

CURRENT CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD FOR PESTICIDES MANAGEMENT

The Trust for Advancement in Agricultural Sciences (TAAS), a neutral Think Tank for strengthening agricultural research and innovation for development (ARI4D), in collaboration with the Society of Pesticide Science (SPS) India, the Indian Phytopathological Society (IPS), and the Entomological Society of India (ESI) organized a “Stakeholders Dialogue on Current Challenges and Way Forward for Pesticides Management” through webinar on 24 July, 2020. It was attended by about 80 participants including eminent experts, senior research managers, government officials representing diverse stakeholder groups, viz., central and state governments, scientific societies and institutions, pesticide industry and farmers. The main objectives of the Dialogue were: i) to discuss major constraints and explore solutions for phasing out banning of certain pesticides, ii) to seek views of stakeholders on proposed ‘Pesticides Management Bill 2020’ and suggest possible alternatives for accelerated growth of pesticides in India, and iii) to review and suggest reorientation of pesticides management, present regulatory system, existing policies and enabling environment for growth of pesticide industry to promote botanicals and agro-chemical R&D in the country.

Major Issues Discussed

In-depth discussions were held around regulatory mechanisms for pesticides management including time line for processing registration application, re-registration, ‘Me-Too’ registration,



The webinar was attended by distinguished stalwarts, policy and decision makers of the Crop Protection sector including Dr RS Paroda, Dr RB Singh, Dr TR Sharma, Dr AK Singh, Dr CD Mayee, Dr Bhag Mal, Dr SN Sushil, Dr SK Malhotra, Sh Rajesh Malik, Sh Ajay Vir Jhakar, Sh Bharat Bhushan Tyagi, Sh Salil Singhal, Sh RG Agrawal, Sh Pradip Dave, Dr Ram Kaundinya..... to name a few

excessive jurisprudence, regulatory data protection, pricing, and bulk ban of 27 pesticides including tricyclazole, buprofezin and glyphosate. Discussions were also held on rationality of alternatives, ecotoxicity, reasonable data requirements on bioefficacy and toxicity, and mandatory application of glyphosate by PCO.

Various issues relating to crop losses, pesticide registration system,

sale of spurious pesticides, banning of pesticides, and an enabling environment for faster growth of pesticide industry were discussed. The discussion on issues of R&D and innovation centered around: i) development of new molecules-their search, synthesis, isolation, identification, bio-activity, product optimization (SAR, now software available), and physico-chemical, preliminary safety information; ii) formulation for recipe development, product optimization (physico-chemical parameters, bio efficacy, phyto-compatibility, toxicology, etc. and iii) safety aspects- mammalian, avian, environmental, non-target organisms safety / toxicology /compatibility, and transformations, metabolism, detoxification, etc.

The Outcome

As a result of intense discussions, several useful recommendations have emerged. A roadmap is in the process of finalization by September 2020.