



“Maize, the Centre of Bioeconomy: Advancing Seed Technology, Feed Solutions, and Next-Gen Ethanol”

**25 September 2024, 3rd Floor, Commission Hall
FICCI, Federation House, New Delhi**

Agenda

09:30 – 10:00 a.m.	Registration & Tea
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Inaugural Session
	<p>Welcome Address: Mr. Kaushal Jaiswal, Co-Chairman, FICCI National Agriculture Committee and Managing Director, Rivulis Irrigation India Pvt. Ltd.</p> <p>Opening Address: Mr. Siraj Hussain, Advisor Food Processing, FICCI and Former Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India</p> <p>Address: Mr. Subroto Geed, President - South Asia, Corteva Agriscience</p> <p>Release of FICCI-YES Bank Knowledge Report – “The Indian Maize Sector – Trends, Challenges & Imperatives for Sustainable Growth”</p> <p>Address about Knowledge Report: Mr. Sunjay Vuppuluri, National Head -Food & Agribusiness Strategic Advisory & Research (FASAR), YES Bank</p> <p>Special Address: Smt. Shubha Thakur, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India</p> <p>Special Address: Shri Sanjay Kumar Agarwal I.A.S, Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Government of Bihar</p> <p>Keynote Address: Dr Devesh Chaturvedi I.A.S, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India</p> <p>Inaugural Address by Guest of Honor: Shri Mangal Pandey, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture & Health, Department of Agriculture, Government of Bihar</p> <p>Vote of Thanks: Mr. Hemant Seth, Senior Director, FICCI</p>
11:30 a.m. – 01:00 p.m.	Session 1: Advancing Maize Yield: Scientific Solutions to Production Hurdles
	<p>Apart from its traditional use as animal feed, fodder, and food in South Asia, maize has emerged as a vital source of income to smallholders, and raw material for various industries such as -starch, and more recently bioethanol. Due to this rapid growth and diversified uses, there is an exponential increase in the domestic demand for maize,</p>

faster than the current production. In addition, maize is also identified as one of the most suitable options for crop diversification in various agroecologies. Therefore, there is an immense need to overcome yield-limiting factors, especially in the major maize growing season, i.e. – rainfed *Kharif*, and address key barriers hindering maize productivity and utilization in value chains. Developing and deploying climate-resilient maize hybrids, together with climate-smart agronomic practices, is critical for improving maize yields in stress-prone rainfed environments in India.

It is time for India to unveil an appropriate action plan for doubling maize output to transform maize production through diversification, intensification and adoption of technological breakthroughs suitable for rainfed agro-ecologies and to realize the potential of increasing maize productivity and production in India.

This session will delve into the critical challenges hindering maize production and offer innovative scientific solutions to boost yields sustainably. The session will also explore the complex interplay of genetics, agronomy, socio - economics, and enabling policies to effectively utilize cutting-edge research and will lay a roadmap for enhancing maize productivity and profitability to the farmers.

Chairman & Moderator: Mr. Siraj Hussain, Advisor - Food Processing, FICCI and Former Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India

Presentation: Dr B.M. Prasanna, Director, Global Maize Program, CIMMYT (*Virtual*)

Panellists:

- Dr S. L. Jat, Senior Scientist, ICAR-Indian Institute of Maize Research (IIMR)
- Dr PH Zaidi, Principal Scientist, CIMMYT (International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center)
- Dr Ram Murti Sirohi, Corn Product and Portfolio Strategy Lead India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, Bayer Crop Science Ltd. (*Virtual*)
- Dr Ashish Srivastava, APIR Evaluation Zone Lead, Corteva Agriscience
- Dr Rajiv Mishra, Chief Agronomist, YARA India Ltd.
- Dr Govind Sharma, Head Technical Agronomy, India Field Crops, Syngenta
- Dr Satyadev V, R&D Head FC & FR – South Asia, Advanta Enterprises Limited

Closing remarks by Session Chairman

Q& A

01:00 – 02:00 p.m.

Lunch

02:00 – 03:30 p.m.

Session 2: Riding Demand Wave: Navigating consumption challenges towards sustainable solutions (Starch, Feed, and Fodder Industries)

Maize, a versatile crop with a wide range of applications, has seen a surge in demand in past years. Its significance as a staple food in many regions, coupled with its role as a crucial input in various industries, has driven this upward trend. However, this escalating demand has also brought to the fore a set of challenges related to its consumption.

While the increasing demand for maize is driven by its versatile applications across industries, concerns over starch extraction, feed quality, and fodder availability persist. Starch production from maize often involves complex processes and impacts other valuable components. The suitability of maize as livestock feed requires careful

consideration of nutritional balance, while its use as fodder necessitates balancing human food needs with animal nutrition, potentially leading to supply-demand mismatches and price fluctuations. By understanding the complexities of maize consumption, we can better appreciate the opportunities and obstacles that lie ahead for producers, processors, and policymakers.

This session will delve into the core consumption-related issues surrounding maize, particularly in the areas of **starch**, **feed**, and **fodder**. We will examine the factors driving the demand for maize in these sectors, the challenges arising from this growth, and potential strategies to address these issues.

Chairman & Moderator: Mr. Amit Sachdev, Consultant, US Grains Council

Special Address: Dr H R Khanna, Joint Commissioner, Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India

Panellists:

- Mr. Unupom Kausik, Managing Director, National Cooperative Exports Ltd.
- Mr. AD Nath, Vice President & Head of Feed, Japfa Comfeed India Pvt. Ltd.
- Mr. Gaurav Mittal, Head – Central Buying Organization, Godrej Agrovet Ltd.
- Mr. Deepak Raj, Chief Executive Officer, Binsar Farms Pvt. Ltd.
- Mr. Nikhil Yagnic, Head Procurement- India, Roquette India Ltd.

Closing remarks by Session Chairman

Q& A

03:30 - 05:30 p.m.

Session 3: Pathways for Meeting India’s E20 Ethanol Blending Goal: The Power of Collaboration

The maize value chain for ethanol production involves several stages from seed to finally processing it into ethanol and delivering it to end users. Each value chain player has a significant role in meeting Ethanol blending targets that the Government of India has set. The session will focus on how impactful partnerships among stakeholders, positive ecosystem and technological advancements in maize ensure consistent supply of feedstock, thereby sustaining ethanol production at levels that align with blending mandates.

Chairman & Moderator: Mr. Sunjay Vuppuluri, National Head, Food & Agribusiness Strategic Advisory & Research (FASAR), YES Bank

Presentation: Ms. Shweta Saini, Partner, Arcus Policy Research

Panellists:

- Ms. Surabhi Rana, South Asia Seed Marketing Director, APAC Seed Leader & country leader- Bangladesh, Corteva Agriscience
- Mr. Barjinder Singh, Head Crop Solutions Product Management, CNH India
- Mr. Kiran Vedula, Chief Business Officer, Samunnati
- Mr. S K Shukla, President UP Distillers Association (UPDA) & Business Head, India Glycols Ltd.
- Mr. Prabhakararao Kakumani, Vice President- C&P, HPCL-Mittal Energy Limited (HMEL)
- Mr. Siddhartha Mitra, Chief General Manager – Biofuels, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)
- Mr. Reece Cannady, Director, US Grains Council

	<p>Closing remarks by Session Chairman</p> <p>Q& A</p>
05:30 – 05:45 p.m.	Tea Break
05:45 – 07:00 p.m.	Session 4: Public-Private Partnership for Agriculture Value Chain Development (PPPAVCD) and Post Harvest Infrastructure for Maize Value Chain
	<p>Maize, a crop of immense economic and nutritional significance. While achieving high yields in the field is crucial, the journey from the farm to the consumer's table is equally important. Integrated value chain development along with post-harvest management is a critical aspect that determines the quality, quantity, and ultimately, the value of the harvested maize.</p> <p>The primary objective of the PPPAVCD initiative is to enhance the income of small farmers by creating additional value, from provisioning of quality inputs, technology extension to market linkages, and value addition. FICCI-FEED being the PMU for the PPPAVCD scheme has been working towards accelerating large-scale PPPAVCD projects by leveraging the private sector investments and convergence of government schemes and subsidies.</p> <p>In recent years, mechanization has revolutionized post-harvest operations, enhancing efficiency, reducing labor costs, and minimizing losses. By understanding the intricacies of post-harvest management and the benefits of mechanization, we can contribute to reducing post-harvest losses, improving farmers' incomes, and ensuring food security.</p> <p>This session will delve into how the PPPAVCD program can transform the Maize ecosystem and help in developing Post Harvest Infrastructure necessary for scale up.</p> <p>Chairman: Dr TR Kesavan, Group President, TAFE</p> <p>Moderator: Dr S Baskar Reddy, Advisor – Agriculture, FICCI</p> <p>Special Address: <i>Mr. Samuel Praveen Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India</i></p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Anand Chandra, Co-Founder & Executive Director, Arya Collateral • Mr. Senthil Kumar, Head- Public Policy and Government Relations, Ninjacart • Mr. Sanjay Gupta, Managing Director, NCML • Mr. Abhay Dandwate, Chief Risk Officer & Head Strategy, NBHC • Dr Govind Sharma, Head Technical Agronomy, India Field Crops, Syngenta • Mr. JV Ratnam, COO & Co-founder, Lab to Land (<i>Virtual</i>) <p>Closing remarks by Session Chairman</p> <p>Q& A</p>
07:00 p.m. onwards	Networking Dinner

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