

PRESS RELEASE

Restrictions on existing crop protection solutions without entry of better alternatives is double whammy for farmers: CropLife India

Seeks a five-year Regulatory Data Protection in the regulatory framework, commits to introduce newer technology.

16th September 2026, New Delhi: CropLife India, an industry body representing 17 leading crop protection companies, has urged the Government to act quickly on the serious issue of a narrow pool of crop protection solutions available to farmers today. Indian farmers have access to about 380 active ingredients (AI) as compared to about 1,200 AIs available to farmers globally.

Any restriction on existing crop protection solutions without entry of better alternatives can potentially act as a double whammy for farmers. **CropLife India proposes a two-pronged approach to address the gap.** Firstly, any restriction on existing molecules should be strictly based on established scientific literature, including contextual safety, health and efficacy data. It must equally examine the impact on the farmer.

Secondly, introduction of Regulatory Data Protection (RDP) for a period of five years in the regulatory framework, data that is required to be generated to register a new product in the country. This will improve and expand the choice basket for the farmer, incentivise investments for entry of safer and more efficient technology available to farmers globally. Protecting a company's investment into this regulatory data, which includes studies on safety, health and efficacy data in Indian conditions, will incentivise faster introduction of innovations.

Today, the absence of such a provision is depriving farmers' access to newer technology, disincentivising competitiveness in the industry due to apprehensions of data getting copied unfairly. Such a provision would also be in-line with the best global regulatory regimes. China, Indonesia and Malaysia provide up to 6 years of protection. United States, the European Union, Canada, Thailand, Brazil and Columbia provide up to 10 years. Australia, Taiwan and Philippines up to 8 years.

*"Factors such as El Nino, and climate change are making pest pressures even more dynamic and troublesome for farmers. Therefore, there is a pressing need to install a robust framework that allows entry of better science, innovation and technology backed products, which can help farmers to address these evolving pest dynamics," said **Rahul Dhanuka, Managing Director, Dhanuka Agritech Ltd.** "RDP will optimise the current registration process, allow entry of better technology and result in evidence-based based phasing out," he added.*

"A time-bound RDP regime has globally proven to foster innovation and fair competition. The EU, for instance, provides up to 13 years of protection just to

*incentivise registration of green molecules. Indian can benefit from harmonising its own framework with best global practice, expand the choice basket for the farmer, reduce reliance on a narrow set of options. It will also help the Indian crop protection industry to move up the global value chain,” said **Mohan Babu Boppana, Vice Chairman of CropLife India and COO of Bayer CropScience Ltd.** “RDP will be a win-win for farmers that get better solutions, for the government as it helps the country to produce more food safely, and the industry as it gets incentivised to constantly bring new technology for the farmer.”*

“New molecules, including green molecules that the industry can bring, are more selective in action, they protect unintended damage to flora and fauna, require much lower doses of application. Therefore, they would be more economical for the farmer and much safer for the environment”, he further mentioned.

Indian farmer loses about 10-35% of crop annually due to pests and diseases, which amounts to about INR 2 lakh crore annually.

*“There is a need for a holistic framework to refresh and expand crop protection solutions along with robust scientific guardrails. Introduction of improved technology through PRD framework will aid the farmers to arrest losses from pest damage better, improve income, contribute to India’s vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047,” said, **Giridhar Ranuva, Business Director, BASF Agricultural Solutions, India***

RDP has become even more necessitated with regulations in high-value markets, such as the EU, becoming more stringent, especially the Maximal Residual Limits applied to various existing crop protection molecules. Access to better technology may ensure that farmers and exporters are equipped to meet such stringent export requirements in high value markets.

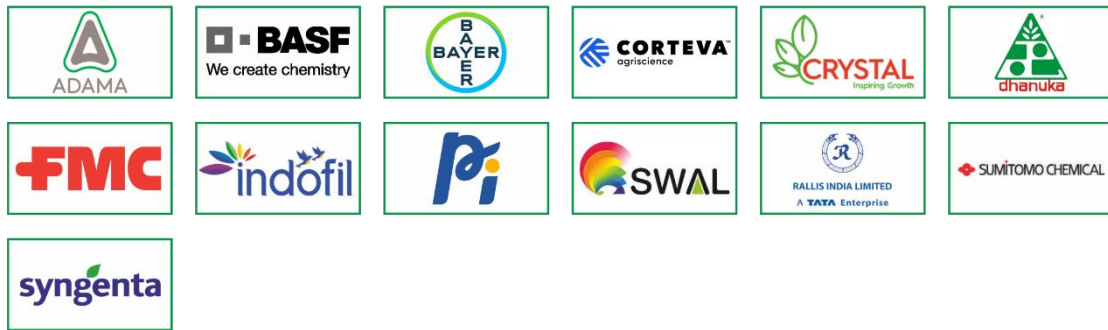
The industry body also urges for regulation of sales of crop protection products on e-commerce platforms, including imposition of licensing obligations and digital traceability to prevent sale of unauthorised products through such channels.

CropLife India is committed to supporting farmers, promoting best practices, and contributing to sustainable agriculture in 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 MEMBERS



OUR ASSOCIATE MEMBERS



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