

**Proceedings of the online industry-academia interface meeting on
“Value Addition in Castor Oil”**

Organized by SEA and ICAR-IIOR on 23-02-2021

An online webinar on Value Addition in Castor Oil” was organized at ICAR-IIOR, Hyderabad on February 23, 2021 by Solvent Extractors Association (SEA), Mumbai and ICAR-Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research (IIOR), Hyderabad under the chairmanship of **Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra**, Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR. The meeting was attended by representatives from leading industries (Jayant Agro-Organics, Royal Castor) involved in production of castor oil and its derivatives, SEA, scientists from academia and research institutes such as CSIR-IICT, ICAR-IIOR, SAUs, Central Silk Board, Bengaluru, IIT-New Delhi, and Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun, institutions engaged in market mapping such as Indian Oilseeds and Produce Export Promotion Council (IOPEPC), National Institute of Agricultural Marketing (NIAM), Jaipur, Castoroil India, and consumers of derivatives such as IOC, BPCL, etc.

The delegates were welcomed by Dr. M. Sujatha, Director, ICAR-IIOR and she briefed about the present scenario of castor oil derivatives in the country. In his initial remarks made Mr. Abhay Udeshi, Chairman, Solvent Extractors’ Association (SEA) of India gave an overview of the industrial perspective of castor oil derivatives. In his inaugural address Chairman, Dr. T. Mohapatra emphasised on the need to develop an ecosystem in the country to utilize the huge potential available for value added products of castor oil. Dr. Prabhavathi Devi, Senior Principal Scientist and Head, Centre for Lipid Research, CSIR-IICT briefed about the technologies developed at IICT for production of the different value added products from castor oil and suggested that depending on the requirements from industry further technologies could be developed at the institute to meet any challenges in terms of technologies. Dr. C. Lavanya, Principal Scientist, ICAR-IIOR, and Dr. P.P. Zaveri, Secretary, Gujarat State Seed Producers Association provided an overview of castor production in the country and the necessary steps that could be taken for further increasing the production. Dr. K. Sathyanarayana, Scientist D, Central Silk Board, Bengaluru highlighted the double advantage of castor in production of eri silk without a compromise on the production of oilseed.

The house was briefed about the industry perspective regarding production potential of castor oil derivatives in India as well as identified the pain-points in making production of castor oil derivatives competitive at the global level by Mr. Varun A. Udeshi, Jayant Agro-Organics Ltd and by Mr. Subhash Polara, Royal Castor, Mumbai. Mr. Khushwant Jain, Chairman, IOPEPC. Dr. Hema Yadav, Director, National Institute of Agricultural Marketing, and Mr. Narasimham S, Director, Castoroil India provided a narration on the fragmented information available with respect to demand supply statistics of value added products produced, marketed and consumed in Indian market vis-à-vis at global level and emphasised that it is necessary to have this data collected, compiled, analysed and documented properly to understand the present situation and formulate future plan. Dr. S.N. Naik, Professor, IIT, New Delhi and Dr. T. Singh, DGM (R&D-Lubes), BPCL also spoke on the scope of value addition and the technologies available to achieve this. The webinar was coordinated by Dr. V. Dineshkumar, Principal Scientist & Head, Crop Improvement and Dr. C. Lavanya, Principal Scientist & PI, AICRP (Castor) under the guidance of the Director, ICAR-IIOR.