

Precision Agriculture, regulatory reforms and global best practices, key to Doubling Farmers' Income

Government Think Tanks & Agro-chemical Industry deliberate on agriculture transformation through partnerships during 39th Annual General Meeting of CropLife India

New Delhi: Mr. Rajendra Velagala, Chairman, CropLife India shared that Digitalization will bring efficiency and the pace of its adoption to depend on our progressive policies. CropLife India is committed to support Hon'ble Prime Minister of India's vision of Doubling Farmers Income by 2022.

Addressing the 39th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of [CropLife India](#) an association of 18 R&D driven crop science companies, **Mr. Velagala** shared that Government should address industry's concerns in the Pesticides Management Bill, bring in Data Protection; align with Best International Practices and Regulatory Reforms by reducing registration timelines of crop protection products.

The day long AGM witnessed an inaugural and four technical sessions with experts and key Government officials' conglomeration, on the cause of supporting the farmer. The sessions included topics like – “New Government's Vision for Agriculture Transformation in India”; “Bringing Innovation to the Farmers; Case for Regulatory Data Protection in India”; “Regulatory Reforms and Global Best Practices”; “Fast Track Adoption of Drones Application Technology Solutions” and “Ensuring Quality Inputs for Farmers”.

Shri P. Raghavendra Rao, Secretary, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Government of India said, “The role of agrochemicals in the development of the food grains production in India is critical, considering the fact that India, is predicted to be the most populous country by 2030”.

Prof. Panjab Singh, President, National Academy of Agriculture Sciences concurred with Mr. Rao and said, “From a problem of deficit, we are now going through the problem of plenty. The issue of rising population needs to be addressed by sustaining agriculture and production, so that livelihood can be maintained”.

Dr. Ashok Dalwai, CEO, National Rainfed Area Authority, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India said, “Unfortunately the reforms of 1991, bypassed the agricultural sector hence we need to improve our agriculture, now. It is imperative for the Government to listen to the industry, as it will lead to solutions”. **Dr. Dalwai** added, “Democracy, institution and technology are the important ingredients for development of a nation and there is need for inorganic competition”.

Shri Ashwani Kumar, Joint Secretary (Seeds and M&T), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India informed “ICAR-IARI is conducting a study on the application of crop protection products by drones and the report will be submitted soon to the Ministry. We are working in close coordination and will issue the guidelines for drone applications, at the earliest”.

Dr. P. K. Chakrabarty, Member, Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board (ASRB) informed, “Government of India has approved an International Best Practice of Crop Grouping on 14th August 2019”. **Dr. Chakrabarty** added, “Regulatory reforms and the new crop protection products has to be given faster registration”.

Mr. Sianghee Tan, Executive Director, CropLife Asia said, “The expertise of Indian IT sector should be utilized in the growth of agriculture in India. Apart from attracting the Indian youth to farming, technology will help in mitigating the risk and aid in Doubling Farmers' Income”.

Dr. KC Ravi, Vice-Chairman of CropLife India, stressed, “The need for coordinated action by all stakeholders to address the policy bottlenecks, which are slowing the growth of the agriculture sector”.

The session witnessed the presence of Mr. Asitava Sen, Chief Executive Officer, CropLife India; Mr. Sanjiv Lal, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Rallis India Limited; Mr. R. G. Agarwal, Chairman, Dhanuka Agritech; Mr. Salil Singhal, Chairman, PI Industries; Dr. Ram Kaundinya, Director General, Federation of Seed Industry of India (FSII); Dr. J. C. Majumdar, Senior Scientific Advisor, Crop Care Federation of India; Mr. Ankur Aggarwal, Managing Director, Crystal Crop Care; Mr. Raju Kapoor, Industry & Public Affairs Director, FMC India; Mr. Anil Kakkar, Vice President, Sumitomo Chemical India; Mr. Mayank Singhal, Managing Director, PI Industries; Mr. Ankur Tiku, Asset Lead, Bayer Crop Science; Mr. Pramod Thota, President, FMC India; Mr. Ajai Kumar, Head of Government and Industry Affairs, Corteva India; to name a few. The Open House was attended by more than 100 delegates from the Industry, Academia, Government and Think Tanks.

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 like Fall Army Worm, build-up of resistance, climate change and associated vagaries of weather.

CropLife India members are not only committed to bring latest and safer innovations but also equally committed to educate farmers on their safe and responsible use. There are many examples of this commitment, over the years:

- India is among the few countries to introduce latest innovations and greener chemistries.
- More than 40 lakh farmers have been trained in the safe and responsible use of crop protection products.

CropLife members continue to work closely with farmers, scientific community and policy makers to address current as well as future challenges. However, cost of research has gone up and it is estimated that the cost of discovery and development of a new active ingredient is around ~ 280 million USD. While CropLife member companies are committed to Innovation to the core, this also means fewer new active ingredients are coming out of research now than in the past. If Indian agriculture must flourish, be more competitive, quality driven, reducing wastages as well as losses to enable our farmers to be more successful, it is absolutely essential that a progressive environment is in place that fosters innovations.

About [CropLife India](#):

CropLife India is committed to advancing sustainable agriculture and it is an association of 18 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.

Our Members



Our Associate Members



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