

Syngenta inks MoU with TNAU for Facilitating Collaborative Research

Coimbatore, 6 February 2020: Agri Business Major Syngenta and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University have joined hands and signed a MoU to facilitate collaborative research in the field of agriculture. Under the MoU, joint studies and trials would be undertaken by Syngenta and TNAU to establish effective management strategies for pests, diseases, nematodes and weeds of agricultural and horticultural crops in and around Coimbatore. **Subsequently, the results of these studies and trials may be adopted in Tamil Nadu to effectively manage pests, diseases, nematodes and weeds.**

Dr Andre Oliveira, Head of Crop Protection Development APAC for Syngenta said that we are delighted to furthering our work collaboration with Tamil Nadu Agricultural University. We very much value its expertise & pragmatic approach to deliver value for the Indian farmers.

Signing the MoU on behalf of Syngenta, Dr Sunil Kurchania, Head of Crop Product Development, said that data generation opportunities for basic and applied research will be explored under TNAU norms.

The studies and trials to include baseline toxicity, bioassay, field evaluation and resistance risk assessment studies for new insecticide, fungicide, nematocide, herbicide and bio-stimulant molecules of all kinds of formulations and mixtures; by seed treatment, soil application, foliar spray and other methods of application against pests, diseases, nematodes and weeds including beneficial organisms along with the phytotoxicity on agricultural and horticultural crops.

Sunil Kurchania further added that there would also be a residue analysis of experimental products, farm gate samples, etc., of target crops. Resistance management strategies, the development and commercialization of biocontrol organisms are other key areas covered by the MoU.

In addition, he said that Host Plant Resistance Studies on SYNGENTA developed hybrids / varieties of crops for key pests, diseases, nematodes and weeds of crops would be undertaken, and extension activities under the Public Private Partnership Mode would help address and mitigate emerging threats to crops.

“In order to meet the challenge of increasing farm productivity, innovation needs to extend across the entire agricultural and food value chain”, said Dr K C Ravi, Chief Sustainability Officer, Syngenta. "We believe in a partnership approach and have worked proactively with State Agricultural Universities across the country," said Dr. Ravi to improve the productivity and quality of farm produce by adopting the latest technology in key crops, thereby helping farmers to boost their yields.

Such programs will help Tamil Nadu broaden its efforts to unlock its agriculture sector's full potential. It will also help state farmers improve their productivity through robust crop protection products that will help ward off the growing threat of pests and insects due to climate change. These initiatives will be a win— win for all, leading to better resource use and higher farmers ' household incomes.

The MoU also includes a scientific knowledge exchange program with TNAU scientists and the Syngenta R&D team on new developments in the field of crop protection, training, etc.

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