



# JAYANT AGRO-ORGANICS LTD.

*Leadership through Innovation*

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **Outcome of Year 8 of Project Pragati, the world's first sustainable castor program initiated by founders, Jayant Agro-Organics Limited, Arkema, BASF along with implementation partner Solidaridad.**

- Over **8,000** farmers are certified under the implementation program and significant increase in yield.
- More than **9,000** hectares of mostly semi-arid land repeatedly farmed according to the SuCESS® sustainability code (see [www.castorsuccess.org](http://www.castorsuccess.org))
- **Third** program phase (2023-2026) places heightened emphasis on fostering the involvement of women in sustainable castor farming

Jayant Agro-Organics Ltd. (the Company), Arkema, BASF, and implementation partner Solidaridad launched the project in May 2016. At the conclusion of year eight, the members officially updated the impacts of the program so far:

- More than **10,000** farmers trained – with 8,000 farmers audited, and certified.
- About **100,000** tons of certified castor seeds have been cumulatively cultivated since the beginning of the project. This growth ensures a continuous supply of sustainable castor seeds to the global supply chain.
- **Year 8** yield by certified farmers is **57%** higher than the yield published by the local government for this region.
- Over **9,000** hectares are now being regularly farmed in accordance with the SuCESS® sustainable castor farming code (see [www.castorsuccess.org](http://www.castorsuccess.org)) – more than 36,000 hectares cumulatively. Pragati farmers are increasing their land dedicated to castor farming as it is seen as a profitable crop.
- As compared to local averages, **water consumption** has been lowered by **approx. 33%** in the demo plots where accurate measurement and controls are in place.
- Approx. **8,200 safety kits** and **5,500 crop protection product boxes** have been distributed free of charge.
- More than **100 medical camps** organized in all project villages this year successfully conducted health monitoring of 6,000+ project farmers, 2,300+ non-project farmers, workers, and their families, of which almost 50% were women.
- This year, more than **428 capacity-building training** sessions were held with farmers
- Over **700 lead farmers** have been identified and trained to guide certified farmer groups

### **A focus on female involvement and empowerment**

The Pragati program, now in its third phase (2023–2026), puts a greater focus on supporting and increasing female participation in castor farming. This year, more than 1,100 women from 17 project villages have enrolled under the program and received in-depth training on good agricultural practices. This training aims to raise productivity while fostering safe, sustainable and regenerative agriculture. All participants also took part in the program's digital and financial literacy module leading to improvement in their active roles in financial and household decision-making.



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## The project starting point

The project was driven by a baseline survey in 2016 of more than **1,000** castor farmers in Gujarat, India, where most of the world's castor supply originates. The original baseline study highlighted the fact that farmers see castor as a highly remunerative and profitable crop – easy to grow, and easy to sell.

## Pragati Farmer's Testimony

“As a widow, I carry the burden of my family on my shoulders alone. Thanks to the Pragati program, I have been able to improve my farming practices and better support my family,” says Patel Sitaben Rameshbhai, a castor oil farmer from Mehsana district of Gujarat. “The good agricultural practices I have learnt have helped me reduce the cost of cultivation by 20 to 25 percent. I have also started using certified seeds, which help me grow healthier crops and produce more. With the savings I made, I was able to buy a new machine for my son's motor repair shop. It feels like I have made real ‘pragati’ – progress for me, my family and my community,” adds Sitaben, who now helps her fellow farmers practice safe and sustainable castor farming. Next year, the Pragati program will celebrate its tenth anniversary. Launched following the completion of a baseline survey in 2016 of over 1,000 castor oil farmers in Gujarat, India, the initiative identified the profitability and ease of cultivation of castor oil as key factors. Since then, the project has aimed to increase yields and farmer incomes by adopting sustainable agricultural practices, promoting good waste management practices, ensuring efficient water use, maintaining soil fertility, and implementing better health and safety measures while respecting human rights. In 2025, the achievements made over the past years will continue to drive progress in sustainable castor oil production.

## ABOUT JAYANT AGRO-ORGANICS LTD.

*Jayant Agro group manufactures widest range of castor oil-based chemicals and specialty chemicals in the world with a group turnover of over Rs. 25 Billion. The Jayant Agro group is actively working with farmers, providing high quality hybrid seeds and engaged in the best sustainable practices to supply certified castor oil and various castor oil-based oleo-chemicals. It's Research and Development centre is focused on developing new products and applications based on castor oil and its derivatives delivering much more than molecules, converting the molecules to products for markets and turning ideas into solutions. The Group's vision is to provide end to end sustainable solutions across the castor based value chain to its customers. It firmly believes that great solutions are the result of inspiration, hard work, dedication and team work – collaborative efforts to achieve greater synergy and success.*

*The management of the Group have been pioneers of the castor oil industry in India with experience of over 70 years in the processing of castor seeds into various industrial and specialty chemicals.*

### **Safe harbour:**

*Certain statements in this release concerning our future growth prospects are forward-looking statements, which involve a number of risks, and uncertainties that could cause our actual results to differ materially from those in such forward-looking statements. We do not undertake to update any forward-looking statement that may be made from time to time by us or on our behalf.*