



FACT SHEET

CROP PROTECTION IN INDIA: RESPONSIBLE USE, SAFETY & STEWARDSHIP

THE FARMS OF INDIA

- The 2nd largest producers of rice and wheat in the world
- Top producers of sugar, sugarcane, peanuts, jute, tea, and an assortment of spices
- Also producers of coarse cereals, oilseeds, non-food grains, groundnut, sesame, rapeseed/mustard, coconut, coffee, fruits and vegetables, rubber, and cotton

CROP PROTECTION IN INDIA: RESPONSIBLE USE

- CropLife Asia strongly advocates Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), including responsible use of crop protection products, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), container management and secure storage.
- Our country-tailored stewardship solutions are helping farmers grow more abundant supplies of healthy, affordable food while safeguarding natural resources.
- Andhra Pradesh is India's fourth largest state by area, with agriculture as its key economic driver. Until recently, a lack of knowledge of modern agricultural practices meant local chili farmers lost over 40 percent of their harvest. Also, farmers' excessive use of crop protection products resulted in high pesticide residue levels and excluded them from selling to profitable export markets.
- This was reversed after CropLife India's responsible use project expanded to 20 villages, 8,500 acres and more than 3,700 farmers. Now, for example, export quality chilies are sold at prices 14 percent higher than in domestic markets while crop losses have declined to 10 percent.

TRAINING THE FARMERS OF INDIA: SAFETY & STEWARDSHIP

- On January 21, 2010, an official launch ceremony was held in the town of Adoni, Andhra Pradesh, for a project that will reach up to 100,000 farm families in the surrounding region over the next four years. The project, which is supported by CropLife International, with the aid of CropLife Asia and CropLife India, will train farmers in the safe handling and responsible use of crop protection products, including their safe and secure storage.
- The aim is to maximize benefits of using crop protection products, to reduce their unnecessary use and misuse, plus to minimize any risks from their use. The project will be implemented by local partners, which includes EFFORT, a local NGO with extensive experience in the region. The impact of the training will be closely monitored in order to determine what interventions are most effective and result in real behavioral change.
- Along with 400 enthusiastic farmers from the region, the launch was attended by local government officials and CropLife International, Asia and India representatives. After training the Master Trainers in March, the training of all farmers began in April.