**Date: February 01, 2024** 

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Outcome of Project Pragati Year 7 initiated by founders,
Jayant Agro-Organics Limited, Arkema, BASF along with implementation partner
Solidaridad. The partners now commit to a third phase for the world's first
sustainable castor program.

- More than 7,000 farmers have been trained, audited, and certified.
- Over 74,500 tons of certified castor seed have been cultivated.
- Year 7 yield is 36% higher than the yield published by the local government for this region.
- Over **7,000** hectares are now being regularly farmed in accordance with the SuCCESS sustainable castor code (see www.castorsuccess.org) more than **27,000** hectares cumulatively.
- Pragati farmers are increasing their land dedicated to castor farming as it is seen as a profitable crop.
- The practices followed in the Pragati project have resulted in a **lower water consumption** compared to conventional practices. The data measured in the demo plots for these practices showed about **21%** less consumption of water.
- Over 7,000 safety kits and 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 8,500+ farmers, workers, and their family members, of which 65% were farmers enrolled in the Pragati program.
- Farmers from more than 100 villages in North Gujarat now participate in the program.
- This year, more than 380 capacity-building training sessions were held with farmers.
- Over 475 lead farmers have been identified and trained to guide certified farmer groups.

The project was driven by a baseline survey 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.

# The goal of the project has been to enable sustainable castor crop production by:

- Using good agricultural practices to increase yield and farmer income;
- Efficiently using water resources and maintaining soil fertility;
- Driving adoption of good waste management practices;
- Enabling better health and safety practices and respecting human rights;



## **Pragati Farmer's Testimony**

"Since my engagement with the Pragati program, I have adopted sustainable practices and diversified my agricultural practices which have improved my yield and income. The support and guidance provided in the program has played a crucial role in my adoption and successful implementation of new agricultural techniques, such as vermicompost," says Jayeshbhai Ramjibhai Mujat, a 45-year-old castor farmer in the Banaskantha district.

### **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 oleochemicals. 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.