MESSAGE

I am happy to learn that BioAgri Input Producers Association – BIPA is launching its own newsletter – “ECO Voice” and I feel honored to launch the same.

With the usage of bio agri inputs in agriculture, farmers would be benefitted to grow crops with less dependency on chemicals. This will ensure the balance for a sustainable agriculture.

I am confident, the newsletter will encourage biologically derived safe formulations such as bio-pesticides, bio-stimulants and bio-fertilizers. Apart from it, this newsletter should focus on environmental management for sustainable agriculture and transfers of technology.

It may also explore the opportunities to strengthen the acceptability of bio products through knowledge sharing, access to cutting edge technology and access to the latest industry news and information.

I wish BIPA all the best for serving Indian Farmers!

(S. K. Malhotra)
Editor’s Voice…

It’s my pleasure to serve as the first editor of BIPA Eco Voice, having witnessed BIPA’s growth very closely as one of its founding members. The task-oriented office bearers have always shouldered the responsibility of popularizing the biological inputs while trying to validate the regulatory policies.

BIPA works on making available safe food and environmental security by promoting biological and non-chemical methods of cultivation. The efforts started during the year 2004 when there was a serious threat of banning the biological products posed by one of the regulatory authorities. This was purely due to their misunderstanding about pure biological formulations.

Owing to the continuous efforts of BIPA, the first stay order verdict was received from the honourable High Court of Andhra Pradesh for the sale of biological products that are not covered under Insecticide and Fertilizer Act. These products are now proposed to be brought in under bio-stimulant act. BIPA is currently in touch with the national policy makers for the simplification of registration guidelines.

It’s sustained efforts and representations to Central Insecticide Board and Registration Committee on biopesticide registration policies brought noticeable improvements in the guidelines and simplification of registration process. Currently, BIPA proposes to bring out the microbial based combination bio-pesticides for the better management of insect pests and diseases without harming the nature.

When we look back on regulations and grower awareness on biologicals after seventeen years of BIPA formation, we feel that we were and are heading in the right direction.

The recent announcement of Government of India to integrate bio-fertilizers with chemical fertilizers to reduce the latter’s consumption is a welcome move. BIPA is delighted to witness this change in the perception of Government towards biological formulations.

BIPA also organized a series of webinars during COVID lockdown to bring awareness on biological formulations. Several of you might have been participants in these sessions. Those who missed these events can visit us at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WcvPM5YPGww
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZuDAy_OOGo

Doyens like Prof. Appa Rao Podile, Vice Chancellor, University of Hyderabad, Prof. Arjula Ramachandra Reddy, former Vice-Chancellor, University of Hyderabad, Prof. M.S. Reddy, Auburn University and Entrepreneur, US., Dr. M.S. Rao, Former Principal Scientist, Indian Institute of Horticulture Research, Dr. P. Chandrashekara, Director- Agriculture Extension, National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management, Mr. S. Rajashekar Reddy, Founder of 24 Mantra, Dr Pranjib Kumar Chakrabarty, PhD, FNAAS, Member (Plant Sciences), ASRB, Dr. T. Janakiram, Vice chancellor, Dr. YSR Horticultural University and Dr V Praveen Rao VC PJTSAU constitute the BIPA advisory board. Please visit us at https://www.bipaindia.org/ to know more about BIPA and its advisors.

We will keep communicating to you about the recent developments, policy changes, and innovative trends in the field of bio-agri inputs in every publication of BIPA Eco Voice. Stay in touch.

Dr. A. John Peter
Executive Editor

Manufacturer of:
BioAgri Inputs Producers Association (BIPA) founded in the year 2003 to promote bio-organic inputs in agriculture through knowledge dissipation and stakeholders empowerment. BIPA also aims to create the business and technology platform for its members on B2B, opportunities to strengthen the acceptability of biological products in the market place, and impress upon concerned policy makers and authorities on streamlining regulatory approvals, and make the latest industry news and information available to its members.

The mandate of the association is to encourage the use of eco-friendly biotechnological tools that include but not limited to bio-pesticides, bio-stimulants, bio-fertilizers, semio-chemicals, and environmental management for sustainable agriculture in India and across the Globe.

I take this opportunity to welcome all connected to agriculture to join hands with BIPA to make agriculture more sustainable and profitable.

Dr KRK Reddy
President-BIPA

Feeding the ever growing global population with reduced land availability due to urbanization is the real challenge. It becomes a little more complicated when the life expectancy is increased substantially in many countries.

Abuse of chemical fertilizers and pesticides have resulted in impaired soil health and increased resistance to pests and diseases. Toxic residues are entering the food, feed and fodder and thus reducing human immunity levels considerably.

Bio Agri Inputs viz., bio-fertilizers, bio-stimulants and bio-pesticides are becoming the important tools to address the increased demand for clean food with improved soil health.

I wish BIPA a great success.

Dr Venkatesh Devanur
Secretary - BIPA
Other team members viz.,

Dr John Peter
Vice President

Praharaju Laxminarayana
Vice President

Dr Sudha Reddy
Joint Secretary

Dr P V Mohan Rao
Treasurer

CH V SRINIVAS
Jt Treasurer

Raj Agarwal
Executive Director

of BIPA also welcome Econews wholeheartedly.
Integrating Bio-Fertilizers with Chemical Fertilizers: A Much Vaunted Plan of GOI

Newspapers across India on Aug 12 headlined “Government to make bio-fertilizers compulsory with urea purchase to reduce the use of chemicals”. BIPA finds this as a welcome move by the Government of India by interceding conventional fertilizers with bio-fertilizers. Though, the task is going to be herculean due to shelf life and compatibility issues with urea, the appointed task force may consider initially integrating phosphate and potash solubilizing bacteria with phosphate and potash fertilizers. Technically, this will be more easy to integrate than integrating nitrogen fixing bacteria with urea.

About two decades ago, Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi has given the insight about the importance of bio-fertilizers in India. Government of India also taken several proactive steps to improve the use of bio-fertilizers by increasing the production capacity in the country by handholding through NABARD/NPOF. Due to various impediments, bio-fertilizers have never seen the right growth and limelight. The industry is still in the dormant stage.

Interceding conventional fertilizers with bio-fertilizers shall give enough boosting to the manufacturers and farmers due to its market penetration across India. A niche market will become a wider market if Government's initiation succeeds. BIPA is having faith and patience and hoping the miracle to happen in bio-fertilizer industry.
We extensively talk about doubling the farmers' income. When we critically look into the current scenario in agro-ecosystems, biotic stresses pose serious challenges to the Indian farmers. These stresses are manageable with proper implementation of IPM & INM modules.

All said and done, IPM & INM has been spoken in this country by almost all the stakeholders of Indian Agriculture by emphasizing on the integration of various chemicals and giving least/no emphasis on bio-pesticides and bio-fertilizers. Illiterate/ill-informed farmers thus pushed towards indiscriminate use of chemicals.

Chemicalization of agro-ecosystems influenced the biological suppression in Indian agro-ecosystems. The importance of Beneficial Soil Microbiome (BSM) is neglected for over 5-7 decades resulting soil sickness with depleted BSM. That is the reason for Indian soils harboring pathogenic bacteria, fungi and nematodes. In addition to this, absence of BSM in the Indian soils made the crops vulnerable to sucking pests in particular, and all other pests in general. To manage these pests, again farmer desperately takes the spray of chemicals.

It is an intricate vicious circle in which farmers are trapped and struggling to come out of it. The cost of production goes up when farmers use chemical pesticides due to increased biotic stresses and adversely affect the profit margin.

Regular use of bio-pesticides and bio-fertilizers along with organic matter restores or augment BSM in soils and augment Beneficial Soil and Plant Microbiome (BSPM). By advocating BSPM, the soil sickness comes down gradually by reducing the population of soil borne pathogens such as pathogenic bacteria, fungi and nematodes. When the crop becomes highly tolerant to diseases and insect pests with high yield, the toxic residue free produce is obtained.

Naturally, when farmers start using less and less chemicals, soil becomes highly productive and healthy so as to support the vigorous growth of crop plants. Residue Free Produce (RFP) is the need of the hour and possible when the crop plants become tolerant to insect pests and diseases.
In the year 2019, global fertilizer market was valued at USD 155.80 billion, bio-fertilizers at USD 1 billion and agricultural micronutrients at USD 3.50 billion taking the total Crop Nutrition Market to USD 160 billion. Of all the fertilizers, bio-fertilizers is expected to take 2% of market share by 2024 with a market share of USD 3.2 billion. The driving force for this bio-fertilizers growth is increasing awareness in farmers on deterioration of soil health due to fertilizers abuse.

**Bio-stimulants and crop inputs market:**

Bio-stimulants constituting microbial, mineral, botanical and other natural products are currently gaining importance to address plant abiotic pressure. In 2019, global Biostimulants market share was about USD 1.5 billion and is expected to grow to USD 2.5 billion by 2024. Adverse impact of climate changes leading to increased abiotic pressure on crops is the main driving force for this growth.

**Conclusion:**

The total global market size in 2019 for agri Inputs viz., fertilizers, micronutrients, crop Protection products and bio-stimulants was about USD 226.50 billion of which bio-agri inputs market share was approximately USD 5.5 billion. The current global market size for Agri Inputs is expected to grow to USD 242.50 billion and bio-agri inputs are expected to gain market share of about 11.00 billion in 2019 which is a welcome and positive change for clean and green produce.

Dr Venkatesh Devanur
WHY BECOME BIPA MEMBER?

- When you become BIPA member it will enable you to network, explore, contact, share and express your views and get benefitted to meet other co members coming from bio-agri inputs industry.

- Members are introduced to business prospects who provide business opportunity to fellow members. Collaborative programs on research, manufacturing, scaling the technology will be encouraged. BIPA will play a synergetic role to help members to gain.

- Updates through newsletters will be offered on various developments, challenges, opportunities, policies at national and international levels. Diaries / notes from members who attend various bio-inputs seminars / conferences / exhibitions will be shared among the members so that each BIPA member can exploit the information to suit their business interest.

- BIPA will host annual summit to its members. These summits will bring the entire bio-input fraternity under one roof to not only update what's happening latest around the Globe in bio-agri industry but also collaborate with each other. BIPA summit will also recognize the efforts and successful contribution from the members to the contribution and growth of bio-agri inputs industry.

WHO CAN BECOME BIPA MEMBER?

BIPA encourages any public or private organization / individual actively contributing to the development of bio-agri inputs industry to become its members.

Biological technology entities engaged in manufacturing, research, academics, consultancy, extension services and marketing that includes but not restricted to bio-pesticides, bio-stimulants, bio-fertilizers, semio-chemicals, environmental management for sustainable agri in India and across the Globe.

TYPES OF BIPA MEMBERSHIPS, FEES, RIGHTS AND BENEFITS:

- “BIPA” will have the following class of members:

I) PREMIUM MEMBERS

These are the premium members of BIPA

Joining Fee of Rs. 27,000/- (plus GST) and annual fee of Rs. 25,000/- (plus GST) per member.

Membership privileges include attending the General Body and may also be invited to attend Executive Committee meeting, voting rights, entitlement for newsletters, information on current trends in bio-agri inputs industry, minutes of BIPA meetings, invitation BIPA meetings, annual BIPA summit and other associated conferences at a concessional rate.

II) ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

These are the associate members of BIPA

Joining Fee of Rs. 5,000/- (plus GST) and annual fee of Rs. 10,000/- (plus GST) per member.

Membership privileges include attending the General Body and may also be invited to attend Executive Committee meeting, voting rights, entitlement for newsletters, information on current trends in bio-agri inputs industry, minutes of BIPA meetings, invitation BIPA meetings, annual BIPA summit and other associated conferences at a concessional rate.

ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP

All applications for membership, of whatever category, shall be placed before the Executive Committee. Committee shall consider the application and, if approved, membership will commence after the subscription has been received. Applications for membership cannot be approved except at meetings as stated herein.

To become a member of BIPA

write to ed@bipaindia.org
or call / WhatsApp to: +917893977182