

THE SOLVENT EXTRACTORS' ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

(Incorporated under S.25 of the Companies Act, 1956)

Premier Association of Vegetable Oil Industry & Trade - ISO 9001:2015 Organisation

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INDIA

PRESS RELEASE

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2nd May 2024

The Commercial Editor:

Dear Sir,

**Reg:- 1) India's Initiative :- World Castor Sustainability Forum(WCSF)
launched for supply of Sustainable castor oil to World.
2) 25,000 Farmers joined the Sustainable Castor Programme**

India, known for its dominant position in the global castor scenario, producing about 20.0 lakh tons of Castorseed per annum and meeting over 90% of the demand for Castor oil, has taken a significant step towards sustainability with the launch of the World Castor Sustainability Forum (WCSF). The initiative aims to provide a sustainable and traceable supply chain of castor while improving economic, social, and environmental performance.

The Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA), a premier association of the vegetable oil industry and trade, spearheaded the formation of WCSF in response to the global shift towards renewable resources and the increasing emphasis on sustainability. This initiative is poised to enhance economic self-sufficiency and the livelihoods of smallholder producers.

Key players in the castor industry, including Adani Wilmar Ltd, Jayant Agro Organics Ltd., Gokul Overseas, Gokul Agro Resources Ltd, Royal Castor Products Ltd, N K Proteins Pvt Ltd., Castorgirnar Industries Pvt, along with traders, service provider representatives, and the entire castor fraternity, gathered on May 1st, 2024, in Ahmedabad to join the WCSF. Leading international buyers of Castor oil have also expressed their interest in promoting sustainable castor oil by joining WCSF.

Overall, companies that embrace WCSF sustainability measures in line with the Indian Companies Act can experience improved brand reputation, competitive advantage, cost savings, access to capital, regulatory compliance, risk management, and long-term value creation.

Earlier, on 30th April, led by Gokul Overseas, Sidhpur, nearly 30 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPO) agreed to collaborate with WCSF, to promote the cultivation of sustainable castorseed. This collaboration represents approximately 25,000 farmers joining the movement in its inaugural year, committed to adopting the guidelines set forth by WCSF.

The launch of WCSF marks a new era of collaboration and transformation in the castor sector. Together, we aim to redefine industry norms, drive meaningful change, and create a future where castor production thrives in harmony with nature and society. This is likely the first association in the country actively working to promote sustainability practices, aiming to lead in the global sustainability movement.

WCSF aspires to become the foremost model of excellence in the castor supply chain, emphasizing environmental responsibility, social accountability, and economic viability.

This is for your kind information and necessary coverage in your esteemed media.

Thanking you.

Yours Faithfully,



Dr B V Mehta
Executive Director
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File- WCSF-1

Attach:- 1) Picture from SEA- FPO Meet 2) Note on WCSF



SEA - FPO Meet (Sitting L to R) Shri Priyam Patel, MD, N K Proteins Pvt. Ltd., Shri Dharmendrasinh Rajput. MD, Gokul Agri International Ltd., Shri Haresh Vyas, MD, Royal Castor Products Ltd., Dr B V Mehta, ED, SEA, Shri Shailesh Baldha, GM, Adani Wilmar Ltd., Ms Bhavana Shah, Dy. CEO, N K Proteins Ltd., and Shri Jeet Patel, GM, N K Proteins Pvt. Ltd.

WORLD CASTOR SUSTAINABILITY FORUM

(A subsidiary company of The Solvent Extractors' Association of India formed under S.8 of Companies Act 2013)

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About World Castor Sustainability Forum (WCSF)

Introduction of WCSF

India produces about 20.0 Lakh tonnes of castor seed and meets more than 90% demand for castor oil thereby enjoying a dominant position in the World Castor Scenario. India's exports of Castor oil and derivatives are estimated above Rs. 12000 crores (US\$ 1.5 billion) per annum. The global castor derivatives market estimated to be over US\$ 4.0 billion is highly dependent on India.

WORLD CASTOR SUSTAINABILITY FORUM (WCSF) the subsidiary company formed by The Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA), facilitates the development of a sustainable and traceable supply chain of castor while improving the economic, social, and environmental performance of the castor supply chain. Improve productivity and sustainability in the castor supply chain in India and the world, thereby enhancing economic self-sufficiency and livelihoods of smallholder producers. WCSF covers the following

1. Promotion of gender equality and women empowerment in agriculture.
2. Worker's welfare, safety, and support for enabling environment for fair wages.
3. No child labours.
4. Improved productivity and reduction in the cost of cultivation.
5. Training and capacity building of farmers on sustainable and modern farm practices.
6. Promote intervention around soil health management, efficient water use, and water conservation.
7. Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), and Safe use of Crop Protection Products (CPP).

In the last 8 years, through the SEA Castor Model Farm Project of more than 50,000 castor farmers are trained on GAPs and sustainable practices. Average productivity in model farms has increased and is 50% higher than the non-project farmers year on year. From 68 model farms in the year 2016-17 to 408 model farms in the year 2023-24, the project has ripple effect on even non-project farmers as they started adopting the best practices of the project thereby enhancing their productivity and overall production of castor seed in the country.

Mission of WCSF

WCSF commits to fostering environmental stewardship, economic resilience, and social equity within the castor industry. By promoting good agriculture practices, WCSF aims to elevate the quality and sustainability of castor production, ensuring a thriving ecosystem, fair livelihoods for farmers, and responsible sourcing for global markets.

Grounded in transparency, innovation, and community engagement, WCSF seeks to be the benchmark for sustainable castor production in India, driving positive impact across the value chain and advancing towards a greener, more equitable future.

Vision of WCSF

We aspire for WCSF to become the foremost model of excellence in the castor supply chain, emphasizing the utmost importance of environmental responsibility, social accountability, and economic viability.

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