

## Guidelines for Evaluation of Nano-based Agri Input and Food Products in India



New Delhi, July 14: The multidisciplinary nature of nanotechnology and its rapidly increasing scope for development of commercially viable applications pose a huge challenge to regulatory bodies across the globe. Nanotechnology involves an amalgamation of knowledge from various disciplines of science including chemistry, materials science, physics, biology, engineering and medicine.

As on date, there are no unanimously accepted international guidelines for nano-based agri-input and food products. A few provisions are in place globally for NMs with certain specific guidelines for quality, safety and efficacy. However, continued innovation with alteration of functionality of NMs makes it difficult to apply a universal set of evaluation parameters for emerging nanoproducts.

The Department of Biotechnology in the Ministry of Science & Technology and the Ministry of Agriculture, and Farmers' Welfare has developed the first ever "Guidelines for Evaluation of Nano Based Agri Input and Food Products in India". These guidelines are an outcome of extensive inter- ministerial exercise and consultations with experts, scholars and other stakeholders in the field of nano-biotechnology and are intended to ensure quality, safety and efficiency as well as encourage the commercialization of nanotechnology based innovations. These guidelines would help policy makers and regulators to frame effective provisions for future novel nano-based products in agri-input and food sectors of India and encourage the

Indian innovators and industries to develop and commercialize new nano-based agri-input and food products.

The guidelines apply to nano-agri-input products (NAIPs) and nano-agri products (NAPs). They also apply to nanocomposites and sensors made from NMs and those that require direct contact with crops, food and feed for data acquisitions. These guidelines do not, however, apply to the conventional products or formulations with incidental presence of natural NMs.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Honourable Union Minister of health and Family Welfare, Earth Sciences and Science and Technology along with Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Honourable Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Honourable Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Parshottam Khodabhai Rupalahas released the “Guidelines for evaluation of nano-based agri-input and food products in India”.

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