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ICRIER

Seminar on
Innovations for Regen Agriculture
Indian and Global experiences

Programme & Speakers' Profiles

October 15, 2025

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Seminar on
Innovations for Regen Agriculture – Indian and Global experiences
&
Launch of collaboration between AgVayā LLP, India and BioSTL, USA to promote innovation in agriculture across borders.
Knowledge Partner: ICRIER

Date: 15th October 2025
Venue: Jacaranda Hall, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

AGENDA

9:30 am – 10 am	**Registration and Networking**
10:00 am – 10:15 am	**Introduction to BioSTL** by Donn Rubin, CEO & President, BioSTL and **AgVayā** by Ram Kaundinya, Partner, AgVayā
10:15 am – 10:45 am	**Conversation with Farmers:** Pain Points of Farmers that need solutions Moderated by: SG Anil Kumar (Samunnati) Featured Farmers: V. Ravichandran, Anil Ghanwat and Sekhar Bhadsavle
10:45 am – 11.15am	**Transfer of Technology & Science based Innovation in agriculture** Moderated by Sanjiv Rangrass (Bayer, AgriCollaboratory) **Key Note** • Pramod Bhasin, Chair of the Board of Governors, ICRIER • Dr Trilochan Mohapatra, Chairman, PPV&FRA
11.15 am – 11:.30 pm	Tea Break Visit to Innovation Gallery in adjacent room 'Willow'
11.30 am – 12:.30 pm	**Panel Session** **Members:** Dr Praveen Malik (ICAR) Vibha Ahuja (Ex-BCIL) Bhupen Dubey (Advanta) Ankur Aggarwal (Crystal Crop) Ajai Rana (Savannah Seeds) Komal Shah Bhukhanwala (SML) Tarun Sawhney (Triveni Group) Simon Wiebusch (Bayer)
12:30 pm – 1:00 pm	**Presentations on Use Cases of Regen Agri** Project by Bayer – Anand Pratap Shahi , Bayer Project by IRRI- Dr Sudhanshu Singh, IRRI Regen Agri using Cover Cress – Vijay Chauhan, BioSTL

1.00 pm – 1.15 pm	**Launch of *Global AgXelerate*** By Vijay Chauhan, BioSTL and D. Narain, AgVayā
1.15 pm – 1:30 pm	**Address by Chief Guest: Dr RS Paroda**, Chair, TAAS
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	**Networking Lunch** Visit to Innovation Gallery in adjacent room 'Willow'
2:30 pm – 3.15 pm	**Incubator Dialogue:** Improving the Quality of Innovation in Agriculture Moderated by: Dr Purvi Mehta (Global Centre for Adaptation) **Panel Members:** 1. Dr Tamaswati Ghosh , IIT Madras Incubation Cell 2. Dr Sonali Roy, RISE Foundation IISER - Kolkata Incubation Centre: 3. Dr Venkatram Vasantavada, Seed Works 4. Dr. Akriti Sharma, IARI 5. Dr Kavya Dashora, IIT, Delhi
3.15 pm – 5:00 pm	**Showcase: Innovations for Regenerative Agriculture** Moderated by: Sannidhi Srinivasan 1. Capsber Agriscience, India (Manoj Kumar Rupa) 2. GreenGrahi, India (Siddharth Sharma) 3. Piatrika Biosystems, India (Vasudev Kumanduri) 4. Mitti Labs, India (Devdut Dalal) 5. Elytron, Argentina (Tadeo Fernandez Göbel) 6. PES technologies, UK (Andrej Porovic) 7. Tierra Spec, Israel (Avital Levy-Lior) 8. Climate Crop, Israel (Vivekanand Tiwari) 9. Agragene, USA (Bryan Witherbee) - Recorded
5.00 pm – 5.15 pm	**Call to Action** By Vijay Chauhan, BioSTL & D. Narain, AgVayā & Ashok Gulati, ICRIER
5.15 pm	**High Tea & Close**

Seminar on

Innovations for Regen Agriculture
Indian and Global experiences

Speakers' Profiles

Date: October 15, 2025

Venue: Jacaranda Hall**,** India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi

MR. DONN RUBIN, CEO & President, BioSTL, USA

Donn Rubin is a distinguished entrepreneur, visionary leader, and ecosystem architect renowned for his transformative leadership in fostering innovation and economic development. Over a career spanning more than two decades, Rubin has been a key driver in evolving the St. Louis region into a nationally recognized innovation hub centering on biotechnology, healthcare, and agricultural technologies.

His academic journey began with a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from the prestigious Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Later, he earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Michigan Law School, combining legal expertise with business insight. Initially embarking on a legal career, Donn's passion for catalyzing economic renewal led him to pivot toward innovation-driven regional development.

As founder and CEO of BioSTL, established in 2001, Rubin has spearheaded efforts to translate cutting-edge scientific research into commercial opportunities and startup growth. BioSTL acts as an innovation intermediary, bridging gaps between academia, industry, and investors to nurture science-led entrepreneurship ecosystems.

One of Mr. Rubin's hallmark achievements is the creation of the Cortex Innovation Community, a sprawling innovation district combining university research, corporate labs, startups, and venture capital in a vibrant, walkable urban environment. The Cortex district has attracted billions of dollars in investment, incubated hundreds of startups, and generated thousands of high-paying jobs, significantly reshaping the regional economic landscape.

Rubin is deeply committed to integrating principles of equity and inclusion into the innovation ecosystem. His leadership secured sizeable workforce and infrastructure grants aimed at expanding participation among underrepresented entrepreneurs and workers. He advocates for sustainable innovation models that generate shared value for economic resilience and social justice.

His influence extends nationally and internationally, where he frequently speaks on innovation policy, diversity, and inclusive economic development. Recognized as a visionary entrepreneur, he has received numerous awards including the 2025 Fire Awards Legacy Entrepreneur recognition and has been named among the "100 Most Influential St. Louisans."

Donn Rubin resides in St. Louis and continues to lead initiatives that promote sustainable economic growth, scientific innovation, and collaborative ecosystems. His vision for the future centers on utilizing innovation to solve pressing health, environmental, and societal challenges while building equitable, resilient communities.

MR. RAM KAUNDINYA, Partner, AgVayā LLP; Director General, Federation of Seed Industry of India (FSII)

Mr. Ram Kaundinya is a leading figure in India's agricultural innovation landscape, with over two decades of experience spanning seed technology, biotech policy, and sustainable farming development. He holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Agri Business Management from the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad and a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University.

Beginning his career in multinational crop protection companies such as Hoechst and Cyanamid, Mr. Kaundinya quickly established himself at the interface of research, regulatory policy, and market development. He later founded Klorofil Biologics LLP, an enterprise dedicated to advancing biologically based crop protection and sustainable agro-input innovations in India.

As Director General of the Federation of Seed Industry of India (FSII), Kaundinya catalyzed the growth and regulation of India's seed sector, engaging directly with government bodies, research institutions, and industry stakeholders to promote quality seed development, intellectual property frameworks, and export facilitation. His leadership emphasizes innovation-driven seed sector development through policy advocacy, capacity building, and international collaboration.

Mr. Kaundinya is recognized for amplifying the role of public-private partnerships in biotech, enhancing regulatory transparency, and fostering farmer-centric product development. He serves on multiple government and advisory committees, including the MS Swaminathan Task Force on Biotechnology and the Agricultural Ministry's Seed Committee.

Beyond policy and industry leadership, Kaundinya is a mentor to agri-tech startups and a thought leader on digital agriculture, precision farming, and climate-resilient practices. His efforts have supported India's journey towards greater seed quality, productivity, and sustainability, contributing to national food security and rural livelihood goals.

MR. SG ANIL KUMAR, Founder & CEO, Samunnati

Mr. SG Anil Kumar is the Founder and CEO of Samunnati, India's leading agri-fintech company specializing in providing innovative financial solutions to underserved farmers, agri-businesses, and enterprises. With a vision to create efficient, inclusive, and scalable agri-value chains, Kumar has built Samunnati into an ecosystem enabler that links farmers with markets, credit, and services. India's largest agri enterprise, Samunnati, is an open agri network to unlock the trillion-dollar-plus potential of Indian agriculture with smallholder farmers at the centre of it.

His expertise lies in leveraging technology and finance to bridge gaps in agricultural supply chains and provide scalable solutions for small and marginal farmers. Kumar's leadership emphasizes risk management, price discovery, and transparent trade practices, enabling farmers to increase income and reduce vulnerability.

Prior to founding Samunnati, he worked extensively in rural finance and development sectors, contributing to policy design and innovations in agri-credit. Under his stewardship, Samunnati supports over 35,000 farmers and more than 400 agri-food businesses across India, facilitating billions of rupees in trade and credit annually. Kumar is recognised as a thought leader in agri-entrepreneurship, regularly participating in international forums and policy dialogues on farm finance and rural development.

MR. V. RAVICHANDRAN, Progressive Farmer; Director, Global Farmer Network

Mr. V. Ravichandran is a third-generation progressive farmer from Tamil Nadu, India, who has dedicated over 39 years to cultivating a diverse array of crops, including paddy, pulses, sugarcane, vegetables, and fruits. His agricultural journey is distinguished by a strong commitment to integrating scientific innovation with traditional farming knowledge, aiming to uplift farming communities and promote environmental sustainability.

Holding a Bachelor of Science degree from Madras University and additional certifications in crop-specific technologies, Ravichandran has become a leading voice advocating for water-efficient and climate-smart farming practices in India. He is the founder of the United Progressive Farmers Forum, a collective dedicated to farmer empowerment, market access, and adoption of advanced agronomic techniques.

In his role as Vice President of the Indian Farmers Network and Director of the Global Farmer Network based in Iowa, USA, Ravichandran bridges grassroots farming with global agricultural policy and technology dialogues. His insights contribute to shaping sustainable farming agendas that balance productivity, resource conservation, and economic viability.

Ravichandran's notable achievements include pioneering large-scale pulse cultivation to address India's protein deficiency and demonstrating sustainable irrigation methodologies that conserve water while maintaining yields. Throughout his career, he has received several prestigious awards, including the Republic Day Reception (2024), Harit Kranti National Award, IARI Fellow Farmer Award, and the Dean Kleckner Award at the World Food Prize.

An eloquent communicator, he writes extensively in both Tamil and English, sharing scientific knowledge through media appearances and grassroots workshops. He actively participates in national and international conferences such as the World Economic Forum meetings, International Rice Congress, and forums in the USA, Israel, and Africa.

His leadership extends to advisory roles for Bayer CropScience's Global Farm Advisory Board and the Wadhwani Foundation's Artificial Intelligence program for pest prediction. Ravichandran remains firmly committed to empowering farmers through digital tools, evidence-based crop management, and innovative techniques that ensure climate resilience, food security, and rural prosperity.

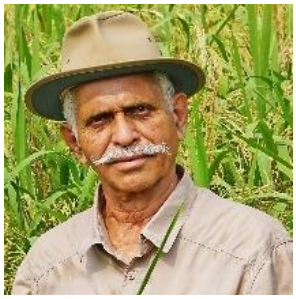
MR. ANIL GHANWAT, President, Shetkari Sanghatana & Swatantra Bharat Paksha

Mr. Anil Ghanwat is a prominent leader and advocate for farmers' welfare in Maharashtra and India at large. As President of Shetkari Sanghatana and the Swatantra Bharat Paksha political party, he has championed progressive reforms in agriculture, water management, and rural livelihoods.

With decades of grassroots experience, Ghanwat works on empowering farmers through knowledge dissemination, cooperative models, and supply chain interventions. He is a vocal advocate for policies supporting farmer autonomy, fair pricing, and sustainable agriculture practices.

His leadership balances traditional farmer concerns with modern sustainable farming methods. He has been instrumental in initiating policies and programs that increase farmers' incomes while promoting climate-resilient agriculture and water conservation techniques.

MR. SEKHAR BHADSAVLE, Founder, Saguna Regenerative Technique & Saguna Rural Foundation



Sekhar Bhadsavle, recognized as the "Father of Agro-Tourism" in India, is a leader in regenerative agriculture and rural development. After completing his food technology education at UC Davis, Bhadsavle established Saguna Baug, a pioneering model integrating agriculture, education, and tourism in Maharashtra. His innovative Saguna Regenerative Technique and Saguna Van Samvardhan Technique focus on soil health, biodiversity, and sustainable planting practices. Through agro-tourism, Bhadsavle has created livelihoods while promoting eco-conscious farming.

Saguna Baug has become a national and international exemplar of how agriculture can be economically viable and environmentally sustainable. Recognized with awards such as the Krishi Ratna and Norman Borlaug Innovative Farmer Award, Bhadsavle educates thousands of farmers annually, teaching regenerative techniques that restore soil fertility and increase productivity. His approach champions agroecology principles aligned with climate-smart agriculture, inspiring sustainable transformation in Indian farming.

MR. SANJIV RANGRASS, Independent Director, Bayer India; Venture Partner, Capria Ventures

Mr. Sanjiv Rangrass is a seasoned board director and venture partner, known for his strategic expertise in the agriculture and technology sectors. As an Independent Director at Bayer India, he influences governance and long-term corporate strategy in one of India's leading agri-biotech companies. His role ensures alignment of innovation objectives with sustainability and business growth.

As a Venture Partner at Capria Ventures, Sanjiv helps scale startups across emerging markets, focusing on agriculture, healthcare, and financial technologies. He leverages his extensive corporate experience to identify high-impact innovations and support portfolio companies in growth, operational excellence, and market entry.

Earlier, he served in senior roles at multinational corporations, combining operational leadership with strategic advisory services. Sanjiv’s diversified experience enhances ecosystem development, bridging corporate objectives with startup agility to foster innovation and impact in agriculture and allied sectors.

MR. PRAMOD BHASIN, Chairman, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)

Pramod's resume spans a Global Professional and Entrepreneurial career in Financial Services and Business Process Management.

He was the President & CEO of GE Capital in India from 1994 to 2005, and GE Capital Asia from 1998 to 2001. At GE Capital India, he was the founder of their Financial Services business and also built the joint venture with the State Bank of India in credit cards (known as SBI Cards) and with HDFC Ltd. in Consumer Finance, apart from GE Capital itself. He worked extensively with the State Bank of India to launch and grow the Cards business from inception, and help build its foundations and future success.

Pramod is considered the Founder and Pioneer of the Business Process Industry in India. He founded Genpact in 1996 (as a subsidiary of GE Capital, India) and built it from start into a Global business that currently spans 20+ countries and employs 80,000 people. He led Genpact from inception and took it to IPO on NYSE in 2005 and ran it as a US listed public company until 2011. Under his leadership, Genpact also pioneered this industry in Easter Europe, China and Latin America. Genpact currently has a market capitalization of approximately $8 billion and revenues of over $3 billion.

Prior to GE Capital India, he was based in Stanford CT, USA with GE & GE Capital for 10 years and in London for 5 years.

Pramod is currently the Chairman of Clix Capital, a Financial Services Business in India focused on providing digital platforms and financial services to consumers and small businesses. Clix Capital is the former GE Capital entity in India which was acquired by a consortium of partners including himself and AION, the private equity firm.

He is the co-founder of Asha Impact, an organisation focused on Social Impact Investments and Advocacy in key areas such as Education, Waste Management, Healthcare and Financial Inclusions. He is also a strategic advisor to Kedaara, a private equity firm. He also founded the Skills Academy, that focuses on vocational skills for the under privileged.

He sits on the Governing Board of Help Age India, The Indian Council of Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), Vishwas, an NGO for handicapped children amongst others. He currently serves on the Board of DLF Ltd., and in the past, has served on the Board of Bank of India. He has also been the Chairman of Nasscom and was voted IT Man of the Year by DataQuest, and Manger of the Year by EY & Co.

He is Chartered Accountant (England & Wales) by profession and an alumni of Shri Ram College of Commerce.

DR. TRILOCHAN MOHAPATRA, Chairperson, Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Authority (PPVFRA), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt of India

Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra is an eminent agricultural scientist and policymaker driving plant variety protection and farmer rights in India. As Chairperson of PPVFRA, he ensures the enforcement of laws that support breeders and farmers, promoting innovation in plant breeding while safeguarding traditional knowledge.

With a PhD in agricultural sciences and extensive research experience in crop genetics, Dr Mohapatra has made significant contributions to India's modernisation of the seed sector. His leadership involves formulating policies that balance intellectual property rights with farmers' interests, fostering research innovations and market access.

Under his stewardship, PPVFRA has streamlined the registration of varieties and protected indigenous crop varieties, thereby empowering India’s seed ecosystem. Dr. Mohapatra actively participates in international conventions relating to plant conservation and agricultural biodiversity, representing India in global forums. His vision integrates scientific research, policy, and legal frameworks to strengthen India’s agricultural resilience and innovation capacity.

DR. PRAVEEN MALIK, Principal Scientist & CEO, Agrinnovate India Ltd., DBT, Govt. of India

Dr. Praveen Malik is a prominent agricultural scientist and leader spearheading innovation adoption in Indian agriculture. As CEO of Agrinnovate India Ltd., under the Department of Biotechnology, Dr. Malik enables the translation of biotechnological advances into commercial and farmer-friendly solutions. With a background in molecular biology and plant genetics, he has a rich history of research focusing on stress-resilient crops. As Chief Executive Officer at Agrinnovate India Limited, a Government of India enterprise, he is focused on licensing agricultural technologies developed by ICAR to the industry.

Dr. Malik's leadership includes managing programs supporting agri-innovations through startup funding, technology validation, and public-private partnerships. Under his stewardship, Agrinnovate India has launched impactful initiatives accelerating biotech adoption, improving crop resilience, and enhancing farmer livelihoods. He actively collaborates with national research institutions, industry leaders, and international organizations to harmonize research efforts and policy frameworks.

A prolific author and speaker, Dr Malik contributes to scientific discourse on agricultural technology, emphasising sustainable intensification and food security. He advocates for ecosystem-based innovation models and capacity building in rural areas, helping India build a resilient, high-tech agricultural future.

He has been working as Chair/Expert Member in various Committees with DAHD, WOAH (OIE), FAO, WHO, PSA, DHR, DST, DBT etc. He has been awarded The Outstanding Professional Award 2025 during the 16th Agriculture Leadership Conclave 2025 organized by Agriculture Today Group.

MR. AJAI RANA, CEO & MD, Savannah Seeds; Chairman, Federation of Seed Industry of India (FSII)

Mr. Ajai Rana is a seasoned leader in India's seed industry, currently serving as CEO and Managing Director of Savannah Seeds, a company focused on delivering quality hybrid seeds to Indian farmers. He also holds the Chairmanship of the Federation of Seed Industry of India (FSII), driving policies and initiatives to strengthen India's seed sector competitiveness globally.

Mr. Rana holds an agricultural science background, coupled with extensive experience in seed breeding, production, and marketing. He advocates for innovation in seed technologies, sustainable farming practices, and farmer empowerment through access to quality inputs. Under his leadership, Savannah Seeds expanded its portfolio and developed robust networks that reach farmers across multiple Indian states. As FSII Chairman, he engages policymakers and stakeholders to foster a regulatory environment conducive to R&D, variety development, and seed export growth.

He is recognized for his focus on capacity building, industry-academia partnerships, and regulatory reforms, aiming to increase seed availability and genetic diversity. Mr. Rana's vision includes scaling hybrid and climate-resilient seed adoption to enhance India's agricultural productivity and food security.

DR. VIBHA AHUJA is a distinguished biotechnology expert and former Chief General Manager at Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL), New Delhi. With over 30 years of experience in biosafety, regulatory affairs, and commercialization of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), she is a recognized authority in India's biosafety regulatory framework and modern biotechnology applications.

Dr. Ahuja has played a key role in the formulation of biosafety guidelines and policies, particularly in areas involving gene editing and genetically engineered crops. She has actively contributed to stakeholder consultations, capacity building programs, and awareness initiatives on biosafety regulations across India and South Asia. Her efforts have helped establish robust regulatory practices ensuring safety, transparency, and ethical considerations in biotech innovations.

Her career at BCIL has involved managing technology transfer, regulatory compliance, and training programs that support biotech product development and commercialization. She has also served on expert committees and worked closely with government ministries to facilitate informed decision-making on biosafety and biotech regulation.

Beyond regulatory expertise, Dr. Ahuja is known for her leadership in capacity building, having organized and led numerous national and international workshops, seminars, and training sessions focused on biotechnology and biosafety. She is committed to advancing science-based policymaking and fostering innovation while ensuring environmental and human health safety.

In summary, Dr. Vibha Ahuja's extensive experience and leadership at BCIL have made her a pivotal figure in India's biotechnology regulatory landscape, championing biosafety, innovation, and sustainable commercialization of biotech technologies.

MRS. KOMAL SHAH BHUKHANWALA is the Director of Research & Development and Intellectual Property at SML Limited, a leading Indian multinational agrochemical company known for sustainable agricultural solutions. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering, a Master's in Biochemistry from Boston University, and an MBA from IESE Business School, Spain.

At SML, Mrs. Komal oversees research, development, intellectual property management, and the introduction of innovative crop solutions including crop protection, crop nutrition, biologicals, biostimulants, and novel chemical entities both in India and internationally. Under her leadership, SML has built a global patent portfolio exceeding 500 patent applications and expanded its footprint to over 80 countries.

She is a passionate advocate for sustainable agriculture, focusing on balanced nutrition management and soil health to improve crop productivity and reduce environmental impact. Mrs. Komal has led initiatives like "Krishinova," a farm technology advisory service empowering farmers to test soil on-site, identify nutrient gaps, and adopt sustainable farming practices.

Mrs. Komal Shah frequently engages with stakeholders to tackle climate change challenges, promote soil health, and deliver solutions that lower pesticide residues and synthetic fertilizer usage, contributing to reduced greenhouse gas emissions and enhanced nutrient use efficiency. Her leadership has earned SML recognition for innovation and sustainability in agrochemicals.

In summary, Mrs. Komal Shah Bhukhanwala is a dynamic leader driving innovation and sustainability in agriculture through her role at SML Limited. Her efforts advance scientific research, IP development, and practical solutions to meet the evolving needs of farmers and the global agricultural community.

MR. BHUPEN DUBEY, Global CEO, Advanta Seeds

Mr. Bhupen Dubey is the Global Chief Executive Officer of Advanta Seeds, a leading company specializing in hybrid seeds and agricultural biotechnology. With extensive experience in the seed industry, Mr. Dubey is recognized for his strategic leadership in developing cutting-edge seed technologies, expanding market reach, and fostering sustainable agriculture practices globally.

He holds a strong academic foundation with a degree in agriculture, complemented by years of leadership roles in various multinational seed companies. Under his leadership, Advanta Seeds has grown its footprint across India and global markets, successfully introducing climate-resilient hybrids and biotech seeds designed to meet diverse agroecological needs.

Mr. Dubey is known for his focus on innovation, quality assurance, and farmer-centric solutions that enhance productivity while preserving natural resources. His leadership extends to nurturing partnerships with research institutions, governments, and farmer organizations to accelerate the adoption of improved seed varieties, thereby strengthening food security and income for farming communities.

He actively participates in global seed industry forums and sustainable agriculture initiatives, advocating for responsible seed technologies that address both environmental and socio-economic challenges. Mr. Dubey's vision emphasizes equitable access to superior genetic materials, enabling farmers to adapt to climate uncertainties and market demands efficiently.

In addition to his professional achievements, Mr. Dubey is committed to capacity building and mentoring emerging leaders in the agricultural sector, contributing to the growth of a vibrant, innovative seed ecosystem worldwide.

MR. TARUN SAWHNEY, Vice Chairman & Managing Director, Triveni Engineering & Industries Ltd.

Mr. Tarun Sawhney is an industrialist heading Triveni Engineering & Industries Ltd., a leading Indian conglomerate specializing in sugar, power, and engineering equipment. As Vice Chairman and MD, Sawhney oversees strategic growth, innovation, and sustainability initiatives.

With a background in mechanical engineering and business management, he has led modernization projects and diversification strategies, positioning the company competitively domestically and internationally. Sawhney emphasizes energy efficiency, renewable energy integration, and circular economy principles across operations.

He is actively involved in industry associations and corporate social responsibility programs, promoting rural development and sustainable agribusiness models that benefit sugarcane farmers and local communities.

MR. ANKUR AGGARWAL, Managing Director, Crystal Crop Protection; President, CropLife India

Mr. Ankur Aggarwal is Managing Director of Crystal Crop Protection, one of India's leading crop protection companies, and currently serves as President of CropLife India, the apex body representing the plant science industry.

He holds an engineering background and has over two decades of leadership experience in agrochemical distribution, crop protection, and sustainable agriculture. Aggarwal advocates for safe and effective crop protection technologies that enhance yields while ensuring environmental stewardship.

Under his leadership, Crystal Crop Protection has expanded its reach and product portfolio, focusing on farmer education and technology adoption. As CropLife India President, he engages with regulators, researchers, and farmers to promote innovation, stewardship, and responsible use of crop protection products.

MR. SIMON WIEBUSCH, Vice Chairman, Managing Director & CEO, Bayer CropScience Ltd; Country Divisional Head - Crop Science Division of Bayer in India, Bangladesh & Sri Lanka (IBSL)

Simon Wiebusch has been serving as the Vice Chairman, Managing Director, and CEO of Bayer CropScience Ltd (BCSL) since November 1, 2023. He also holds the position of Country Divisional Head for Bayer's Crop Science Division in India, Bangladesh & Sri Lanka since January 1, 2022. Headquartered in Thane, Maharashtra at Bayer's South Asia headquarters, Simon initially joined the region as the Chief Operating Officer of the Crop Science Division on August 21, 2018.

Before taking on this role, Simon led Bayer's Southeast Asia business from their Bangkok office. Beginning his career in 1998 at Bayer's headquarters in Germany, he has over two decades of broad experience leading diverse teams across multiple regions, including Germany, Eastern Europe, and Asia. This extensive cross-cultural experience equips him well for driving growth and innovation in complex markets.

Simon holds a bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Applied Sciences in Essen, Germany, and an MBA from the University of Bradford in the UK. His academic foundation complements a deep passion for transformative agriculture—prioritizing the production of sufficient and nutritious food while preserving natural resources.

He ardently advocates for sustainable and regenerative agriculture. His vision includes harnessing technology and digital farming tools to improve access to nutritious food, reducing farming labor and environmental footprints, ensuring traceability in food supply chains, and ultimately empowering smallholder farmers with better livelihood opportunities.

Simon also takes active roles beyond Bayer. He is Vice Chairman of the Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture (ICFA), an apex business, policy, and development body in India focused on food sector growth. Furthermore, he chairs the Crop Protection Committee of The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), influencing regulatory frameworks and industry standards.

Simon currently lives in Mumbai with his family. He is engaged with the broader agricultural innovation ecosystem, contributing to policy dialogues, corporate leadership, and community development aimed at a resilient and sustainable food future.

MR. ANAND PRATAP SHAHI, Lead, Better Life Farming India & FPO Operations, Bayer CropScience Ltd

Mr. Anand Pratap Shahi is an accomplished agri-business professional with over 25 years of diverse experience spanning sales, marketing, procurement, quality control, and large-scale project management from concept through execution. His work centers on implementing micro and macro policies and designing strategic interventions to enhance the livelihoods of smallholder farmers through collaboration with agricultural ecosystem partners across India.

Currently, Anand leads the Better Life Farming initiative and Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) operations at Bayer CropScience Ltd, focusing on scaling sustainable farming models and fostering farm-centric partnerships. His efforts aim to empower farmers with market linkages, access to quality inputs, and knowledge resources to boost productivity and income.

Anand holds a Master of Science in Agriculture with specialization in Entomology from Gorakhpur University, Uttar Pradesh, India, and a Postgraduate Program in Management Studies (PGPMS) in Agri Business & Management from Welingkar Institute of Management, Mumbai. His academic background equips him with a strong foundation in both agricultural sciences and business management.

He has participated in various professional workshops, including orientations by the International Finance Corporation, leadership training based on the '7 Habits' framework, and time management seminars. Additionally, Anand has enhanced his expertise through specialized courses in marketing management, general management, and finance, reflecting a blend of technical and managerial capabilities.

Throughout his career, Anand has driven initiatives that integrate sustainable agricultural practices, innovative input delivery, and robust market linkages. His leadership style emphasizes collaboration with government agencies, private sector players, and farmer groups to scale impactful interventions effectively.

He continues to play a vital role in shaping agribusiness strategies that address the unique challenges facing smallholder farmers in India, including climate variability, resource constraints, and market volatility. Anand’s vision is aligned with catalyzing rural prosperity while supporting sustainable agriculture and food security goals nationwide.

DR. SUDHANSHU SINGH, Director, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) South Asia Regional Centre

Dr. Sudhanshu Singh is a distinguished agricultural scientist and leader heading the South Asia Regional Centre of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). With a PhD in Agronomy and extensive postdoctoral training, Dr. Singh has dedicated his career to advancing climate-resilient rice farming and sustainable agricultural systems across South Asian countries.

Dr. Singh's expertise encompasses integrated crop management, conservation agriculture, and resource use efficiency, particularly water-saving technologies crucial for diverse and often resource-constrained agroecologies in India, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. His leadership reflects a commitment to bridging scientific innovation with practical on-ground solutions that enhance farmer productivity and environmental sustainability.

Under his direction, the IRRI South Asia Regional Centre has strengthened research collaborations and partnerships with national governments, agricultural universities, development agencies, and private sector partners. Dr. Singh has been a key catalyst in deploying digital agriculture tools, promoting efficient water management, and championing eco-friendly crop protection practices.

He is a prolific contributor to scientific literature, having authored numerous peer-reviewed research articles, policy briefs, and technical reports that inform sustainable rice production frameworks and climate adaptation policies.

Dr. Singh actively participates in regional and global agricultural forums, advocating science-based policymaking that supports smallholder farmers, food security, and climate resilience. He also facilitates capacity building by mentoring young scientists and engaging farmer communities to adopt innovative practices.

His vision combines traditional agricultural wisdom with modern technologies, seeking to create sustainable, productive, and resilient rice-based farming systems. Through his leadership, IRRI continues to play a pivotal role in ensuring stable livelihoods and food security for millions of rice farmers in the region, addressing challenges from climate change, resource scarcity, and evolving market demands.

MR. VIJAY CHAUHAN, GlobalSTL Lead, BioSTL, USA

Mr. Vijay Chauhan is a dynamic entrepreneur and strategic leader with nearly two decades of experience spanning life sciences, agricultural technology, and healthcare innovation. As GlobalSTL Lead at BioSTL, USA, he connects startups globally to the vibrant biotech and agtech communities of St. Louis and the Midwest.

Vijay holds a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from IIT Madras and a Master's in Computer Science from the University of Delaware. Early in his career, he developed engineering and consulting expertise at Honeywell, Cap Gemini, and Arthur D. Little, focusing on business transformation and operational efficiency for major global clients.

His entrepreneurial drive led him to co-found Arvegenix, an ag-biotech startup, and to serve as CEO for healthcare technology firms, driving product launches and digital transformation. These roles equipped Vijay to advise early-stage ventures on business, technology, and regulatory strategy.

At BioSTL, Vijay architects the GlobalSTL initiative, helping international health, ag, and food system startups scale into the US market. He leverages broad networks to match startups with local customers, investors, and partners, supporting market entry and rapid growth.

His strength lies in alliance-building with corporate, academic, government, and startup stakeholders. Through partnerships with BioGenerator, hospital systems, and industry organizations, he fosters an inclusive ecosystem for entrepreneurial impact.

A regular keynote speaker and panelist, Vijay shares insights on global technology transfer, innovation strategy, and ecosystem development. He champions diversity, mentoring entrepreneurs from varied backgrounds, and ensuring growth aligns with sustainability values.

Residing in St. Louis, Vijay Chauhan exemplifies a global connector and catalyst for innovation, positioning the region as a leading hub for bioscience and agri-food advancement.

MR. D. NARAIN, Partner, AgVayā

Mr. D. Narain is a globally recognized leader and strategist in the food and agriculture sectors with nearly four decades of cross-continental experience spanning Asia, Europe, and the Americas. As Partner at AgVayā, he drives transformative initiatives across agri-food value chains—empowering smallholder farmers, advancing sustainability, and fostering innovation.

A Chartered Accountant and Kellogg MBA, he began his career at ITC, where he helped establish its Agri Business Division. He later held senior global roles at Monsanto, including Vice President & Treasurer in St. Louis, before becoming President & CEO of Bayer CropScience South Asia and Global Head of Smallholder Farming for Bayer AG.

He currently serves on the boards of RiceTec Inc. and Medi Assist, championing technology adoption, inclusion, and climate-smart agriculture.

DR. R S PARODA, Founder Chairman, Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS)

Dr. R S Paroda is a revered agricultural scientist and leader whose prolific career has significantly impacted India's agricultural research, development, and policy landscapes. As Founder Chairman of TAAS, he fosters scientific advancements and collaborations that promote sustainable agriculture and food security.

Dr. Paroda completed his Ph D in Plant Breeding and Genetics and has held multiple distinguished roles, including Director General of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture. His tenure at ICAR was marked by building research capacities, enhancing technology transfer to farmers, and initiating community-based resource management programs that improved rural nutrition and livelihoods.

Internationally, Dr. Paroda served as Executive Secretary of the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions, championing regional collaboration in research and innovation to tackle challenges such as climate change, resource degradation, and crop diversification.

He has authored over 300 scientific papers, mentored generations of agricultural scientists, and received numerous awards including the Padma Bhushan and Dr. Norman Borlaug Award. His contributions span from grassroots implementations of improved crop varieties to enhancing policy frameworks integrating biotechnology, rural education, and sustainable development goals. Dr. Paroda's legacy is a testament to visionary leadership marrying science, policy, and farmer empowerment for India's agricultural transformation.

DR. PURVI MEHTA, Founder & CEO, Purvi Mehta & Associates; Sustainable Agriculture Expert

Dr. Purvi Mehta is an acclaimed international development professional and global voice in agriculture, climate adaptation, financial management, and technology transfer. With over 28 years of leadership experience across Asia, Africa, and North America, she has played a defining role in shaping science-driven, equitable and climate-resilient food systems.

Dr. Mehta holds a PhD and advanced degrees from M.S. University (India), Tokyo University (Japan), and North Carolina State University (USA). Her expertise spans agricultural science, climate change, digital innovation, and strategic finance, complemented by deep cross-sector networks that include multilateral institutions, global policy bodies, and private enterprise.

Currently, she is the Senior Advisor to the Global Centre for Adaptation (GCA) and the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAAP)—the world's largest climate adaptation initiative. She also sits on several distinguished boards and advisory panels, including:

- Director, Advanta (the world's fourth-largest seed company)
- Board Member, World Food Prize
- Member, MIT Boston Advisory Panel (agriculture, food, and technology applications)
- Board, Indian Council for Food and Agriculture
- Advisory Panel, The Economist's Food Industry Impact Initiative

Dr. Mehta is Adjunct Professor at Cornell University, regularly mentoring and guiding the next generation of scientists and policymakers.

Until May 2025, Dr Mehta was Senior Advisor for Global Growth and Opportunities at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, where she designed and executed an international climate strategy and created impactful partnerships with the IMF, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and African Development Bank. She has held pivotal leadership roles at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) in Kenya, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), and the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

A prolific thought leader, Dr Mehta has authored two books and published over 50 peer-reviewed articles and policy briefs. She is a regular contributor to prominent outlets, including Economic Times, Financial Times, Hindustan Times, Times of India, NDTV, and CNBC-TV. She is widely recognized for translating scientific advances and policy frameworks into action for millions of smallholder farmers and vulnerable populations.

Her work continues to have a profound influence on global food security, environmental resilience, and gender-inclusive rural development.

DR. TAMASWATI GHOSH, Chief Executive Officer, IIT Madras Incubation Cell

Dr. Tamaswati Ghosh heads the IIT Madras Incubation Cell, one of India's premier technology and science incubation centers. An accomplished scientist and innovation leader, she manages a vibrant ecosystem fostering deep tech startups and cross-sectoral collaborations.

Dr. Ghosh holds a PhD in Chemical Engineering and has held academic and industry roles focusing on R&D and innovation management. She leads initiatives promoting startup growth through mentorship, financial access, and regulatory navigation, especially for biotech, healthtech, and cleantech startups.

Her vision emphasizes sustainable technologies, social impact entrepreneurship, and leveraging institutional research strengths to address national and global challenges. Dr. Ghosh frequently speaks at scientific and innovation leadership conferences and contributes to policy advisories encouraging technology entrepreneurship.

DR. SONALI ROY, Chief Operating Officer, RISE Foundation IISER & IISER-Kolkata Incubation Centre

Dr. Sonali Roy brings rich expertise combining scientific research and entrepreneurial ecosystems as the COO of RISE Foundation IISER and IISER-Kolkata Incubation Centre. She leads efforts to nurture early-stage startups, accelerate commercialization, and facilitate partnerships across academia, industry, and investors.

Holding a PhD in Environmental Science and Technology, Dr. Roy has published extensively on sustainable development and has led multidisciplinary projects promoting green technologies and circular economy models. Her leadership at RISE Foundation focuses on bridging gaps between research outcomes and market applications, assisting startups with strategic mentoring, funding facilitation, and innovation scaling.

She has built strong networks connecting innovators in biotechnology, agriculture, and environmental sectors, positioning IISER incubation centers as hubs for technology commercialization and entrepreneurship growth. Passionate about STEM education and gender equity in science, Dr. Roy also drives programs to support women entrepreneurs and diversify innovation participation.

Her considerable experience blends ecosystem development, policy advisory, and financial enablement, making her a key influencer in India's science-driven startup landscape.

DR. VENKATRAM VASANTAVADA, Managing Director & CEO, SeedWorks International Ltd

Dr. Venkatram Vasantavada is a distinguished leader in the agricultural inputs and hybrid seed industry, currently serving as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of SeedWorks International Limited. He brings more than 32 years of expertise across sales, marketing, international business, and organizational transformation in leading multinational corporations throughout Asia and Africa.

Dr. Vasantavada holds a Bachelor's degree in Dairy Technology from Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, a Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Management from the Institute of Rural Management, Anand (IRMA), and a PhD in Business Management from Chitkara University, Punjab. He is also a certified Six Sigma Green Belt, reflecting a rigorous commitment to operational excellence.

Beginning his career in the FMCG and agricultural sectors, Dr Vasantavada held key roles in VST Industries Limited, Monsanto India, PHI Seed, and Idea Cellular. He later advanced to leadership positions, serving as Sales Director at DuPont Pioneer, COO for Asia and Africa, and Whole Time Director at Advanta Seeds—a UPL company—where he built strategic alliances and expanded businesses across global hubs.

Prior to joining SeedWorks in 2017, he served as President-Crop Nutrition Business at Deepak Fertilisers And Petrochemicals Corp. Ltd. At SeedWorks, Dr. Vasantavada led the company to be recognized as one of the top pure-play seed businesses in India, driving rapid growth in market share, revenue, and profitability. He has steered investments in next-generation plant breeding, digital agriculture, and resilient supply chains, positioning SeedWorks for significant expansion in India and international markets.

Dr. Vasantavada is passionate about helping small and marginal farmers enhance yields and incomes through high-quality, research-driven hybrid seeds. His leadership is grounded in ethical business practices, farmer empowerment, and transparent, data-guided decision making. SeedWorks has consistently been rated among India's top 50 Great MidSize workplaces in recent years, reflecting a people-centric, collaborative culture.

His commitment to social impact and entrepreneurship has earned him multiple accolades, including the 'Most Influential Agriculture Industry Professional' award (Agriculture Innovation Congress & Awards, 2020), 'Leader with Strategic Vision – Business Transformation' (Agri Business Summit & Awards ABSA, 2022), and 'Entrepreneur of the Year' by Hyderabad Management Association (2019). Dr. Vasantavada is a founding member and Vice President of the Rural Marketing Association of India (RMAI), a visiting faculty at various management institutes, and an advisor to major agricultural industry councils such as Federation of Seed Industry of India, ASSOCHAM Agri & Food Council, and CII Regional Agri Council.

He regularly writes and speaks on agricultural transformation, digital revolution, and climate-resilient farming. Driven by a strong belief in collaboration, trust, and openness, Dr Vasantavada's vision for SeedWorks centres on scalable, tech-enabled solutions, a global outlook, and sustainable practices for future-ready agriculture

DR. AKRITI SHARMA is a Senior Scale Scientist and the CEO of Pusa Krishi, the agricultural innovation and business incubation hub of ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi. She also leads the Zonal Technology Management and Business Planning Development (ZTM & BPD) Unit at ICAR, where she spearheads technology commercialization and entrepreneurship development across northern ICAR institutes.

With a PhD in Management and an MBA in Agri-Business Management, Dr. Sharma combines academic excellence with over a decade of experience in agribusiness, dairy, and food sectors. She is an expert in intellectual property management, agri-tech commercialization, startup incubation, and mentoring young entrepreneurs to scale their ventures successfully.

Since February 2023, as CEO of Pusa Krishi, she has transformed the incubator into a leading national platform that supports agri-startups through funding, expert mentorship, technical resources, and market linkages. Her leadership earned Pusa Krishi the prestigious Bharat Incubator Award 2025 and the Best Incubator Award at the Social Impact Conference & Awards 2025 for its role in boosting agricultural innovation and inclusive rural development.

Dr. Sharma leads key projects such as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana – RAFTAAR and the DST-funded NIDHI Technology Business Incubator, guiding research commercialization and impact assessment programs with ICAR, IARI, and MSME. Her published work includes four books and over 20 research articles, focusing on agribusiness incubation, supply chain management, and technology adoption in Indian agriculture.

A committed mentor and speaker, she has delivered 100+ sessions to train and inspire agri-entrepreneurs. Driven by a vision to translate research into prosperity, Dr. Akriti Sharma is a dynamic force advancing agricultural innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustainable development in India.

DR. KAVYA DASHORA is an Associate Professor at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, specializing in AI and technology-based agri-food systems with a strong focus on sustainable and translational solutions in agriculture. She earned her PhD from the Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI-ICAR), where she developed low-cost biocontrol strategies for pearl millet smut disease.

Dr. Dashora's research spans nanotechnology, microbial bioprocessing, food safety, and sustainable crop production. She has notably developed plant-based protein innovations, including India's first-ever plant-based egg, recognized for its nutrition, taste, and sustainability. Her work is directly aligned with advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly zero hunger and good health and well-being.

With over 75 research papers, five book chapters, and numerous international training modules and policy briefs, she is a prolific contributor to agricultural and food technology research. She has received multiple accolades, including the Best Woman Scientist Award and the Best Innovation Award at Innovate4SDG by UNDP for her plant-based food technologies.

Dr. Dashora's innovations focus on translating high-end lab research into accessible, green agricultural practices and sustainable nutrition solutions. Her interdisciplinary approach combines nanotechnology, bioprocess engineering, AI, and blockchain for rural and inclusive value chain management. She is also a strong advocate for women empowerment through appropriate technology adoption and capacity building in agriculture.

In summary, Dr. Kavya Dashora is a leading scientist at IIT Delhi driving innovation in agri-food systems—developing sustainable plant-based proteins and technologies to meet global food security challenges while advancing environmental sustainability goals.

DR. ASHOK GULATI, Distinguished Professor, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)

Dr. Ashok Gulati is currently Distinguished Professor at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER). Prior to this, he was a Chairman of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), Government of India (2011-14).

He is currently a Member of the Twelfth Audit Advisory Board of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, and an Independent Director of the Board of Directors of Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL) and Godrej Agrovet Limited.

Dr. Gulati has 21 books to his credit on Indian and Asian Agriculture, besides numerous research papers in national and international Journals. He has been a prolific writer in leading newspapers in India, with his current column "From Plate to Plough" in the Indian Express and Financial Express.

For his contributions to the field, the President of India honored him with "**Padma Shri**" award in 2015.

Innovation Showcase / Oral presentation

1) Capsber Agriscience, India

Capsber Agriscience delivers integrated crop nutrition and pest management through a next-generation microbiome platform that restores soils and lowers chemical dependence. Powered by the BioIntelX™ discovery engine and a deep microbial culture bank, we develop soil-native biologicals and bioactive compounds, microbial metabolites and derivatives that fix nitrogen, unlock bound nutrients, and prime plant immunity, lifting nutrient-use efficiency, water productivity, and farmer margins. Our commercialised, peptide-based bionematicide, CapsNema™, features efficient, residue-free control of root-knot and lesion nematodes. Our research portfolio consists of bioherbicides, alongside disease- and pest-management candidates under field validation. Capsber has four Granted patents technologies across India and the USA. Deployments across India and SE Asia show 20–30% yield gains with reduced fertiliser use and measurable improvements in soil organic carbon. Capsber also partners with fertiliser manufacturers to complement NPK with biological nutrient-use enhancers.

Presenter: Manoj Kumar Rupa, Co-Founder & Managing Director

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2) GreenGrahi, India

GreenGrahi is pioneering sustainable plant nutrition and protection through insect-biotechnology. Its proprietary en-FUSION™ platform combines insect-derived bioactives like antimicrobial peptides, amino acids, and chitin with beneficial microbes that enhance nutrient uptake, root development, and natural resistance against pests and diseases. Backed by leading climate and agri-tech investors such as Avaana Capital, GreenGrahi is building India's largest BSF bio-manufacturing facility to produce next-generation bio-fertilisers and bio-stimulants at scale. Field trials across major crops have demonstrated over 25% yield increase and up to 45% pest reduction, validating its dual advantage in nutrition and protection. By converting agri-residues into high-value biological inputs, GreenGrahi is redefining sustainable agriculture through scalable, science-backed, and climate-positive innovations.

Presenter: Siddharth Sharma, Co-Founder & CEO

3) Piatrika Biosystems, India

Piatrika Biosystems is an agri-genomics innovation company redefining the future of sustainable agriculture through precision breeding and data-driven intelligence. The company bridges cutting-edge genomic science with digital transformation to accelerate the discovery and deployment of climate-resilient, nutrient-dense crop varieties. Leveraging data science, big data analytics, and its cloud-based Platform (CropGenie), Piatrika empowers seed companies, researchers, and governments to make faster, more informed breeding decisions—reducing R&D time and cost. Its integrated suite spans genomic trait identification, breeding programme designs, multi-location field trials, mega-environment forecasting, and secure data collaboration networks, creating an end-to-end innovation ecosystem. Piatrika's is providing tools and services to transform global food systems into nutrition- and sustainability-driven ones—advancing food security, climate resilience, and agricultural equity worldwide.

Presenter: Vasudev Kumanduri, Founder and Head of Technology and Innovation

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4) Mitti Labs, India

While rice feeds about half the world's population daily, it also generates emissions equivalent to the global aviation industry due to the production of methane, a fast-acting super pollutant. Mitti Labs partners with rice farmers to permanently cut methane, save water, and earn carbon credits. Our soil-to-sky approach unlocks country-level scale with field-level accuracy, by training farmers in proven climate-smart practices and verifying impact with rigorous science that fuses agronomy, remote sensing, crop modelling, and AI. The result? High-integrity carbon credits you can trust with tangible impact: ~50% methane reduction, ~40% water savings, and ~20% increase in small-holder farmer incomes.

Presenter: Devdut Dalal, Co-Founder

5) Elytron, Argentina

Elytron is an AI-driven biotech company based in CABA, Buenos Aires, Argentina that accelerates discovery and development of biologically based crop protection and bioproducts by combining microbial screening, omics, entomology expertise, and machine learning. Farmers benefit from faster access to effective bioinputs tailored to local pest and environmental variability, lower reliance on synthetic chemicals through targeted biological solutions that protect beneficial species, more consistent field performance that reduces costly trial-and-error, and ultimately options that can lower input costs and improve yield resilience.

Presenter: Tadeo Fernandez Göbel, Co-Founder & CTO

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6) PES Technologies, UK

PES Technologies, located in Diss Business Park, Diss, United Kingdom, develops a portable VOC-sensing soil-health platform that delivers multi-metric soil diagnostics in minutes at the point of need. Farmers gain immediate, actionable soil-health data to guide fertility, microbiome management, and input placement; reduced lab costs and turnaround time; fewer missed management windows; the ability to track biological soil function over time for better ROI on amendments and cover crops; and simpler, faster decisions that improve productivity and reduce waste.

Presenter: Andrej Porovic, Business Development Director

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7) TierraSpec

TierraSpec is a global soil monitoring company based in Rehovot, Israel. Their cutting-edge technology transforms raw data into meaningful, actionable insights that drive sustainable soil management. Leveraging a sophisticated combination of satellite imagery, environmental layers, AI algorithms, and decades of agricultural research to deliver some of the most accurate and comprehensive soil analyses on the market. Revolutionizing soil insights through 22x more data, enabling cost-efficient and sustainable farming with global, high-resolution impact.

Presenter: Avital Levy-Lio, Co-Founder & CEO

8) ClimateCrop

ClimateCrop is a gene editing company based in Ness Ziona, Israel, that enhances plants to be climate-adaptive and more efficient. Plants are upgraded by tapping into the power hidden in their leaves. The daily starch storage in plant leaves is increased using a simple, non-GMO, precisely targeted gene edit. This improves photosynthetic efficiency in an indirect but powerful way, enabling plants to perform better. The result is better yields, improved tolerance to drought and heat waves, reduced strain on existing resources, and more. The proprietary gene exists in all vascular plants. The energy metabolism regulation is generic, independent of plant species or use. This leads to opportunities including food, animal feed, fiber, fuel, and more.

Presenter: Erez Eliyahu, Co-Founder & CTO or Vivek Tiwari, Co-Founder & CSO

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9) AgraGene, USA

AgraGene is based in St. Louis, Missouri, USA and develops precision-guided sterile insect technology (pgSIT) and gene-editing–driven biocontrols to suppress specific pest populations without broad-spectrum insecticides. Farmers benefit from species-specific pest suppression that protects pollinators and beneficial insects, reduced pesticide input and associated application costs, lower pest pressure that improves yields and crop quality, tools that integrate into integrated pest management and resistance-management strategies, and scalable deployment options that can reduce long-term pest management risk.

Presenter: Bryan Witherbee, President & CEO

Innovation Gallery / Poster

1. **ScaNxt**: They bring science and data to agriculture, right from the roots. Empower agricultural decisions with precision and reach. Deep tech solutions enable smarter growth and clearer choices.

2. Varaha: Rooted in agriculture, inspired by nature, committed to carbon removal at scale. Applies a combination of remote sensing and biogeochemical models to estimate GHG emissions accurately at scale. Digital innovation that enables the quantification of carbon removal at scale.

3. **Converte**: Provides biological soil health solutions for healthier, nutrient-dense crops that ensure sustainability for future generations. Help farmers accelerate the transition to a sustainable & low carbon future.

4. **Carbonmint**: Driving Sustainable Farming Innovation. Empower farmers to transition to resource-efficient regenerative agricultural practices with the aim of making societal and environmental impact by fostering thriving rural communities, improving soil health and reducing resource usage.

5. Mr V. Ravichandran has become a leading voice advocating for water-efficient and climate-smart farming practices in India. Integrating scientific innovation with traditional farming knowledge, aiming to uplift farming communities and promote environmental sustainability

6. **Chandrashekhar Bhadsavle,Saguna Rural Foundation**: Zero till, conservation method of farming which does not cause atrocity of tillage, completely stops soil erosion, enhances microbial and earthwork activity, increases organic carbon of the soil, considerably increases productivity of the land and crop resilience and added effect of amazing happiness and confidence to the farmer.

7. **CIBUS**: Precision breeding for more resilient, sustainable, and vigorous crops. They work directly with agricultural partners to build seeds with the traits they need, delivering crops that stand strong against heat, pests, fungus, and weeds.

8. **ICAR-IIRR, Hyderabad**: Genome-edited rice varieties developed in India hold the potential for revolutionary changes in higher production, climate adaptability, and water conservation.

9. **SML Limited:** SML is a global leader in innovative advanced solutions for agriculture. SML's expertise spans varied aspects of nutrients, soil health, crop protection, and biologicals. SML aims to serve and improve the agricultural sector through technological innovation. SML's end objective is to ensure that balanced, nutritious food is produced on farms across the globe and to improve soil and human health.