

## Crystal Crop Protection Ltd launches Sikosa to protect paddy crops from weeds.

- **Developed in collaboration with Battelle UK and Mitsui AgriScience International SA/NV**
- **Effectively controls narrow leaf, broad leaf weeds, and sedges in transplanted Paddy.**

**Chandigarh, 07/06/2023** -- Leading agrochemical company Crystal Crop Protection Ltd launched a next generation herbicide Sikosa to protect paddy crop from weeds and help farmers to enhance farm profitability in paddy.

Sikosa is powered by Banyan technology, which was jointly developed in collaboration with Battelle, UK Limited ("Battelle UK") and Mitsui AgriScience International SA/NV ("MASI"). The highly innovative technology for the first time, enables the formulation of liquid, chemically stable and highly efficacious sulfonyl urea herbicides. It will be an exclusive offering by Crystal Crop Protection and will help farmers grow more profitable crops by attaining its maximum genetic potential.

"In this era of collaboration, Sikosa will be a great example of global collaboration in R&D based product introduction for Indian farmers. I am confident that this next generation herbicide will play a critical role in enhancing productivity in paddy crops. With this introduction, Crystal now has the widest range of products for the complete crop cycle of Paddy, " **said Ankur Aggarwal, Managing Director, Crystal Crop Protection Limited.**

**Sikosa** was tested in various State Agri Universities with more than 1,000 demonstrations in the last 5 years with paddy farmers. **Sikosa** has been found effective in the control of narrow leaf weeds, broad leaf weeds and sedges.

Commenting on the launch, Battelle UK's Darren Grafham, said "We are excited to see the deployment of the Banyan technology co-developed with MASI and taken to market through our partner Crystal Crop Protection in India. This first product is expected to enhance the yields of paddy crops in India for the benefit of the farmers across the continent. We look forward to furthering our partnership with Crystal to bring innovations to India.

Crystal Crop Protection plans to introduce Sikosa for paddy growers in Punjab, Haryana, UP, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh in coming season, which will further strengthen its Crystal's presence in Paddy markets across India. The product will further strengthen the company's paddy portfolio, which already has the industry's leading brands like, Bavistin, Tilt, Blue Copper, Azotrix and recently launched Mentor.

Mr. Hidetoshi Nakamura of MASI further added, "We are proud to have discovered and developed with Battelle a breakthrough formulation technology. Our best-in-class formulation technology combined with Crystal's expertise and extensive presence across India will allow Sikosa to become rapidly a leading paddy herbicide. "

Crystal Crop protection hopes to attain a market share of 2-3 percent in the first year of launch, which can grow up to 7-8 percent in the next couple of years. Sikosa is expected to increase Crystal Crop Protection's topline by 3-5 percent in years to come.

Driven by its in-house R&D, acquisition and collaboration with international players, company has launched 14 products in last two years and its ready to launch six to seven more products shortly depending upon the grant of registrations by the regulatory authority.

**About Crystal Crop Protection Ltd:**

Crystal Crop Protection Ltd is R&D based crop solution company with a wide range of crop protection, seeds and farm mechanization products. The company works closely with Indian farming community towards improving farm profitability & sustainability by offering seed to harvest solutions. It has integrated operations, from undertaking R&D to manufacturing and delivering products to farmers across India through extensive distribution network. For more information, please visit [www.crystalcropprotection.com](http://www.crystalcropprotection.com)

**About Battelle, UK Limited**

Battelle UK Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of Battelle Memorial Institute, an independent not-for-profit organization that advances science and technology to have the greatest impact on our society and economy. As a committed partner in advancing global food security and nutrition, we strengthen the work of agrochemical companies who feed the world by providing solutions focused on protecting crops, improving agricultural developments, and reducing environmental risks. We provide regulatory support, risk assessment for environment, consumer and operator health and wildlife, dossier preparation, submission and defence, exposure modelling, early phase research screening, product safety testing, spray drift assessment in our tailor-made wind tunnel facilities and innovative formulation development solutions and technologies. For more information, visit <https://www.battelle.org/markets/industry/agriculture/crop-protection-solutions>

**About MASI:**

MASI is a wholly owned subsidiary of Mitsui & Co., Ltd. ("Mitsui"), a Japanese trading company, and is affiliated to Mitsui's AgriScience Division. In addition to developing formulation technologies jointly with Battelle, MASI is supporting Mitsui's activities in the field of crop protection in Europe and is developing new business in areas such as biostimulants, carbon farming and regenerative agriculture. Through its affiliates, MASI offers a strong distribution platform to Japanese R&D companies in Europe, the US and Canada. MASI is also active in the development and distribution of its own proprietary and off-patent products as well as third party products.

