

## HIGHLIGHTS 2022 – 2023



### Syngenta India Limited (CSR 2022 – 2025) - Year 1

#### I-SAFE 2022-23

Farmer's health and safety is vital to Syngenta as an organisation. Act on this commitment, Syngenta India Ltd. has multiple programmes across the globe that trains growers and farm labourers to effectively minimise environmental impacts and adverse health incidents. One of these effective projects is the Syngenta I-SAFE programme (Inculcating Safety Awareness for Farmer Empowerment) started by Syngenta India Ltd. The programme was introduced under CSR in collaboration with Government and NGOs (CSR Implementing Partners) to provide Health & Safety, Education and Awareness to farmers, farm labourers, spray men and their families in Madhya Pradesh.

The project was implemented by IRFT and funded by Syngenta, in Khargone and Dhar Districts of Madhya Pradesh. Syngenta in partnership with IRFT, implemented this programme since 2018. In the span of three years the programme was executed in six blocks of Dhar and seven Blocks of Khargone. During this period, IRFT has trained more than 40,000 farmers and counselled 4000 plus spray men and their families. IRFT has also conducted Public Awareness Campaigns (Van Campaigns) that has created awareness amongst 4 million villagers about the Health & Safety protocols to be followed while spraying pesticides.

The programme was implemented in **Dhar and Sardarpura** Blocks of Dhar district, and **Mashwar and Bhagwanpura** Blocks in Khargone district, after discussion with the Agriculture Department and the Syngenta team.

#### 1. Farmer Training

	Dhar	Khargone
<b>No. of villages covered</b>	- Sardarpur Block - 68 - Dhar Block – 41	- Mashwar Block – 68 - Bhagwanpura Block – 64
<b>No. of Stapoo posters pasted</b>	1500	1500

No. of farmers trained	5046	5018
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**Hopscotch is a common game played by children in rural areas. The game is called ‘Stapoo’ in Hindi and served to highlight the 12 steps to safety.** IRFT started the training by drawing the Stapoo and asked Children to play the Stapoo game. IRFT believes that learning should be fun and interactive, so this was the best method to attract more farmers to attend the training. The 12 points were explained to the farmers while playing the game. The children too, registered this training message very well.

Once the training was done, IRFT collected details like Farmer Name, Village/Block Name, Contact number and Signatures from the farmers. These records help us in future interventions. IRFT also did a permanent paint on the chalk drawn Stapoo, so that kids can continue to play on it and the farmers passing by can recall the 12 safety steps. Apart from the painted Stapoo, two posters having the 12 steps in Stapoo format were also stuck on the wall next to each other.

This methodology that has been a success for the past 3 years and has perhaps been the most effective way to communicate to farmers and Spray-men on Safety.



The Farmer’s training was a successful activity because of the collaborative efforts of the Agriculture Department of respective districts, the local NGO’s and IRFT.

Officials of the Agriculture Department who attended the trainings were satisfied by the ‘learning by doing’ methodology designed by us which seeks active participation of the farmers children and families. As this was the first I-SAFE programme after the pandemic, IRFT was able to execute the training’s smoothly, without worrying about getting infected. IRFT also saw fearless participation from the farmers and other people from the village, and zero COVID related restrictions. During the trainings, farmers observed attentively and later asked questions for clarity.

This reflected their genuine interest in the training and its impact on them. They admitted their mistakes and promised to improve on the same by adopting the practices demonstrated during the training.



## 2. Spray-men Counselling:

	Dhar	Khargone
<b>No. of Farmers Counselling</b>	540	532



For spray men counselling, IRFT identified the Spray-men during the farmers training sessions. Later IRFT collected their details and visited their home for a one-on-one counselling session on Health, Safety and Hygiene while spraying, and proper handling of chemicals. The counselling was done using a flip chart tool with all the 12 steps represented pictorially. The farmer's family was also included in the counselling sessions as the chemicals are mostly stored at home. During the session IRFT also demonstrated the correct way to use the PPE kits and handed over one kit to each one of them. The Spray-men were happy to receive the PPE kits gifted to them by Syngenta. They committed to using it while handling and spraying chemicals.

This activity was specially organized for the Spray-men as they are the ones who are actually doing the spraying in the farms. They are regularly exposed to chemicals and thus, it was crucial to provide them with personal guidance to ensure their safety.



### 3. Awareness Programme - Van Campaign

	<b>Dhar</b>	<b>Khargone</b>
<b>Population covered during the campaign</b>	- Sardarpur Block – 278,840 - Dhar Block – 217,775	- Mashwar Block – 202,501 - Bhagwanpura Block – 183,080
<b>No. of villages covered in the Van Campaign</b>	- Sardarpur Block – 205 - Dhar Block – 245	- Mashwar Block - 209 - Bhagwanpura Block – 241

Van campaign was done using a small truck (TATA Ace). The truck was covered with banners of our Health, Safety and Hygiene protocols and the Stapoo. The van moved around in the district as it announced the pre-recorded 12 steps message on the speaker. The pre-recorded messages were in the local language for a better understanding of the farmers.

The Van Campaign was inaugurated by officials of Agriculture Department. Through this Campaign, IRFT was able to reach out to large groups of farmers in a short span of time. The campaign was well received by the farmers, with many of them seen curiously reading the Health & Safety protocol banners on the van when it was on halt.

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**फसल सुरक्षा उत्पादों के इस्तेमाल के 5 महत्वपूर्ण नियम**

1. उपयोग करने से पहले उपकरणों के लेबल पर दिए गये अनुबन्धी चरित्रों और चरित्र चिह्नों को पढ़ें।
2. उपकरणों का उपयोग करने से पहले इसे ठीक से तैयार करें।
3. उपकरण में अपने अपने उपकरणों को सुरक्षित रखें।
4. उपकरणों के उपयोग के पहले उपकरण के बंधन और उपयोग के लिए उपकरण का पूरा पढ़ना लें।
5. फसल सुरक्षा उपकरणों का प्रयोग करें।

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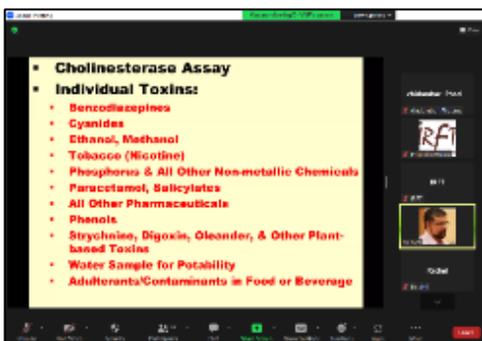
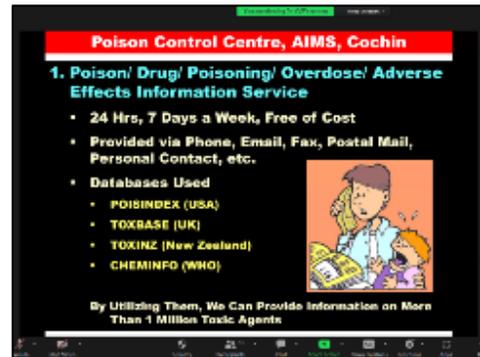
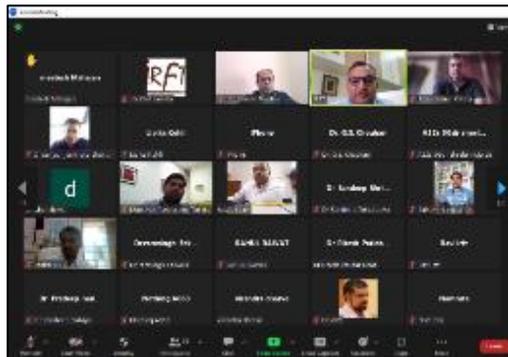
## 4. Doctors Training

	<b>Dhar</b>
<b>No. of Doctors who attended the training</b>	88

For the Doctor’s training programme, IRFT sent a digital invite to all the doctors from the list provided to IRFT by the District Health Office (DHO). A ZOOM link was also sent with the invite. The training was conducted by expert Toxicologist Dr. V. V. Pillay for 2-3 hrs on Recognition And Treatment Of Pesticide Exposure. Once the training was over, a Q&A session was held for the doctors who have queries.

The webinar was organized specially for government and private doctors to train them in “**Recognizing and Treatment Of Pesticide Exposure**”. The training was attended by Mr. Virendra Raghuvanshi, District Program Officer; Dhar; Syngenta officials; govt. and private doctors and the IRFT team. Dr. V. V. Pillay, Chief of Poison Control Centre, Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, Cochin was the master trainer for the webinar who has also conducted training with us in preceding years.

The webinar was a great success. The doctors showed genuine interested in the content and asked interesting questions at the end of the session. Some doctors appreciated the initiative by Syngenta and share that the webinar was truly helpful.



## 5. Hoarding

	Dhar	Khargone
<b>No. of Hoardings</b>	25	25

A set of 25 hoardings of a size 10 X 10 feet were installed both in Dhar and Khargone respectively at prominent places such as bus stand, APMC , weekly bazar places . The hoardings were installed for a duration of 1 month. It contains a pictorial representation of the 12 step Health & Safety programme and the 5 golden rules. The hoardings were placed to spread general awareness about the precautions that needed to be taken while using and spraying pesticides.





## 6. PPE Kit Distribution

	Dhar	Khargone
PPE Kit Distribution	1000	1000

PPE kits were distributed during farmers' training and spray men counselling. Few PPE kits were also given to the Agriculture Department to educate the farmers about the safety protocol while spraying. During farmers' training, the PPE kit were distributed to farmers who have their own land and spray regularly. All the spray men who were counselled received a PPE kit each after the counselling session.



## **Testimonials:**



"The I-SAFE Programme has been running successfully in the district from past few years. I would like to thank Syngenta and IRFT for this great Initiative, I hope the training has reached to the maximum number of Farmers in both the blocks, hopefully farmers will follow the safety instructions given by IRFT Team.

**Mr. K.C. Patidar (SADO, Block Maheshwar District Khargone) 9406836987**



I am a farmer Spray man, doing farming and spraying from past 20 years, I was unaware about the safety measures, after attending the I-SAFE training I understood the importance and safety measures while handling and using Agro Chemicals. Thanks to Syngenta.

**Mr. Atul Barve (Farmer) Village Maheshwar 9993431187**



Family Counselling was organized at my home. family counselling session was fruitful, and I promise that I will follow all the safety measure while handling and using Argo Chemicals.

**Shri. Kanha Jaishwal , (Farmer) Village Bhagwanpur (Khargone MP)  
9754633354**



**I have been doing the work of spraying medicine for the last 8 years, but was not aware of the precautions and safety measures to be adopted for my safety while spraying. After participating in this program, I understood the importance of using safety kit for myself. I came to know about the precautions to be taken during spraying and its use with the kit.**

**By Shri Hiralal Bhabhar Village Dadur Block Sardarpur Mob. 9826142529**



**In today's time, chemical medicines are being used by the farmers in high quantity and the farmer ignores the harmful effects, this is a good effort by Syngenta company to explain to the farmers. I have also got to learn from it and other farmers have also got important information from it.**

**Shri. Irsad Ismaiel Village Akoliya Block Dhar Mob. 9981393554**



**I would like to thank Syngenta company for organizing this village level training program through which farmers are informed about the precautions to be taken while using chemical medicines, which is healthy for the farmer, his family and the society as well.**

**Shri. Rajesh Birla. ATMA Agriculture Department Block Dhar Mob.**



AM Fresh, UK

IRFT was asked to do a Risk Mitigation of their Indian Grapes Supply Chain as they suspected that all audits seem to be too good to be true and needed a deeper insight through a 3<sup>rd</sup> party intervention. AM Fresh asked IRFT to meet the beneficiary groups to have their honest views on compliances or non-compliances. IRFT had

been to the villages where the workers live and interviewed around 430 women workers in two locations in Nasik and Sangli.

A White Paper document with Recommendations was submitted giving a firsthand account of the 'workers view'. IRFT's recommendations have been accepted by the client and in Year 2, 3 and 4, IRFT will be working with the management, staff and the workers to ensure that they understand the compliances that are necessary and will handhold them through the process.





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Syngenta India Limited (Seeds Division)

(2022 – 2025)

IRFT was selected to train 1300 farmers a year for three years for the Seeds Division of Syngenta India Limited, under their Good Growth Plan. In Year 1 (2022 – 2023),

IRFT trained the farmers, in Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat. The impact on farmers is to bring awareness on climate change and how it is impacting agriculture and with the Good Growth Plan, Syngenta aims to help growers to make small but significant changes in Soil and Water Management. IRFT's role as Trainers was to engage and help evolve a mindset change towards 'Regenerative Agricultural Practices'.



Wind up Session. Good Growth Plan in the 'Muthi'.



Regenerative Agriculture and Growers engrossed in the session.



Enactment of 'Farm Biodiversity'



### **Syngenta Bioscience Pvt. Ltd. Goa - Under their CSR programme.**

IRFT being the Local Partner for Goa Infrastructure CSR Projects was engaged in Coordination and Monitoring of CSR Projects in Goa on behalf of Syngenta Biosciences Pvt. Ltd. Goa (SBPL)

Projects engaged in:

1. Harvesting area development in Corlim village.
2. Need Assessment study in Goa.
3. Library Support to Samrat Kala Sangh.
4. Drinking water support to Corlim Education Society.
5. CSR - Waste management support to Corlim village.
6. CSR - Education - support to install Fume Hood for Science Lab at DMS College, Assagao, Goa.
7. Sanitary pad disposable machines to local panchayats -total 6 units, training, and awareness on usage of machines.
8. CSR support to Sharda School, Marcel for installing Digital/Smart classroom - 10 units.