

Founding Members of Pragati, World's First Sustainable Castor Bean Program, Sign Phase 2 Commitment

Mumbai, India, February 19, 2020: The founding members of Pragati Project for sustainable castor crop – Arkema, BASF, Jayant Agro-Organics and implementation partner Solidaridad recently met to celebrate the successful results of Phase 1 of the project and formally committed to Phase 2, which will extend the program until July 1, 2022.

In a three -day tour of the castor farms, demo plots, and local trading markets, the member companies invited a select group of end-users to experience first-hand, the impacts of the program in Gujarat, India – home to approximately 70% of the world's castor crop. During the event, the founding members shared the highlights and achievements of Phase 1 for Project Pragati:

- Over 13,000 tons of certified castor beans have been cultivated
- Over 3,000 castor farmers have been audited and certified
- Approximately 5,200 hectares of castor farming are now in accordance with the sustainable code (now called SuCESS*)
- More than 8,000 hours of classroom training have been completed
- Over 3,000 safety kits and crop protection product storage boxes have been distributed
- Water consumption reduction of approximately 25% has been observed in the demo plots
- Crop yield has improved by over 50% compared to the 2016 baseline study

The founding members also finalized the key goals for Pragati, Phase 2 as follows:

- Training and certifying an additional 4,000 farmers, thus bringing the total to 7,000
- Increasing involvement of women in the program
- Greater awareness and involvement among key downstream end-users – by specifically inviting stakeholders to actively participate in the Sustainable Castor Association (www.castorsuccess.org)
- Continued commitment to improve crop yield, water conservation and basic chemical hygiene

After completing a 2016 baseline survey of more than 1,000 castor farmers in Gujarat India, the Pragati Project was launched in May 2016 with the goal of enabling sustainable castor crop production by:

- Using good agricultural practices to increase yield and farmer income
- Efficiently using water resources and maintaining soil fertility
- Driving adoption of good waste management practices
- Enabling better health and safety practices and respecting human rights

Arkema is a global leader in specialty chemicals and advanced materials. BASF is the world's leading chemical company. Jayant Agro-Organics Ltd., is a pioneer in castor oil-based chemicals in India. Solidaridad is an international civil society organization.

Visit www.castorsuccess.org for more details, or contact info@castorsuccess.org.



Representatives from BASF, Arkema, Jayant Agro-Organics, and Solidaridad officially commit to Pragati, Phase 2. (January 22, 2020 in Mumbai)



During the customer celebration event, Pragati team members presented an overview of some of the many high performance products derived from sustainable castor oil.



Members of the castor farming community were interested in seeing examples of some downstream products such as sports shoes and ski boots.



Participants were able to observe live teaching sessions on sustainable farming.



The team toured one of the demo plots before posing for a group shot.