



Digital Pathways in Agriculture
Integrating Advanced Technologies in Indian Agriculture
19th November 2016 | 09:00 – 18:15 hrs | Hotel Taj | Chandigarh

PROGRAM

0900 – 1000 hrs **REGISTRATION & NETWORKING**

1000 – 1115 hrs **INAUGURAL SESSION – DIGITAL PATHWAYS IN AGRICULTURE**

Technology has been a major driver of agricultural growth and played an important role in improving the livelihood opportunities of the farmers in India. From basic farm mechanization to advanced technologies – remote sensing, satellite imaging sensors, unmanned aerial vehicles, drones, Internet of Things (IoT), the spectrum of technology solutions for improving efficiency and productivity along the value chain is huge and diversified. The opportunity before India is to grow more in a sustainable manner – ensuring optimal utilization of resources through better access to information and hence smart decision making power of the farmers. Digital pathways in Indian agriculture is about exploring the potential of such technologies that allow Indian farmers to manage their farms and related activities better, thereby contributing to the overall agricultural growth. With small farms spread over a sizeable area, access to timely and quality information – be it related to weather, soil health, water situation, market price, or availability of inputs for agribusiness companies is very important for them to respond to the specific requirements.

The Inaugural Session will set the stage for the deliberations related to availability of advanced digital technology, the scope of adoption at the farm level, barriers to adoption and scaling up in the Indian scenario. More importantly, it will also highlight the progress made globally and the evolving role of technology and entrepreneurship in agriculture. Considering the start-up revolution in providing technology solutions to the challenges faced in agriculture, the deliberations will also include the scope and way forward for start-ups and entrepreneurs in Indian agriculture.

1000 - 1020 hrs	Opening Remarks	Mr Salil Singhal Co-Chair, CII National Council on Agriculture Chairman and Managing Director, PI Industries, India
1020 – 1030 hrs	Special Address	Mr Rajesh Jejurikar President and Chief Executive - Farm Equipment & Two Wheelers, Mahindra & Mahindra, India
1030 – 1040 hrs	Role of Industry – Academia Partnership	Dr Danny Chamovitz Dean, George S. Wise Faculty of Life Sciences Director, Manna Center for Plant Biosciences Tel Aviv University, Israel
1040 - 1050 hrs	Prospects of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Agriculture (Presentation through Skype)	Mr Sanjiv Rai Founder, Chairperson & Chief Solver of multiple startups under Billion Innovators, Chairperson at ARE Technologies

1050 – 1100 hrs	Strengthening Innovation & Entrepreneurship in Agriculture	Mr Sanjay Kadaveru Founder & President, Action For India
1100 – 1115 hrs	Vote of Thanks	Mr Salil Singhal Co-Chair, CII National Council on Agriculture Chairman and Managing Director, PI Industries, India
1115 – 1200 hrs	TEA/COFFEE BREAK	

1200 – 1320 hrs SESSION I: INTEGRATING ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES IN MAINSTREAM AGRICULTURE

Agriculture in India is about economizing use of resources, improving yield per unit of such resources, yet maximizing the gains to the farmers. Looking at the overall resource availability now and in the future including workforce, a visible shift from mechanization to automation is taking place. Hence IoT, drones, automated farm management devices, and other hi-tech innovation related to sowing, applications of agro chemicals, harvesting have an immense scope of adoption in India.

This Session will bring together experiences with similar technologies, the trends in adoption, globally and the scope of adoption in India. The deliberations will also focus on the kind of challenges confronting scaling up of such technologies, the way forward and most importantly, the need for customization to suit the smallholder requirements and diverse agro climatic conditions.

1200 – 1210 hrs	Session Moderator	Mr Rohtash Mal Chairman and Managing Director EM3 Agri Services Pvt. Ltd., India
1210 - 1320 hrs	Panel Discussion	
	IoT systems and applications	Dr Ioanna Roussaki Assistant Professor, National Technical University, Athens, Greece
	Next Generation Drip Systems	Mr Richard Klapholz CEO, Rivulis Irrigation, Israel
	Nano Sensors & Micro Electronic Applications	Dr Yosi Shacham Professor, Centre for Nano Science & Nanotechnology Tel Aviv University, Israel
	Market Access	Mr Samir Shah Managing Director & CEO, NCDEX, India
1320 – 1330 hrs	Q&A	
1330– 1415 hrs	LUNCH	

1415 - 1535 hrs SESSION II: DIGITIZING FARMS FOR EFFECTIVE UTILIZATION OF INPUTS

On-farm technologies will have a limited impact without ensuring effective utilization of agricultural inputs critical for improving crop health, protection and monitoring which in turn will be driven by access to accurate farm information. Farmers increasingly taking to smart phones, wireless technology and particularly new generation agri-preneur with their tech savvy outlook are looking for accurate information to better understand their farm conditions, crop, etc to be able to undertake right decisions w.r.t. investments in agricultural inputs, irrigation, which impact the output and the price received. This also holds true for agribusiness players to identify potential markets, enable farmers to make the right choices, and contribute towards the overall agenda of sustainable agricultural practices.

This Session will focus on the need of digitizing farms in India, the potential benefits to both farmers and agribusiness players as well as critical insights on the evolution of digital farms in India. Leveraging the presence of large agribusiness players who have diversified into Big Data and providing a boost to the digitizing farming, globally and India, the Session will highlight the current practices, challenges and opportunities and the kind of partnerships that will be useful in further strengthening this concept.

1415 – 1425 hrs	Session Moderator	Mr Salil Singhal Co-Chair, CII National Council on Agriculture Chairman and Managing Director, PI Industries, India
1425 – 1515 hrs	Panel Discussion	
Energy Efficient IoT		Mr Shani Keysar CEO & Founder, SolChip, Israel
Farm Automation		Mr Ilay Englard CEO & Co-Founder, ATP Labs, Israel
Digital Farming		Mr Srinivasu Pappula Global Head - Digital Farming Initiatives, Tata Consultancy Services, India
M-Commerce Platform		Mr Sitanshu Sheth Co-Founder & Director, Agro Star, India
1515 – 1525 hrs	Q&A	

1525 - 1655 hrs

SESSION III: BUILDING CAPABILITIES FOR NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN AGRICULTURE

As Indian agriculture progresses towards faster adoption of new generation technologies, there will be immense opportunities for skilling and capacity building amongst entrepreneurs and farmers availing these technologies. While the aspect of skilling in agriculture is already being worked upon, it will be relevant to structure a lot of these efforts in the context of new generation technologies such as IoT, drones, sensors, artificial intelligence, Big Data, among others. This has the potential to attract considerable section of the youth entrepreneurs into technology driven agriculture who otherwise are moving away from farming.

This session will focus on the opportunities for building capabilities for better adoption of new technologies that impact farming practices and hence the economic outcomes through the right partnerships and institutions. While several players have their own models of deployment, creating synergies remain critical to help this ecosystem gain rapid momentum. The deliberations will focus on how each of the business models are striving to improve the capabilities of using advanced technologies, and the future it holds for Indian agriculture.

1525 – 1535 hrs	Session Moderator	Mr Rohtash Mal Chairman and Managing Director EM3 Agri Services Pvt. Ltd., India
1535 – 1625 hrs	Panel Discussion	Dr Mahender Singh Former CEO & Rector Malaysia Institute of Supply Chain Innovation & Non-Executive Director, eCEOs, Malaysia Mr Satyendra Arya CEO, Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI) Mr Harish Chavan COO, Farm Division, Mahindra & Mahindra, India Mr Ravi Menon CEO, Farm Machinery Division, Escorts, India Mr Vijay Pratap Singh Aditya Co-Founder CEO & Director, ekgaon, India
1625 - 1635	Q&A	
1635 – 1650	BREAK	

1650 – 1800 hrs SESSION IV: INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP – DRIVING THE NEXT CHANGE IN INDIAN AGRICULTURE

The most promising aspect of the current technology revolution in Indian agriculture is that it is not limited to established agri business ventures but has emerged from small scale players and entrepreneurs. A generation of professionals, practitioners, and farmers (agri-preneurs) are playing a very important role in taking innovation from the labs to the fields.

The Session will provide a platform to learn some of the successful business models and hear the entrepreneurs driving the next change in Indian agriculture. Also, the deliberations will include understanding the need to create an enabling environment pivoted on the right policies and partnerships.

1650 – 1700 hrs Session Moderator

Mr Viren Popli

Chief Operating Officer, Swaraj Tractors, Mahindra & Mahindra

1700 – 1750 hrs Panel Discussion

Mr Ranjith Mukundan

Co-founder, CEO & Managing Director, Stellapps, India

Mr Siddhartha Chaudhary

Chief Revenue Officer, CropIn Technology, India

Mr Suraj Dixit

Founder and Managing Director, Nubesol, India

Dr Jacob Mualem

Director General, Agriculture Research Organization/
Volcani Centre, Israel

Mr Eyal Cohen

Managing Partner
Copia Agro & Food, Israel

1750 – 1800 hrs Q&A

1800 – 1815 hrs

Conference Wrap Up and Key Takeaways

Mr Rohtash Mal

Chairman and Managing Director
EM3 Agri Services Pvt. Ltd., India
