

## Media Release

# Syngenta signs MoU to be strategic partner in India's first open-data agricultural ecosystem Annam.AI

- Agricultural innovation leader to contribute with agronomic expertise in building accurate crop health, pest forecasting and heat stress models

**Basel, Switzerland, June 15, 2026** – India's agriculture sector is a global powerhouse, uniquely characterized by its massive scale, vast arable land, diverse agro-climatic zones and rich biodiversity. These strengths have propelled the country to become one of the world's leading producers of crops such as rice and wheat. However, farmers in the country face significant challenges – from erratic monsoons, severe droughts and unseasonal rains compounded by El Nino, to pests and diseases that destroy an estimated 30 percent of crops annually. More than 80 percent of India's estimated 150 million farming households are composed of smallholder farmers who operate on less than two hectares of land. This limits economies of scale, sets obstacles to the wider adoption of advanced technologies and could widen a systemic gap between large commercial agricultural operations and the bulk of its farming population.

Providing India's farmers with free, real-time and personalized agricultural intelligence – at scale – could transform the country's agriculture.

This vision is at the heart of an ambitious program called Annam.AI, which aims to build a nationwide agricultural intelligence backbone based on open data, that enables precision agriculture and fosters climate resilience. This would provide India's farmers hyperlocal, AI-powered advisories that integrate crop intelligence, real-time microclimate data and multilingual engagement tools. Annam.AI (Alliance for Next-gen Nourishment through Agriculture Modernization, and denoting "food" in Sanskrit language) is backed by the Government of India through the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, global technology partners such as Google, and is driven by IIT Ropar, a premier engineering and technology university in Punjab that is part of the prestigious Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) system.

Syngenta, a global leader in agricultural innovation with a long-standing presence in India, today announced it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding to be a strategic partner in the Annam.AI program, at an event in Nice, France attended by India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and France's President Emmanuel Macron. Syngenta is to leverage its R&D and agronomic expertise in building accurate crop health, pest forecasting and heat stress models.

Jeff Rowe, Syngenta Group's Chief Executive Officer, said: "At Syngenta we're creating breakthroughs for farmers in every field, to deliver higher yields with lower impact. Annam.AI presents a unique opportunity to contribute to a transformative, digital foundation for Indian agriculture that will benefit more than 600 million people in this country. We are deeply honored to work with many talented and committed people in India's government and universities, as well as with other innovation leaders in fulfilling this vision."

## Contact Information

Media Relations

[media@syngentagroup.com](mailto:media@syngentagroup.com)

## About Syngenta Group

Syngenta Group is one of the world's biggest agricultural innovation companies, employing over 50,000 people in more than 90 countries. Syngenta Group is focused on developing technologies and farming practices that empower farmers, so they can make the transformation required to feed the world's population while preserving our planet. Syngenta Group's bold scientific discoveries deliver better benefits for farmers and society on a bigger scale than ever before. Guided by its Sustainability Goal, Syngenta Group supports farmers to grow healthier plants in healthier soil with a higher yield.

Syngenta Group, which is registered in Shanghai, China, and has its management headquarters in Switzerland, draws strength from its four business units: Syngenta Crop Protection, headquartered in Switzerland; Syngenta Seeds, headquartered in the United States; ADAMA<sup>®</sup>, headquartered in Israel; and Syngenta Group China.

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To find out more about how our innovation is empowering farmers around the world, read our stories and follow-us on social media.



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