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Industry Speaks.....

India's new government under the leadership Shri Narendra Modi assumed office on 9th June 2024. Narendra Modi is the first person after Jawaharlal Nehru to be elected as PM for the third consecutive term. After assuming office, the first file that he signed was the file authorising the release of the 17th instalment of PM Kisan Nidhi, which will benefit 9.3 crore farmers and distribute around Rs 20,000 crore. "Ours is a government fully committed to Kisan Kalyan. It is, therefore, fitting that the first file signed on taking charge is related to farmer welfare. We want to keep working even more for the farmers and the agriculture sector in the coming times," PM Modi said after signing the file.

The continuity in the government has kept the hopes of industry buoyant and PM's keen interest in farmers' welfare has become evident by induction of Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan as the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, who has turned around the fortunes of Madhya Pradesh during his reign as the Chief Minister. Here is a collation of industry's views and expectation from the new government



Raju Kapoor, Director- Corporate Affairs, FMC Corporation



"The new council of ministers showcases a commendable balance between continuity and innovation. The inclusion of both seasoned veterans and fresh faces ensures that the government can leverage the strengths of both. While it would have been ideal to see more representation from women, the overall composition is still a positive step forward.

I am particularly pleased to see Mr. Shivraj Chauhan at the helm of the Agriculture and Rural Development Ministry. His extensive experience, leadership skills, and grassroots understanding make him an excellent choice for this critical portfolio. At FMC, we are committed to supporting initiatives that promote sustainable agriculture and rural development, and we look forward to collaborating with Mr. Chauhan and his team to leverage our expertise in crop protection and precision agriculture to help farmers achieve higher yields, while minimizing

environmental impact".

Dr. KC Ravi, Chief Sustainability Officer, Syngenta India Pvt. Ltd & Chairman CropLife India



"At Syngenta we extend our heartfelt thanks to Prime Minister for his unwavering commitment to the welfare of our farmers. His dedication in keeping the interests of farmers at the forefront has been evident throughout the first two terms and it is truly commendable to see the focus continue in the third term.

Authorizing the release of the 17th installment of the PM Kisan Nidhi, highlights the steadfast commitment to *Kisan Kalyan*. Over the past ten years, under PM's leadership we have witnessed a series of transformational measures to take agriculture to a higher growth trajectory. The agriculture sector will get a further boost with the induction of Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Shri Bhagirath Choudhary and Shri Ramnath Thakur and I am confident that the focus will

continue to be on financial support, sustainable practices, market access, technological integration, and women empowerment. The government has ensured that Indian agriculture remains resilient, productive, and sustainable. Under PM's visionary leadership, we are confident that the agriculture sector will continue to flourish, and our farmers will thrive".

Mr Ajai Rana, Business Head, Asia Pacific, RiceTec & Chairman, FSII



"India's agriculture sector is thriving with opportunities and positive interventions will go a long way in propelling this sector ahead.

The government has always showcased its unbridled commitment towards this sector. Coupled with enabling policies, this will go a long way in benefitting the country's agrarian community.

Agriculture is a cornerstone of economic development and we remain eager to work closely with the new administration to drive forward its initiatives."

T. R. Keshavan, President:Corporate Relations & Alliances at Tractors & Farm Equipment Ltd.



"Modi 3.0 clearly demonstrated the confidence reposed by countrymen on progress led/ oriented governance. Focus on continuity and stability in reform process by the new cabinet across sectors like infrastructure and skills & education is now expected. Going forward, thrust on rural development and targeted reforms on agriculture & allied sectors that can augment farmer's retained income, are much needed."

Ajay S Shriram, Chairman & Sr Managing Director, DCM Shriram Ltd



"We look forward to significant interventions by the new government to provide support to the Agriculture sector. As agriculture falls within the ambit

of both central government and state governments, it is important to build consensus on major policy issues as well as the reforms required.

I hope an institutional mechanism can be created to play a coordinating role, a GST Council type body should be set an "Agriculture Council". Such a framework can bring about substantial "ease of doing agriculture", which will eventually help in increasing farmer incomes."

Simon-Thorsten Wiebusch, President, Bayer South Asia.

"Under the leadership of the honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, we are pleased that an experienced leader like Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan has been appointed as the Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister. We sup-



port his focus on doubling farmers' incomes by improving the farm economy and increasing agricultural production through the availability of high-quality seeds and fertilizers. Moreover, the approval of the 17th installment of PM Kisan right after the cabinet formation demonstrates the government's continued commitment to securing farmers' incomes. In line with the Prime Minister's initiatives, India has introduced new varieties of Direct Seeded Rice, which will help increase paddy production and reduce water usage for this crop. We hope that the new government continues the commendable work done by the previous minister, with a special focus on enhancing the accessibility of modern technologies, quality inputs, and digital advancements such as the use of drones in agriculture. Additionally, the sustained push to make India self-sufficient in edible oil and pulses would be a positive step."

Dr. RS Sodhi, President, Indian Dairy Association and Chairperson, NIFTEM - T



"We believe the Ministry of Agriculture and Minister of Commerce and Industry should not yield to the industry's demand to reduce import duty. The prosperity of farmers and the reduction of urban and rural disparity will only come about, if rural produce prices are remunerative. Rural economy will only improve, if flow of money into villages increases. That can happen with better pricing as productivity growth is only 1.5-2%.

To reduce the impact of higher food prices on lower class, minimum wages

should be increased. But it will impact the profitability of Industry or corporate world. So in a nutshell food inflation is being controlled so wages can be lowered and industry profits can be increased. Farmers are paying for India's prosperity."

Dr MJ Khan, President of Indian Chambers of Food and Agriculture



"I must congratulate the PM for selecting the best Cabinet, and entrusting the portfolios to the right persons. While continuity of the S4, CCS Minis-

ters- Defence, Home, Finance and Foreign, ensures larger social and economic stability, the new Ministers at the key ministries of food and agriculture, animal husbandry and dairy, fertilisers and food processing and water resources, will provide fresh perspective and growth impetus. Selection of the Agriculture Minister, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, in particular, is great hope. He is seasoned politician to deal with the complex farmers issues and challenges, and a performing minister to deliver to the expectations of the agriculture sector. As chief minister of Madhya Pradesh, under his vision and leadership the state registered double digit growth in agriculture for almost a decade. The Agriculture Today Group recognized the State by Agriculture Leadership Awards three times in the ten years time, including conferring the policy leadership award upon him in the year 2016. The sector has great hopes from him, and expects the ministry to focus on key challenges and opportunity areas, ranging from climate resilient agriculture system to nutrition smart crops, and greater thrust to digital technologies and precision farming to post harvest infrastructure and farm level processing by FPOs to promoting crop diversification and eco-agriculture to undertaking the market reforms and boosting Startups to agribusinesses."