

Arkema and its partners help over 1,000 Indian farmers successfully complete the world's first sustainable castor bean program

Arkema, BASF, Jayant Agro-Organics, and Solidaridad join forces with the mission of enabling sustainable castor bean production in India.

Leading chemical companies have empowered 1,019 Indian farmers in their journey to create a framework for sustainable castor bean production. Arkema, a global leader in specialty chemicals and advanced materials; BASF, the world's leading chemical company; Jayant Agro-Organics Ltd., a pioneer in castor oil based chemicals in India, and Solidaridad, an international civil society organization, came together for Project 'Pragati' (Hindi word for progress). With this first-of-its-kind initiative globally, the companies are developing a sustainable castor framework titled 'SuCCESS' (Sustainable Castor Caring for Environmental & Social Standards). On May 2nd, 2018, the first 10 producer groups, representing the 1,019 castor farmers were formally awarded their certificates for their tremendous achievements in improving the sustainability of their farming practices.

A baseline survey of more than 1,000 castor farmers was conducted in 2016 on issues relating to their productivity, social impact, environment, health and safety. Based on the initial findings, Project Pragati was launched in May 2016 in Gujarat, India as this region produces nearly 70% of the world's supply of castor beans. The project aims to address these issues with the development of a sustainability framework designed to evaluate the social, economic, agronomic, and environmental performance of the Indian castor farmers.

Key outcomes of the project to date:

- A yield improvement of 55% vs the 2016 baseline
- Safety kits and waste storage drums distributed to all 2,700 participating farmers
- More than 1,000 hours of classroom training
- Completion of soil and water tests across 41 villages
- Health camps set up in 26 villages
- Five demo plots created for better agricultural practices field demonstration
- More than 2,000 hectares of castor farming are now in accordance with the project framework

Since its launch, Project Pragati has led to intensive farmer engagement and adoption of best agricultural practices within the castor community. These results have been audited by independent third party inspection agencies. To date, over 2,700 farmers have been trained by the project and 1,019 farmers have now been successfully certified and recognized under the project.

Arkema is a leading supplier of bio-based high performance polymers derived from castor oil. Their flagship Rilsan® polyamide 11 resins and their Pebax® Rnew® elastomers are specified across the world in applications ranging from automotive (i.e. metal replacement for lighter weight), high performance sports shoes and equipment, 3D printing and consumer electronics applications.

"We place sustainable development solutions at the heart of our innovation policy and our product offering to provide new solutions capable of meeting the evolving challenges of our world," said Virginie DelCroix, Arkema's vice president of sustainable development. "We are proud to help sustainable castor production take a significant step forward."

While the project continues to positively impact the farming community, the founders are now considering opening the project for participation to all interested stakeholders to enhance sustainability for the castor industry within the next 12 months.

For more information on the sustainable castor project, please contact info@castorsuccess.org

*A designer of materials and innovative solutions, **Arkema** shapes materials and creates new uses that accelerate customer performance. Our balanced business portfolio spans high-performance materials, industrial specialties and coating solutions. Our globally recognized brands are ranked among the leaders in the markets we serve. Reporting annual sales of €8.3 billion in 2017, we employ approximately 20,000 people worldwide and operate in close to 55 countries. We are committed to active engagement with all our stakeholders. Our research centers in North America, France and Asia concentrate on advances in bio-based products, new energies, water management, electronic solutions, lightweight materials and design, home efficiency and insulation. www.arkema.com*

MEDIA CONTACTS

Véronique Obrecht

+33 1 49 00 88 41

veronique.obrecht@arkema.com

Arkema

420, rue d'Estienne d'Orves – F-92705 Colombes Cedex – France

Tel.: +33 1 49 00 80 80 – Fax: +33 1 49 00 83 96

A French *société anonyme* (limited company) with share capital of €754,701,730 – Registered in Nanterre: RCS 445 074 685

arkema.com