PRESS RELEASE

Data Protection Will Bring Farmers Newer, Safer Chemistry and Strengthen Domestic Industry and Exports, Says Leading Indian Companies

Crystal Crop Protection, Rallis India, Dhanuka Agritech, PI Industries and Godrej Agrovet say a limited, time-bound Protection of Regulatory Data framework would give farmers newer, safer and lower-dose chemistry, strengthen domestic manufacturing and exports and widen the molecule pool for the whole industry.

New Delhi, 19th August 2026: India's leading crop protection companies have jointly urged the Government of India to introduce Protection of Regulatory Data (PRD), saying it would benefit farmers first and strengthen domestic manufacturing and exports. Crystal Crop Protection, Rallis India, Dhanuka Agritech, PI Industries and Godrej Agrovet said a limited, time-bound **data protection window is the missing incentive to bring newer, safer and lower-dose molecules to Indian farms faster, and to widen the pool of molecules available to the whole domestic industry, including the generic sector and SMEs.**

The clearest gain is for the farmer. As climate change shifts the pattern of pests, weeds and diseases, limited chemistry poses challenges and resistance builds. Newer molecules are more targeted, work at lower doses and carry better safety profiles, which means safer handling, lower residues in produce and more dependable protection for the crop. India loses an estimated 10% to 35% of its output each year to pests, weeds and diseases, a loss of around ₹2 lakh crore as estimated by CropLife India Yes Bank Knowledge Report and studies find these losses climb further with every degree of warming.

The benefit runs across the domestic industry and its exports. A modern portfolio gives Indian manufacturers more to make, and gives farm exports the newer chemistry they need to clear tightening residue limits abroad. Expanding India's registered portfolio beyond the current 380 of the 1,200 molecules in use worldwide would strengthen agricultural productivity, manufacturing competitiveness and export resilience. India's own agrochemical exports compete directly with countries that already provide data protection. A modern portfolio is a more competitive one.

PRD is the mechanism that keeps the portfolio refreshed. Bringing a new molecule to India costs about ₹40 to 50 crore and takes six to eight years of local safety, efficacy and residue studies. Without a protected period, a later applicant can rely on that same data within a year, at a cost of around ₹75 lakh, which removes the incentive to introduce newer molecules here at all. A limited window restores that incentive, and once it ends the molecule is open to the whole industry.

That widening pool reaches the generic sector and SMEs. As molecules complete their protection period, small and medium manufacturers gain a larger and more modern set of products to make and export, on top of everything they produce today. The measure adds to what the domestic industry can build on, it does not subtract from it. Nothing already in the market is affected, since PRD applies only to new molecules and new uses.

India would be catching up, not breaking new ground. China provides six years of data protection and is today the world's largest exporter of agrochemicals Thailand, Brazil and the United States each provide up to ten years, and the European Union provides ten, extended to as much as thirteen for low-risk and biological products to encourage greener chemistry. India currently provides none. The countries India competes with built their strength with data protection already in place.

The companies pointed to two gains missing from the public debate. When a single molecule carries several hundred identical registrations, prices collapse to a level that drives over-use, misuse and a market for spurious and sub-standard products, none of which serves the farmer. **A protection window rewards genuine investment in quality and curbs that race to the bottom.** And because registration requires locally generated data, and the first registrant carries stewardship and resistance-management duties during the protected period, the measure sends more research work to Indian laboratories and field stations and improves how products are used in the field. The result is a fairer, safer and more research-focused industry.

Global Protection of Regulatory Data Exclusivity Periods by Region

Country/Region	Duration	Status
United States (FIFRA)	10 Years	✓
EU Members	10 + 5 Years	✓
Brazil	10 Years	✓
Chile	10 Years	✓
Mexico	5 Years	✓
Colombia	5 Years	✓
US FTAs	10 Years	🤝
CAFTA	10 Years	🤝
Japan	15+ Years	✓
Korea (South)	15 Years	✓
Singapore	10 Years	✓
Taiwan	10 Years	✓
Australia	8 + 3 Years	✓
New Zealand	5 Years	✓
China	6 Years	✓

High Protection (15y+)
Standard (10y)
Variable (8y+)
Basic (5-6y)

Source: CropLife International / Regulatory Database 2025

The companies urge the Government to utilise the opportunity presented by the draft Pesticides Management Bill, 2025; to incorporate a limited and time-bound Protection of Regulatory Data (PRD) framework. A five-year period from the first registration of new molecules and new uses would provide a balanced incentive for innovation while ensuring full market entry for the generic sector and SMEs once the protection period ends.

“Evolving pest pressures demand modern crop protection solutions, yet farmers continue to have limited access to the latest innovations. A time-bound data protection window brings them newer and safer tools sooner, and every molecule it brings in early belongs to the whole industry once the window closes.” **Ankur Aggarwal, Chairman, CropLife India and Executive Chairman & Managing Director, Crystal Crop Protection Ltd.**

“The exporting countries we compete with adopted data protection and grew stronger for it. For India, a modern portfolio keeps our farmers protected and our exports competitive.” **Dr. Gyanendra Shukla, Vice Chairman, CropLife India and Managing Director & CEO, Rallis India (a Tata enterprise).**

"As resistance to pests continues to rise, Indian farmers need faster access to newer, safer and lower-dose crop protection solutions. A framework of time-bound Protection of Regulatory Data, will accelerate access to innovation and strengthen sustainable agriculture." **Rahul Dhanuka, Managing Director, Dhanuka Agritech Ltd.**

“A predictable Data protection framework rewards genuine research and brings new innovative solutions to Indian farmers, enabling more sustainable outcomes and creating lasting value for farming communities.” **Mayank Singhal, Vice Chairperson, & Managing Director, PI Industries.**

"Sustainable farming needs greener, lower-dose chemistry. By protecting data longer for low-risk products as the EU does, India can encourage the climate-friendly molecules farmers increasingly need." **N. K. Rajavelu, CEO, Godrej Agrovet**

Note to editors

Crystal Crop Protection, Rallis India, Dhanuka Agritech, PI Industries and Godrej Agrovet are among India's leading R&D-driven crop protection companies and members of CropLife India.

About CropLife India

CropLife India is committed to advancing sustainable agriculture and it is an association of 17 R&D driven member companies in crop protection. We jointly represent ~ 70% of the market and are responsible for 95% of the molecules introduced in the country. Our member companies have annual global R & D spend of 6 billion USD and are firmly committed to engaging with the farming community to enable Safe, Secure Food Supply.

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 direct investment of building factories, jobs creation, bringing in agriculture innovation and working endlessly over the years with multi-stakeholders to enhance agriculture productivity.

Our Members

Our Associate Members

For more information, contact:

Joydeep Chakraborty | Head – Communications, CropLife India |communications@croplifeindia.org | 9711306346