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KNOWLEDGE PAPERS

Series 3/2016



FICCI-TSMG report 'Role of Plasticulture in Next Generation Agriculture'

India supports nearly 16% of world's population with 2.4% land resource and 4% water resource. In recent times, the dwindling quality and availability of these precious resources are raising serious questions on the sustainability of the agricultural practice. Plasticulture includes all kinds of plant or soil coverings ranging from mulch films, row coverings, poly-tunnels to greenhouses. As per International Water Management Institute, during the past decade, groundwater in various parts of the country, esp. beneath the northern Indian states of Punjab, Haryana & western UP has fallen at an alarming level. This will impact the food security of the nation as the region also happens to be its food bowl. In recent years the average amount of rain received has declined and variability also has increased. There is also heavy pre and post-harvest losses which further contribute to low availability of food grains and fruits and vegetables. All of these issues can be solved by the use of Plasticulture techniques, which boosts productivity while reducing water-consumption and minimizing the post-harvest crop wastage. Effective post-harvest management includes good quality storage infrastructure, bulk handling tools and creating the necessary infrastructure across the value chain. The enhanced application of Plasticulture concept will also create opportunities for the Indian plastic industry. In conclusion, it can be stated that the Plasticulture applications hold huge importance because of their relationship to water conservation and national food security.

<http://www.ficci.in/publication-page.asp?spid=20729>



Strategy Paper on Future prospects of micro Irrigation in India-Accelerating Growth of Indian Agriculture: Micro Irrigation an efficient solution

Strategy paper - Future prospects of micro irrigation in India focuses on bringing out the benefits of micro irrigation to the farmer as well as the Government. It provides a snapshot of the current situation, looks at the potential for the technology in India, analyses the regulatory environment surrounding the industry, provides insight into the on-ground realities of the functioning of government schemes and provides some suggestions on ways to tap the remaining potential for micro irrigation in India. This study endeavors to demonstrate how micro irrigation can be an integral part of PMKSY in achieving the vision of the Honorable Prime Minister through some proposed 'game changers' for the industry.

<http://ficci.in/publication-page.asp?spid=20735>



Corporate Governance in India@2016: Where do we stand?

Companies Act, 2013 followed by various revisions to the Listing Agreement has substantially changed the way companies are governed in India. In more than one way, it has affected their governance structure, operating models, and approach to business risks along with processes, policies and practices.

Thus, the FICCI Report on 'Corporate Governance in India@2016: Where do we stand?' takes an objective look at the reforms introduced by the Companies Act, 2013 and SEBI Listing Regulations and their collective impact on the governance landscape in the country. The report evaluates whether the reforms have led to significant improvement in financial and non-financial disclosures, assessment of related party transactions, effectiveness of boards and independent directors, etc. It also highlights the course correction needed and suggests changes that would further facilitate the implementation of the law and help realize the effectiveness of the governance framework.

<http://www.ficci.in/publication-page.asp?spid=20739>



Next Generation Indian Agriculture - Role of Crop Protection Solutions

With a present size of 1.32 billion, India currently supports nearly 17.84% of the world population, with 2.4% land resources and 4 % of water resources. In order to support the growing population, the country will not only have to raise its agricultural production but also the productivity to ensure food and nutrition security of the nation. India is the fourth largest global producer of agrochemicals after the US, Japan and China. The agrochemical sector generated a value of USD 4.4 billion in FY15 and is expected to grow at 7.5% per annum to reach USD 6.3 billion by FY20. The domestic demand is expected to grow at 6.5% per annum and exports at 9% p.a. Weak rainfall/ droughts, severe decline in the commodity prices, and currency devaluation in several countries have affected the growth of crop protection chemicals market in FY15. The impact of these factors is likely to weigh on the sector for few more years. The growth in the Indian agrochemicals sector will be driven by growth in herbicides and fungicides, increasing awareness towards judicious use of agrochemicals, contract manufacturing and export opportunities. With the increase in awareness and market penetration, consumption is likely to improve in the near future. Still there are challenges like spurious products, low focus on R&D by domestic manufacturers, inefficiencies in the supply chain etc. which need to be addressed on priority.

<http://www.ficci.in/publication-page.asp?spid=20744>



FICCI-MRSS report: India Inbound MICE Tourism - Trends and Opportunities

Of the various forms of tourism that exists in the globe, Meetings Incentives, Conferences Exhibition is the one which has shown the maximum potential across the globe. Globally, the MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences & Exhibitions) segment, with a 54% market share, has overtaken the traditional business trips segment. Conferences/Meetings/Seminars (41%) and trade fairs/exhibitions (29%) are the two largest MICE sub-segments.

This paper showcases India's relative position in the Inbound MICE map of the world and also focuses on the initiatives taken up by the Central and State Governments across the country to encash this high growth, high potential growth engine. The FICCI - MRSS also lists 5 suggestions on the way forward namely promote concept of sustainable tourism, maintain co-ordination and align with the Central Agency, create a market intelligence system to track competition, create experiences, not just tourist spots and sell MICE tourism exclusively.

<http://ficci.in/publication-page.asp?spid=20732>



FICCI-YES BANK Knowledge paper on 'Investment in Tourism Infrastructure Unleashing the Growth Potential'

Tourism sector makes a significant impact on the economy of our country. World Travel and Tourism Council Report 2016 reveals that the travel and tourism sector contributed INR 8309.4 billion to the country's GDP which supported around 37 million jobs in 2015. Tourism is thus a priority area for the Government due to its important contribution to job creation and bring much needed economic stimulus.

The FICCI-YES BANK Knowledge Report 'Investment in Tourism Infrastructure: Unleashing the growth potential' highlights the potential areas of development, infrastructure and connectivity needs, recent initiatives of the Government and proposes a number of initiatives that need to be implemented for establishing India the as the leading tourist destination of the world.

<http://www.ficci.in/publication-page.asp?spid=20747>



Direct Selling: Delhi - A Global Industry, Empowering Millions

The report provides insights of this industry in the state, like additional income opportunities, women empowerment, development of the SME sector, employment generation and contribution to government exchequer. It also focuses on the challenges faced by the industry in the state like clarity on regulation, setting up of manufacturing facilities, dealing with import duties etc. The report contains certain prospective market projections. The report also has short term, medium term and long term solutions for the industry and actionable recommendations for creating a conducive regulatory environment for the industry at state level. Delhi is an important market for the direct selling industry in India.

The direct selling industry in Delhi has witnessed rapid growth over the past five years (CAGR of 43 per cent) and was pegged at INR4.0-4.5 billion in FY14. This growth has been propelled by the high rate of economic development in the state, rising aspirational levels and a consumption oriented population. The direct selling industry provided self-employment opportunities to around 250,000-300,000 people in FY14 and contributed about INR400- 450 million to the state exchequer. The industry has contributed significantly to women empowerment by providing employment to around 145,000- 175,000 women in the state. Delhi has immense potential for growth and is expected to reach a size of INR15-20 billion by 2025. Continued economic growth, the rising demand for consumer goods and the increasing penetration of direct selling in the state are expected to drive the growth of the industry in Delhi.

<http://www.ficci.in/publication-page.asp?spid=20741>



E-Pharmacy in India: Last Mile Access to Medicines

The FICCI report highlights the need for improving access to quality medicines to even the remotest part of the country in order to address the key challenges in India — growing population, changing lifestyles, and increasing health hazards. The report has been prepared post exhaustive research and consultation with various stakeholders along with inputs from Government, Industry, Doctors and Consumers. As cited by the report, to synergise e-pharmacies with the overall growing landscape of the country, this is the right time for the Government of India to define policies and guidelines and come up with a clear-cut operating model, in line with the concerns of the regulator, while providing benefits to the consumers.

The report further stresses that e-commerce offers many advantages to consumers and the most important is the convenience or ease with which drugs can be procured. The benefits the e-Pharmacy model brings to consumers, who are the majority, should be the first priority of the Government. It is critical that the regulatory framework in the country be conceptualized keeping in mind the larger interests of the consumers in the country. If technology is available to cut the intermediary costs on medicines, it must be allowed to be used to its full potential as it will bring down the retail price of many drugs and benefit the middle-class, which is most impacted by the price hikes.

This is the right time for the Government of India to define policies and guidelines for e-Pharmacies and come up with a clear-cut operating model, in line with the concerns of the regulator, while providing benefits to the consumers'.

The suggestions and recommendations made during the conference were well acknowledged by the concerned authorities and they assured the industry to work more rigorously towards the same.

<http://www.ficci.in/publication-page.asp?spid=20746>



FICCI Report on Ease of Doing Business: Distance to Destination

In 2014, Government of India launched the unique 'Make in India' initiative with the primary goal of making India a global manufacturing hub, by encouraging both multinational as well as domestic companies to manufacture their products within the country. Emphasizing the importance of 'Ease of Doing Business' as a major pillar of the 'Make in India' initiative, the Government simultaneously initiated an ambitious programme of regulatory reforms covering a wide range of areas. The programme entails policy interventions for promoting business friendly environment and making India a preferred place for doing business.

The Government introduced many reforms during the course of last two years in areas such as starting a business, labour laws, FDI, getting environmental clearances, deregulation of licensing, getting electricity connections, single window clearances for import and export, etc. This in-depth overhaul of processes, policies has yielded encouraging results. Not surprisingly, India witnessed the steepest rise in rankings in the World Bank Group's Doing Business Study in 2016; improving its position to 130 from 142 in 2015.

The FICCI Trilegal Report on Ease of Doing Business: Distance to Destination illustrates the facilitative measures implemented during the last two years in the areas of corporate and securities law, the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code, Anti-Corruption laws, etc.

<http://www.ficci.in/publication-page.asp?spid=20750>



"INDIA-SPAIN: Synergizing Economic Complementarity" a Working Paper

This year marked the completion of 60 years of diplomatic relations between India and Spain. Over the past two years, emerging global economic imperatives have directly impacted the way India and Spain have been engaging with each other. There is a gradual but certain qualitative shift towards widening and deepening economic engagement.

Spain is India's 7th largest trading partner in the European Union and the 12th largest investor in India. We believe that this is just a fraction of what is achievable for the dynamic private sector in India and Spain, supported by an enabling policy environment on either side.

Spanish expertise is of direct relevance to the present Indian government's developmental goals: Possibilities for cooperation are immense in infrastructure, Make in India campaign and Smart Cities initiative. The window to provide solutions for sustainable growth including renewable energy, water treatment and clean tech has led Spanish companies to look afresh at India as their "Next and immediate destination" to deploy their technological brilliance.

<http://www.ficci.in/publication-page.asp?spid=20745>



BREXIT - Views and Suggestions from India Inc

FICCI Survey brings to the fore the concerns of India Inc. over the possible near term impact of 'Brexit' on Indian business and the economy. Yet, it remains sanguine that the UK will make renewed efforts to strengthen ties with countries of the Commonwealth group and India stands to gain given its own growth performance and a much better regulatory and business environment. The respondents were hopeful that this can be an opportunity for India and UK to make renewed efforts to strengthen ties.

<http://ficci.in/Sedocument/20369/BREXIT-July-2016.PDF>

UPCOMING EVENTS

- National Sports Day
August 27-29, 2016, New Delhi
- International Arbitration in BRICS: Challenges, Opportunities and Road ahead
August 27, 2016, New Delhi
- FICCI HEAL 2016: 'Re-engineering Indian Healthcare'
August 31-September 01, 2016, FICCI, New Delhi
- 5th FICCI Quality Systems Excellence Awards for Industry
August 31, 2016, New Delhi
- Indo - Swedish Defence & Aerospace Industry Seminar & B2B Interactions
August 31-September 01, 2016, New Delhi
- MASSMERIZE 2016
September 01, 2016, New Delhi
- India Promach 2016
September 01-03, 2016, Mumbai
- Indiachem 2016
September 01-03, 2016, Mumbai
- Homeland Security 2016 - Smart Border Management
September 06-07, 2016, New Delhi
- Private Security Industry Conclave (PSIC) 2016
September 14, 2016, New Delhi
- FICCI Sports Delegation to Mr. Olympia, USA
September 15-18, 2016, Las Vegas, USA
- 9th Global Skill Summit
September 15, 2016, New Delhi
- 2nd FICCI's Business Delegation visit to Republic of Armenia
September 16-19, 2016, Yerevan, Armenia
- IRCA Approved ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Systems (QMS) Transition Training Program
September 19-20, 2016, FICCI, New Delhi
- MSME Summit 2016 'Propelling MSME Growth: Ways & Means'
September 19, 2016, FICCI, New Delhi
- Annapoorna
September 22-24, 2016, Mumbai
- IRCA UK Approved ISO 14001:2015 Environment Management System (EMS) Auditor/Lead Auditor Training Program
September 26-30, 2016, New Delhi
- Sixth FICCI Business Delegation to Soccerex Global Convention
September 26-28, 2016, Manchester, UK
- Effective Implementation and Internal Audit of ISO/IEC 17025 Laboratory Management System (LMS) & NABL Criteria
September 26-29, 2016, New Delhi
- 10th FICCI Foodworld India 2016 - Global Convention for Food Business & Industry
September 28, 2016, Mumbai
- The Big5 Construct India 2016
September 28-30, 2016, Mumbai
- India Economic Convention
September 30-October 01, 2016, Srinagar
- FICCI's India Pavilion at Digitecexpo - Armenia
September 30-October 02, 2016, Yerevan, Armenia
- India Economic Convention
September 30-October 01, 2016, Chandigarh
- Effective Implementation and Internal Audit of ISO/IEC 17025 Laboratory Management System (LMS) & NABL Criteria
October 03-06, 2016, Mumbai
- Workshop on 'R.E.T.A.I .N - Workshop on Customer Retention'
October 06-07, 2016, New Delhi
- October 11-15, 2016, Mexico City, Mexico
- India Pavilion in EXPO CIHAC BRICS Trade Fair
October 12-14, 2016, New Delhi



INDUSTRY'S VOICE FOR POLICY CHANGE

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, FICCI
Federation House Tansen Marg, New Delhi - 110001
Phone: 23738760-70 (11 Lines), Fax: 23320714, 23721504
E-Mail: ficci@ficci.com, Website: www.ficci.in



For more details contact at tripti.kataria@ficci.com

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