

## **Welcome & Introductory remarks by Mr PS Lahiri, Chairman, CL India.**

Mr P K Basu, Secretary, Agriculture

Dr R K Srivastava, DGHS

Dr D Kanungo, ADG, MOH

Mr Pankaj Kumar, JS (PP)

Mr Sudhir Rahate, JS & PPA

Dr T P Rajendran, ADG, ICAR

Officials/Experts of DAC, CIB&RC, MOH

Scientists & Residue Experts from ICAR Institutes/SAUs etc.

Experts & Scientists from FSSA

Dr K K Sharma & Scientists, AINPP

Dr Philip Brindle

Dr Thomas Muller

Dr Vasant Patil

Fellow Directors of CLI

Ladies & Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to this important Workshop - *a first of its kind* - which brings together all stakeholders who are involved in our National endeavour to ensure supply of “safe” & “healthy” food in the required quantities to all sections of Indian population.

We face a huge challenge of feeding the growing population from ever diminishing resources of land & water. Clearly, raising crop output from every unit of cultivated land holds the key to meeting this challenge. We have technologies for achieving this. Yet, the danger of pests & diseases haunts us.

The plant science industry especially members of CL India are constantly striving to bring new Crop Protection technologies that help farmers in saving their crops from the scourge of destructive pests. These products are allowed to be used on specific crops and target pests (market access) by regulators only after testing for their “safety” & “efficacy”.

CP Products are inherently toxic. While, they kill pests & disease, some microscopic amount of residue may remain in crop and can

enter the food. Our objective has to be to keep this residue to “bare minimum”. This indeed is the *sine qua non* of ensuring “safe” and “healthy” food for all.

Increase in export of agricultural commodities is receiving greater attention. Apart from cost competitiveness, Quality of our produce is of paramount importance. For ready acceptance, our agri produce has to be devoid of unacceptable level of residue. We need to ensure that global standards in regard to MRL are fully complied.

The Workshop provides an opportunity to all stakeholders viz. “generators” of residue data; “industry” which needs this to register new products to authorise use on crops; “evaluators” of data and “risk assessors” - to exchange their ideas for arriving at a common understanding on various aspects for MRL setting.

The program of the Workshop has been so designed as to provide for close interaction amongst all the Stakeholders to arrive at a set of “workable” Recommendations. The Proceedings of this Workshop – I strongly feel – will serve as a good reference document for the Industry, the policy makers & regulators.

We are grateful to the DAC, especially Mr Basu, for agreeing to sponsor and support the Workshop. We are thankful to all senior officials of DAC, particularly, Mr Pankaj Kumar & Mr Rahate for their unflinching support. Mr Rahate & Dr Kanungo has guided us all through from the conception stage to its fruition.

We are also grateful to Dr Srivastava, Dr Rajendran and Dr Sharma for their encouragement and unflinching support to our CEO, Mr. P.K. Mazumdar & team, who has spearheaded this mission.

I now request Mr Basu to please give his address and inaugurate the Workshop.