



भारतीय कृषि एवं खाद्य परिषद्
INDIAN CHAMBER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

POLICY ROUND TABLE ON CROP PROTECTION

Thursday, 2nd May 2024

India International Centre, Lodi Estate, New Delhi

POST EVENT REPORT

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Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) with the support of Agro Chem Federation of India (ACFI) has hosted a policy round table on crop protection on 2nd May 2024 in New Delhi. The event brought together key stakeholders, experts, industry leaders, and policymakers from the agricultural and agrochemical sector to discuss critical issues concerning crop protection. The discussions focused on addressing challenges, exploring innovative solutions, and formulating strategic recommendations to enhance crop protection measures in India's agricultural landscape. The meeting was chaired by Sh. Faiz Ahmad Kidwai, Additional Secretary-PP, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India and Co-chaired by Dr. JP Singh, Plant Protection Advisor. Dr. Archana Sinha, Secretary, CIB&RC, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, was the special guest on this occasion.



WELCOME AND OPENING STATEMENTS

Dr. MJ Khan, Chairman ICFA welcomed all the dignitaries and opened the session by highlighting the urgent need for comprehensive strategies to address crop protection challenges in India. He emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts among stakeholders to promote effective crop protection coverage and sustainable agricultural practices to ensure food security for the nation. Dr. Khan also discussed the role of technology and innovation in developing effective crop protection measures that are environmentally friendly and economically viable.

Sh. Faiz Ahmad Kidwai IAS, Additional Secretary-PP, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare thanked ICFA for organizing the RTC and bringing all key stakeholders to discuss issues concerning the industry and the Indian agriculture. He emphasized the government's commitment to enhancing crop protection

measures and promoting sustainable agricultural practices. Sh. Kidwai highlighted the importance of collaboration between the government and industry to address the challenges faced by farmers and ensure food security for the nation. He encouraged meaningful discussions and constructive engagement during the session to achieve actionable outcomes for the benefit of the agricultural sector.

Dr. J.P. Singh, Plant Protection Adviser, CIB&RC, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, GOI, shared insightful opening remarks, he shed light on the challenges facing the agricultural industry, emphasizing the need for collaborative solutions. Dr. Singh highlighted the importance of administrative support in implementing effective crop protection measures, especially in the context of climate change impacts on ecosystems. He stressed the significance of finding sustainable solutions beneficial to all stakeholders in the agricultural value chain.

Sh. P. Murugesh (IAS), Director of Agriculture, Government of Tamil Nadu, provided a crucial governmental perspective during the opening remarks. He highlighted the need to address climate change's impact on crop yield, productivity, and harvest losses, stressing the importance of ensuring sustainability in agriculture. Sh. Murugesh emphasized the focus on biofertilizers and eco-based plant protection measures as key strategies for sustainable agriculture. He mentioned that the state government is prioritizing biofertilizers to reduce the dependency on chemical fertilizers. The Director stressed the necessity of raising awareness among farmers about these eco-friendly practices. Furthermore, he discussed strategies such as having a separate agricultural budget, focusing on soil nutrient management, and promoting climate-resilient agriculture. He underscored the critical importance of plant protection measures in ensuring food security and agricultural sustainability.



SESSION PROCEEDINGS

Presentation on Agro-chemical Issues by Dr. Kalyan Goswami, DG, ACFI, presented a comprehensive overview of Agro-chemical Industry



Issues, extending gratitude to Dr. Khan for organizing the RTC on such a critical topic. Dr. Goswami delved into statistics regarding crop protection and highlighted the industry's growth and challenges. He emphasized the importance of innovation and collaboration in tackling these challenges. Trends in the Indian crop industry were discussed, including challenges such as regulatory data protection, contract manufacturing, and the increasing cost of raw materials. Dr. Goswami also addressed the impact of the global situation on the Indian crop protection industry, sparking meaningful discussions among participants.

Mr. RG Agarwal, Group Chairman, Dhanuka Agritech Ltd, expressed gratitude to Chairman Sir



a crucial topic. He highlighted the importance of new KYC norms in the crop sector and discussed regulatory frameworks and rules affecting the crop protection industry. Mr. Agarwal raised concerns about duplicate products in the market and their impact on the economy's growth and income generation. He shared valuable insights into industry data, R&D budgets, and the role of technology and innovation, emphasizing the significance of export-import dynamics.

Dr. KC Ravi, Chairman of CropLife India and CSO at Syngenta India Ltd, emphasized the industry's foundation in science and the critical need for investments in research and development. He highlighted the importance of government-industry



interactions, suggesting that the current system has slowed down and advocating for shorter registration timelines. Dr. Ravi stressed the necessity for collaborative efforts between the government and industry, mentioning best practices and the importance of acquiring the best technology for farmers. He called for increased investments in science-based approaches beneficial to farmers and emphasized the need to enhance capacity for expert research and development.

Mr. Kimihede Kondo, Managing Director of Bharat Certis AgriScience Ltd., highlighted the company's



focus on formulating new molecules and developing innovative properties for new products. He discussed the significance of export-import dynamics and manufacturing processes in the agricultural industry. Mr. Kondo emphasized the importance of leveraging cutting-edge technology and sustainable practices to enhance product quality and market competitiveness.

Mr. Raju Kapoor, Director of Public & Industry Affairs at FMCLtd., delved into various aspects of the global supply chain and the need for a changed mindset to address challenges faced by people. He emphasized the "Make in India" initiative and highlighted the importance of global investments in the agricultural sector. Mr. Kapoor mentioned neighbouring countries' strategies in acquiring scientific manpower and investing in research and development. He also referenced the vision and



mission of the Prime Minister, advocating for faster regulatory approvals, increased innovation investments, and optimizing the supply chain for organic farming practices. The discussion expanded to include the use of pesticides, drone technology, and the potential for greater collaboration between government and private entities to deliver more value and foster growth and partnerships within the industry.

Mr. Rajesh Aggarwal, Managing Director of Insecticides (India) Ltd., emphasized the importance of making agriculture sustainable and ensuring the availability of quality inputs and technology. He discussed the pro-India opportunities and the need for more encouragement and investment in research and development. Mr. Aggarwal highlighted the importance of knowledge-sharing between academia, government, and semi-governmental bodies to foster more confidence, collaboration, and development in the agricultural sector. He specifically focused on addressing delays in registration processes, calling for improvements and faster approval and clearance mechanisms. Mr. Aggarwal also stressed the importance of bringing patented technologies to India and enhancing expertise in research and development through policy support. He mentioned the significance of long-term toxicological guidelines, data protection, and the need for efficient policy systems to streamline processes and facilitate innovation.

Mr. Juzar Khorakiwala, CMD, Biostadl India Ltd., underscored how the agricultural industry is propelled by scientific advancements and the need to make innovations more affordable for farmers. He stressed the ethical and moral responsibilities of companies in delivering value to society. Mr. Khorakiwala also addressed the competitive landscape, particularly comparing Chinese



competitiveness with India's, highlighting the importance of creating an integrated ecosystem in India to foster competitiveness. The discussion further delved into the challenges of ensuring sufficient product availability in the long term and addressing issues of corruption within government institutions. He proposed strategies for dealing with corruption and emphasized the potential of bio stimulants and biological solutions in agriculture. He emphasized the need for collaborative efforts between industry, government, and institutions to overcome these challenges and promote sustainable growth in the agricultural sector.

Mr. Keshav Anand, Managing Director, Parijat Industries India Pvt. Ltd., focused on raising awareness about the importance of maintaining acceptable Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) in the industry. He discussed the criticality of making informed decisions regarding reactants used in agricultural practices to ensure compliance with regulatory standards. Mr. Anand also highlighted the challenges faced in the export and import of industry products, citing a case study illustrating difficulties encountered in customs due to varying MRL levels. In addition to these points, Mr. Anand stressed the need for industry-wide cooperation and standardization in adhering to MRL regulations. He proposed collaborative efforts between industry stakeholders and regulatory bodies to streamline processes and facilitate smoother trade operations.

Mr. S.K. Chaudhary, Founder Director of Safex Chemicals India Ltd., emphasized the significance of research and development (R&D) in driving innovation and competitiveness within the agricultural industry. He discussed the challenges and importance of addressing patent issues to foster a conducive environment for R&D investments. Mr. Chaudhary highlighted the need for cost-effective solutions and stressed the value of molecule patents in driving sustainable agricultural practices. Mr. Chaudhary brought attention to the symbiotic relationship between the industry and farmers, emphasizing the importance of sustainable practices that benefit both stakeholders.

Mr. Jitendra Mohan, Chief Operating Officer of Willowood Chemical Ltd., emphasized on the importance of sustainability and innovation in the agricultural sector. He has advocated for the 3D reforms in CIB&RC to upgrade the existing guidelines to meet global standards, including certifications and fast-tracking the introduction of new molecules. Mr. Mohan also discussed the significance of MRL, crop grouping, and the need for improved coordination between central and state authorities in implementing regulations. He highlighted challenges related to product registration, proposing the implementation of QR codes for traceability and transparency. He stressed the importance of R&D discussions and suggested the necessity of pre-submission consultancy to navigate regulatory processes effectively.

Dr. Bakul Joshi, Chief Executive Officer of T Stanes and Company Ltd., He believes that there's still a long road to perfection in agriculture. He calls upon the industry to actively engage in initiatives like Make in India, emphasizing the significance of balanced import-export strategies. Dr. Joshi points out the challenges of standardization due to varying state regulations, advocating for a unified portal. He also

stresses the urgent need for technological innovation. He discussed the imperative for industry-wide collaboration, standardized regulations across states, and the pivotal role of technology in driving agricultural advancements. Dr. Joshi's said, "if farmer smiles, nation thrives," which resonated throughout, underscoring the vital connection between farmer prosperity and national progress.

Mr. RD Kapoor, Head of Agri Support & Alliances at PI Industries Ltd., emphasized the importance of introducing new molecules and fast-tracking their registration process. He advocated for setting fixed criteria and proposed the establishment of a committee to oversee and verify these processes. Kapoor outlined the benefits of a streamlined registration system, highlighting the need for efficiency and transparency. He suggested that this committee should comprise experts from various sectors to ensure thorough evaluation and decision-making.

Mr. Abhishek Aggarwal, Chief Operating Officer (COO) of BR Agrotech Ltd., focused on solution-centric interventions during. He highlighted the potential for exporting to the US and emphasized the importance of encouraging local players to manufacture agricultural products. Mr. Aggarwal stressed the need for building trust in domestic manufacturers, advocating for investments that foster growth and innovation within the industry. Additionally, Mr. Aggarwal proposed strategies to address registration backlogs and advocated for



product clubbing, where similar molecules are grouped together for registration purposes. He emphasized the importance of changing perceptions and promoting agrochemicals as essential plant medicines through targeted advertising campaigns. The discussions laid the groundwork for exploring actionable strategies to boost industry growth, promote local manufacturing, and enhance the perception of agrochemicals in agriculture.

Mr. Vipin Saini, Chief Executive Officer of the Bio Agri Solutions Association of India, presented several solutions during the deliberations. He emphasized the need for clear guidance documents



for microbial imports and discussed strategies for improving the registration process for agricultural products. Mr. Saini addressed the bandwidth of pesticides and proposed the removal of self-declaration requirements for microbials to streamline the registration process. Furthermore, Mr. Saini underscored the urgency of crop protection measures and suggested the formation of a technical coordination committee to facilitate faster registration processes. He emphasized the importance of data synchronization between state governments and the central ministry for efficient registration processes. Mr. Saini also welcomed the concept of eKYC (electronic Know Your Customer) and stressed the need for wiser manufacturing practices.

Dr. Ombeer Tyagi, Vice President of UPL Group, expressed appreciation for the Round Table Conference and the valuable discussions that took place. He raised the issue of surging imports, which are limiting manufacturing in India and proposed to the government to use available trade remedies like Anti-Dumping, Minimum Import Price, Quality Control Orders, etc., to increase make in India. Dr Tyagi further clarified that Data Protection has been in discussion for more than 20 years and government has always denied it because such provisions are anti-farmers and will make agro-chemicals costlier

by 50 to 80 percent, will increase imports and will limit make in India as well as industrialization. He further submitted that Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture in its report in 2021 has taken note of all committees set up on various issues on agro chemicals during last 20 years and categorically concluded the debate by saying that Data Protection of any nature will be detrimental to India farmers and Indian Industry therefore is not recommended. Dr Tyagi submitted that Government should bring Pesticide Management Bill to Parliament and pass it.



CONCLUDING REMARKS

Dr. Archana Sinha, Secretary of CIB&RC, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India, responded to the issues raised by the industry during the discussions. She has emphasized the government's commitment to encouraging research and development in the agricultural sector, highlighting the potential of drone technology and the recent introduction of RTT exports. Dr. Sinha mentioned that guidelines for new molecules are in development and addressed the concerns regarding Maximum Residue Limits, stating that they have been taken up for review. She also mentioned ongoing efforts to address gaps in regulations and the forthcoming fixation of Harmonized Registration Committee (HRC). Furthermore, Dr. Sinha assured that requirements for QR codes will be adjusted as needed and advertising policies are under review. She requested continued support from the industry in implementing these initiatives effectively.



Dr. JP Singh, Plant Protection Advisor at CIB&RC, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India, in his concluding remarks he has highlighted the ongoing efforts to address registration pendency's, emphasizing the use of IT tools to streamline procedures and accelerate decision-making processes. Dr. Singh stressed the need for continuous pressure monitoring to ensure effective implementation of regulations and quality control in the supply chain of pesticides. Furthermore, Dr. Singh mentioned the importance of leveraging technology for real-time monitoring and data analysis, enhancing transparency and efficiency in regulatory processes. He also underscored the significance of collaboration between industry stakeholders and regulatory authorities in promoting the use of quality pesticides and ensuring sustainable agricultural practices.



CONCLUDING REMARKS

Chief Guest, Sh. Faiz Ahmad Kidwai, IAS and Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India, articulated a vision of progressive policies and collaborative efforts to enhance the agricultural sector. He commended the industry's contributions and government's commitment for sustainable practices and innovation in agriculture. Sh. Kidwai highlighted ongoing initiatives aimed at streamlining regulatory processes, addressing industry challenges, and promoting research and development. He emphasized the importance of leveraging technology and modern tools to improve efficiency, productivity, and quality control in agriculture. Sh. Kidwai also acknowledged the need for continuous dialogue and partnership between government agencies, industry stakeholders, and farmers to address emerging issues effectively.



Dr. MJ Khan, Chairman ICFA, extended a heartfelt Vote of Thanks and emphasized the importance of the discussions in fostering meaningful collaborations and formulating actionable strategies for the agricultural sector. Dr. Khan highlighted the consensus reached on various issues, including the need for streamlined regulatory processes,

innovation in crop protection, and sustainable agricultural practices.

He expressed gratitude to all participants, including industry experts, policymakers, and government officials, for their valuable contributions and insights. Dr. Khan concluded by extending appreciation to the Chief Guest, speakers, and all attendees for their active participation and commitment to advancing the agricultural sector.



RECOMMENDATIONS :

- **Working Group on Crop Protection :** Establishing a working group, comprised of industry experts, government officials, and stakeholders to address policy and regulatory challenges, business and trade issues, registration and quality enforcement, export and imports etc.
- **Investing in Agro-Technologies :** Encouraging investments in agricultural technology solutions such as precision farming, IoT devices, and remote sensing to improve productivity, reduce resource wastage, and promoting sustainability.
- **Enhancing Data Protection Measures :** There are differed views on the Data Protection. Indian industry vehemently opposed to any Data Protection Measures. Rather they proposed that Government should allow Companies to register Global Generic Molecules on relax guidelines, which will be in benefits of Indian farmers and make in India.
- **Facilitating Export Opportunities:** Developing initiatives to facilitate export opportunities for agricultural products by addressing trade barriers, safe use of pesticides, MRL, farmers education etc. to enhancing market access, and promoting quality standards.
- **Improving Pesticide Application:** Implementing strategies to improve pesticide management practices, including stricter regulations, monitoring mechanisms, and education campaigns to promote responsible pesticide use and minimize environmental impact.
- **Standardize Registration Procedures:** Standardize registration procedures for agrochemicals across states to reduce regulatory complexities, expedite approvals, and facilitate ease of doing business for industry players.
- **Promoting Sustainable Practices:** Promoting sustainable agricultural practices such as organic farming, crop rotation, and integrated pest management (IPM) to reduce chemical inputs, improve soil health, and mitigate environmental degradation.
- **Skills Development:** Developing training programs and skill development initiatives for farmers and agricultural workers to enhance their technical knowledge, promote adoption of modern agricultural practices, and improve productivity.
- **Promoting Agri-Entrepreneurship:** Encouraging entrepreneurship in agriculture by providing access to capital, incubation support, and market linkages for agri-startups and small-scale farmers, fostering economic growth and job creation in rural areas.
- **Industry-Institutions Coordination:** There is need for closer working of the industry with the research and regulatory bodies and export promotion organisations, such as CIB/RC, ICAR, APEDA, FSSAI, QCI and State Governments towards expanding crop protection coverage, promoting safe and judicious use of pesticides, and increasing agro exports.
- **Investing in Climate-Resilient Agriculture:** Allocating resources towards research and development of climate-resilient crops, technologies, and farming practices to mitigate the impact of climate change on agriculture and ensure food security.
- **Promoting AI Applications:** Encouraging the adoption of artificial intelligence applications in agriculture for data analytics, predictive modelling, and decision-making processes to optimize resource allocation and enhance farm management practices.



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