

Press Release



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SUSTAINABLE CASTOR TAKES A STEP FORWARD AS THE SOLVENT EXTRACTORS' ASSOCIATION OF INDIA (SEA) JOINS FORCES WITH THE SUSTAINABLE CASTOR ASSOCIATION

This brings together the two strongest driving organizations in the evolution of more sustainable farming and supply management for castor crop and will greatly increase the reach and influence of the larger group.

The Sustainable Castor Association was formed in 2019, three years after the first comprehensive baseline study of more than 1,000 castor farmers in western India, home to more than 80% of the world's current castor crop supply. The association is the official custodian of the SuCESS® code – the world's first sustainable castor manual and counts more than **23 international companies** among its members. Since the baseline study, more than 6,000 farmers have been trained and certified, and improvements for several key impacts have been demonstrated and recorded, such as increased crop yield, reduced water consumption (due to more efficient irrigation methods), and increased individual farmer income.

The Solvent Extractors' Association (SEA) of India was formed in 1963 to help foster the development and growth of the broader Solvent Extraction Industry in India. Currently, the association has over 875 members including over 350 working solvent extraction plants having combined **oilcake/oilseed** processing annual capacity of about 30 million tonnes. They count several leading castor crushers and processors among their members. SEA Castor seed and oil promotion Council has been running the castor yield improvement program since last 7 years in India delivering more than 50% yield enhancement to make Castor farming Sustainable, alongside it also runs a program of water harvesting.

With this new support, the Sustainable Castor Association will benefit in several key areas:

- Greater involvement of castor crushers and derivatives manufacturers
- Improved and wider outreach to a far bigger number of castor farmers and their communities
- Greater exposure to a larger number of downstream stakeholders
- Improved access to industry statistics and market information

“We welcome the support of the SEA of India,” said Sanjay Sailas, general manager of the Sustainable Castor Association. “We are excited to embrace this growth opportunity and to drive greater global adoption of the SuCCESS® code, and to reach a broader audience of farmers, processors, downstream users and industry stakeholders.”

“We are delighted to throw our support behind this great initiative”, said Dr. B V Mehta Executive Director of SEA of India. “Our extensive network from the castor community will greatly enrich the growing membership of the Sustainable Castor Association, and we are pleased to offer our expertise and guidance during this growth phase.”

Contact –

Sanjay Sailas - +91 8591076991