

Sept-Oct 2020



News Briefing



CII AgTech

Advanced Technologies
Reshaping Indian Agriculture

VARIABLE RATE
TECHNOLOGY (VRT)

SENSORS AND
ELECTRONIC CHIPS

HIGH PRECISION
POSITIONING SYSTEMS

INTELLIGENT
GUIDANCE SYSTEM

INTEGRATED ELECTRONIC
COMMUNICATIONS

The Journey towards autonomous agriculture

Guest Article by Mr Sergio Soares, Innovation Systems & Agronomic Design Leader, CNH Industrial – Technology



Global agriculture has developed at an exponential pace in the last three decades. This growth has been fueled by the ever-rising global population and food demand. Technological advancements in countries such as Brazil, Russia India and China have contributed significantly to this development. [Read More →](#)

Global Dialogue on Next-Gen Agri Technologies : 17-18 September 2020

The role of Technological innovations and their actual deployment is integral to accelerate the transformation of the agricultural sector and help attain the vision of “Aatmanirbhar Bharat”. The recent Agricultural reforms introduced by the Government will enable a market driven environment that is conducive to increase investments and exports.

To create a sustained dialogue and interaction between Technology developers, Entrepreneurs, Innovators, Academics and other stakeholders from the Agribusiness Industry and Government, and to ensure the right deployment of the global technologies in the Indian agriculture sector, CII organized the Fourth Edition of its flagship **Advanced Technology Programme in Agriculture on 17-18 September 2020.**

The two-day programme that was held in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer’s Welfare, Govt of India, and the Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands, witnessed deliberations between the sectoral experts from across the world. Speakers from India, Netherlands, Singapore, Australia, United States and Brazil shared the present status of research, development, and techno-commercial deployment of next gen AgTech solutions. In line with the annual theme of CII’s FACE, the four segments under the spotlight were – AgRobotics, Bioinnovations, Digital Ag, and AgNanotech.

During the Opening Session, **Prof Ramesh Chand** released the vision paper on 'Digital Agriculture'. This is the 1st paper in the series and will be followed by detailed vision documents on Robotics, Nanotechnology and Biotechnology. The objective of these papers is to provide a roadmap to deploy these technologies on ground through a collaborative effort between government bodies, industry partners, and CII.



Global Dialogue on Next-Gen Agri Technologies : 17-18 September 2020

Opening Session – Technology led resilience for Aatmanirbhar Krishi

- *Keynote Address by **Dr Ramesh Chand**, Member, Niti Aayog*
- *Special Address by **Mr. Guido Landheer**, Assistant Vice Minister for Agriculture, Nature and Food Netherlands*

Session I - Robotics in Agriculture: Building Autonomous Farms of Future

Session II - Biological Innovations: Harnessing the Potential of Genes and Microbes for Improving Agri Efficiencies

Session III - Nanotech Advancements in the Industry and their role in Reshaping Agriculture

Session IV - Digital Agriculture: Data Driven Solutions for Optimizing Value Chains

Session V - Spotlight on Global Innovations

© Confederation of Indian Industry

The opening session reverberated the national theme of Technology Led Resilience for a Self-Reliant Farmer, Self-Reliant Agriculture, and thus a Self-Reliant India. [Read More →](#)

International News

Plant-based protein maker v2food raises \$55m: 'We consider ourselves part of the meat industry'

Australian plant-based meat maker [v2food](#) has raised A\$77 million (US\$55 million) in its Series B round, taking its total funding to date to A\$113 million (\$80 million) and setting the stage for its expansion into Asia. [Read More...](#)

Robotics for primary food handling tasks

For many decades we have witnessed the increasing use of robots for end of line palletising tasks and, more recently, their successful roll out for secondary packaging operations. In this article, we explore whether the 'Holy Grail' for robotics in the food sector – namely, their use for primary food handling and packing, has finally come of age. [Read More....](#)

Microsoft 4Afrika Advocates AgriTech Collaboration for Food Security

LAGOS – Considering that it takes an entire ecosystem to initiate a change, Microsoft 4Afrika has urged companies, government departments and agencies, network of startups and entrepreneurs to collaborate in increasing access to agricultural knowledge with a goal to solving food insecurity in the continent. [Read More....](#)

Indian AgTech Highlights

Freshtohome nets \$121 mn from Dubai wealth fund, PE firms

Freshtohome Foods Pvt. Ltd, an online fish and meat seller, said Tuesday it has raised \$121 million (Rs 893 crore) in its Series C funding round from a clutch of foreign and domestic investors. [Read More....](#)

Origo Raises Rs 35 cr Venture debt From Northern Arc Capital and Others

India's emerging agritech supply chain and trade finance company, Origo, has received a fresh round of debt funding from capital investment firm Northern Arc Capital, and others. [Read More...](#)

Soil-tech startup Krishitantra raises \$1M seed round from NABVENTURES, Omnivore

The soil-tech startup said that the funds will be used to expand operations across India, to help farmers realise the increased profitability and sustainability via improved soil health. [Read More...](#)

Piyush Goyal says startups demonstrated ability to turn Covid into business potential; hails edtech

Apart from online education, digital sectors including online grocery delivery, medicine delivery, telemedicine gained significant prominence as people avoided moving out amid Covid-induced safety and hygiene concerns. [Read More...](#)

Telangana plans to use AI-driven drones in farming

A novel experiment to test the efficacy of drones using artificial intelligence to identify crops, pests and later spray pesticides or fertilizer, began in Karimnagar district. [Read More...](#)

Without limiting the rights under the copyright reserved, this electronic newsletter or any part of it may not be translated, reproduced, stored, transmitted in any form (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, audio recording or otherwise) or circulated in any design other than the design in which it is currently published, without the prior written permission of CII. CII has sourced the views, opinions, information, estimates etc. contained in this newsletter from different sources and/or authors and the ownership and copyright of the same vests with the respective authors. CII does not represent this information to be accurate or reliable. The views and opinions are not to be understood as professional advice in any manner or interpreted as policies, objectives, opinions or suggestions of CII. CII does not assume any responsibility and disclaims any liability for any loss, damages, caused due to any reason whatsoever, towards any person (natural or legal) who uses this electronic newsletter. This electronic newsletter cannot be sold for consideration, within or outside India, without express written permission of CII. Violation of this condition will lead to criminal and civil prosecution. Distributed by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), The Mantosh Sondhi Centre; 23, Institutional Area, Lodi Road, New Delhi 110003, India, Tel: +91-11-24629994-7, Fax: +91-11-24626149; Email: agri-future@cii.in; Web: www.cii.in