

## PRESS RELEASE

### Mitigating Crop Residue Burning Through Farmer-Focussed Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration

Fatehgarh Sahib, Punjab, 31 October 2022: Over 200 farmers, industry and other key stakeholders came together at a farmer-outreach event today at village Ajner, Khamanon, Fatehgarh Sahib in Punjab by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and PTC India Financial Services Ltd to discuss ways to reduce stubble burning.

The event was attended by Smt. Parleen Kaur Kaleka, SDM, Khamanon, Dr. Lovleen Bains, GNN College, Doraha, Block Agriculture Officers, Representative from Punjab Agricultural University and Haryana Agriculture University, over 200 farmers including Sarpanchs and other key stakeholders.

Speaking on this occasion, Smt. Parleen Kaur Kaleka, SDM, Khamanon, shared the encouraging result of reduced stubble burning this season in Khamanon compared to other villages and thanked the farmers for their support and commitment to end stubble burning. She said consistent, collaborative efforts must continue to stop stubble burning. She urged farmers to utilise machines and adopt viable alternatives and encourage other farmers to do the same. Farmers must identify gaps in solutions to stubble burning this season and proactively prepare to further reduce stubble burning in the next season, she stressed.

Dr Mahesh Narang, HOD Farm Machinery Department, Punjab Agriculture University, said today farmers had various options and solutions and spoke of the improvement in machinery over the years, and the easy access to machines through farmer co-operative societies and other bodies. He urged farmers to adopt machines like the Smartseeder, the optimal usage of which resulted in reduced spend on fertiliser and improved soil health compared to burning. He urged farmers to share information and experiences amongst themselves and adopt environment-friendly alternatives to strengthen the fight against stubble burning.

Dr. Lovleen Bains, Guru Nanak National College, Doraha, spoke of the significant positive impact of the CII Foundation's crop residue management initiative in Punjab and appreciated the collaborative efforts of the CII Foundation and its partners in providing consistent support to farmers, especially by way of machinery and technical support.

An on-field demonstration of the latest machinery, the Smartseeder, was held with the support of Punjab Agriculture University to promote optimal usage of the machinery. Farm machinery was also distributed amongst farmer co-operatives to facilitate their adoption.

To highlight the problem of stubble burning and dissuade farmers from burning crop residue, students of Guru Nanak College, Doraha, presented a short play. Several students from schools and colleges also urged farmers to stop stubble burning through inspiring poems and short speeches.



CII is working in 250 villages in Punjab through a multi-stakeholder crop residue management initiative. Through the interventions, stubble burning has been reduced by 84% in the intervened villages.

The interventions include creating awareness about the impact of stubble burning on the environment and human health, providing machinery and technical support to farmers, and facilitating the adoption of viable environment-friendly alternatives to stubble burning.