need for improved stewardship initiatives.

Industry members, on the other hand, highlighted the need for a "constructive partnership approach" with the country's regulators, observing that a "collaborative ecosystem" would help the sector flourish.

CropLife India's chairman, DNYK Ravi, sought the establishment of a "predictable, stable and science-based policy and regulatory regime" for the growth of the industry, while other office bearers took up various sectoral concerns and requirements with the lawmakers.

Analyst Contact Details: Akashpratin Mukhopadhyay

ANI
South Asia's Leading Multimedia News Agency

TUE, NOV 29, 2022 | UPDATED 18:01 IST

National World Business Sports Lifestyle Entertainment Health

CropLife India Annual Report unveiled during the National Conference

Use of Modern Technology is essential in agriculture sector for enhancing crop yield and safeguarding the environment - Kailash Choudhary



CropLife is a Network of Global Federations comprising of regional and national associations in **91 countries**.

CropLife India represents:

70% of Market	95% Molecules Introduced	Combined R & D spend of 6 billion USD
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