

Godrej Agrovat Joins Hands with Maharashtra State Rural Livelihoods Mission to Empower 5000+ Women Farmers Across Nine-Cotton Districts in Maharashtra

January 13, 2026; Godrej Agrovat Limited (Godrej Agrovat), a leading agri-business company, today announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Maharashtra State Rural Livelihoods Mission (MSRLM-UMED), to empower rural farmers and promote sustainable agriculture. The collaboration aligns with the United Nations' observance of 2026 as the International Year of the Woman Farmer (IYWF 2026) which spotlights critical role played by women in the agrifood systems and calls for actions to close gender gaps and strengthen livelihoods. This three-year partnership aims to mobilize Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and women farmers to adopt Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM), improving farm productivity and creating resilient livelihoods.

"Our farmers are the backbone of Maharashtra. With livelihoods of thousands of family's dependent on farming, many led by enterprising women, our administration has ensured that they have access to easy credit and timely access to necessary support." said **Hon. Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Devendra Fadnavis.**

He added, "Today's partnership with Godrej Agrovat reflects our commitment to sustainable agricultural practices and gender inclusion. By integrating modern techniques like, we are ensuring that our rural communities, especially our women farmers, become self-reliant contributors to the state's economy."

In its first year, the program will focus on nine key cotton-growing districts; Nagpur, Amravati, Yavatmal, Washim, Parbhani, Jalgaon, Beed, Akola, and Nanded; covering over 5,000 women farmers and more than 50,000 acres of farmland while engaging 100 SHGs. The initiative will scale up to support over 500 SHGs across Maharashtra over the three-years, with plan to expand beyond cotton to maize and other crops.

Under the MoU, Godrej Agrovat will be working closely with MSRLM-UMED to conduct training workshops on GAP, IPM and safety practices; organize farmer field schools and demonstration plots; and distribute safety kits. MSRLM-UMED will facilitate mobilization and coordination through its SHG and Krishi Sakhi networks while Godrej Agrovat will fund and implement the program.

Commenting on the partnership, **Shri Nilesh Sagar (IAS), CEO of the Maharashtra State Rural Livelihoods Mission (MSRLM-UMED), stated,** "Today's MoU is in sync with our mission empowering rural women by strengthening the grassroot institutions and enhancing their livelihoods. Leveraging our network and Godrej Agrovat's expertise, our intent is to ensure that our women farmers are well equipped with scientific crop management practises to manage their farms efficiently and improve the socio-economic fabric of rural Maharashtra."

Sunil Kataria, CEO & MD, Godrej Agrovat, commented, "Indian agriculture is at a pivotal moment where productivity, sustainability, and inclusion must advance together. At Godrej

Agroviet, we see women farmers as central to this transformation. As an organization committed to driving sustainable growth in Indian agriculture by combining research and community engagement, we are proud to partner with MSRLM-UMED. Through this partnership, we aim to equip women farmers with practical high-impact agronomy so they can achieve better yields and uplift their families. We are committed to building models that scale responsibly.”

Highlighting the technical focus of the initiative **Rajavelu NK, CEO – Crop Protection Business, Godrej Agroviet Ltd, added,** “Maharashtra is one of India’s most important cotton-growing states, and the challenges faced by its farmers demand a science-led, region-specific approach. With right intervention at the right time being a key, this collaboration will act as a catalyst not only for immediate agronomic improvements but also to create a replicable, knowledge-led crop protection framework that can be scaled across geographies and crops over time.”

Emphasizing the broader impact of the collaboration, **Rakesh Swami, Group President – Corporate Affairs, Godrej Industries Group, said** “At Godrej Industries Group, People and Planet are at the heart of our purpose. This initiative with MSRLM-UMED is a strong example of how industry and public institutions can collaborate to drive meaningful social impact. Empowering women farmers not only enhances agricultural productivity but also strengthens rural communities thereby creating long-term impact for the state and country.”

By enabling women farmers to adopt scientific practices, access market networks, and take informed decisions, the initiative seeks to deliver lasting improvements in productivity, livelihoods, and rural resilience across Maharashtra.

About Godrej Agroviet:

Godrej Agroviet Limited (GAVL) is a diversified, Research & Development focused food and agri-business conglomerate, dedicated to improving the productivity of Indian farmers by innovating products and services that sustainably increase crop and livestock yields. GAVL holds leading market positions in the different businesses it operates - Animal Feed, Crop Protection, Oil Palm, Dairy, Poultry and Processed Foods. GAVL has a pan-India presence with sales of over a million tons annually of high-quality animal feed. Our teams have worked closely with Indian farmers to develop large Oil Palm Plantations, which is helping in bridging the demand and supply gap of edible oil in India. In the crop protection segment, the Company has strong presence in the B2B segment through its subsidiary Astec LifeSciences and through its extensive distribution network pan-India delivers innovative agrochemical offerings catering to the entire crop life cycles. In Dairy, Poultry, and Processed Foods, the company operates through its subsidiaries Creamline Dairy Products Limited and Godrej Foods Limited. Apart from this, GAVL also has a joint venture with the ACI group of Bangladesh for animal feed business in Bangladesh.

For more information on the Company, please log on to www.godrejagroviet.com.

For more information, please contact:

<p>Gaurav Kapoor gaurav.kapoor@godrejinds.com +91-9867 161 966</p>	<p>Shreya Singh shreya.singh@godrejinds.com +91-9205 158 829</p>
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