



Progress beyond

American Chemistry Council awards Solvay-partner for Indian sustainable guar initiative

Brussels, June 9, 2021 - 7:00 CET

Solvay's partner in the Sustainable Guar Initiative, non-profit organization TechnoServe, has received the External Collaborator Award from the American Chemistry Council (ACC) for its commitment to working collaboratively with ACC members and others throughout the guar supply chain to drive sustainability and innovation.

The [Sustainable Guar Initiative](#) is an integrated program implemented by Solvay and its partners in collaboration with TechnoServe to teach and promote sustainable agricultural practices, and encourage women empowerment among guar bean farmers within the Bikaner desert district in Rajasthan, India. This program provides benefits upstream and downstream for our partners across the value chain, improving the livelihood of guar bean farmers by ensuring income durability and protecting local resources while considering the impact climate change has on their activities. This is an exemplary model for inclusive business and accelerates our [Solvay One Planet](#) commitment under our Better Life pillar.

The Sustainable Guar Initiative was initially set up in 2015 by Solvay, L'Oréal, TechnoServe, and Hichem, a Solvay joint venture and guar manufacturer, with Henkel joining the partnership in 2017 which increased the number of Indian farmers involved in the project to over 7,300 in 2020, 25 percent of whom are women. From 2015 to the end of 2020, the program led to a [125 percent increase in guar yields](#) and a 143 percent increase in revenues to farmers.

"We are pleased that TechnoServe has been recognized for their inestimable contribution to the success of our Sustainable Guar Initiative by offering strong local expertise, on-the-ground involvement, and market analysis," said Anne-Charlotte Butrot, sustainability project manager at Solvay. "TechnoServe has been the enabling partner for Solvay and its international collaborators providing farmers training for land and seed treatment, improving crop cultivation for arid conditions, soil replenishment techniques, and rainwater harvesting systems to enhance crop yields. The program also focuses on women empowerment through the management of kitchen gardens and health and nutrition training."

Solvay is a world leader in guar derivatives and India provides about 80 percent of the world's total guar production, where farmers play an integral role at the top of the supply chain. The seeds are



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processed to obtain guar gum, an exceptionally fine thickener and stabilizer used as an eco-friendly solution in a range of industries such as personal care and cosmetics.

“Assisting Solvay and their partners to bring to fruition this commendable initiative to transform the lives of guar bean farmers in poor communities has been a very rewarding experience,” said Punit Gupta, country director, TechnoServe India. “Small farmers in India face numerous challenges ranging from soil quality, scarce water supply, and lack of access to markets for their crops. With a specific focus on women farmers to help them improve well-being, nutrition, and gain economic independence, we provided the tools and resources for improving yields, thereby helping enhance revenue to raise their standard of living.”

About Solvay

Solvay is a science company whose technologies bring benefits to many aspects of daily life. With more than 23,000 employees in 64 countries, Solvay bonds people, ideas and elements to reinvent progress. The Group seeks to create sustainable shared value for all, notably through its Solvay One Planet plan crafted around three pillars: protecting the climate, preserving resources and fostering better life. The Group’s innovative solutions contribute to safer, cleaner, and more sustainable products found in homes, food and consumer goods, planes, cars, batteries, smart devices, health care applications, water and air purification systems. Founded in 1863, Solvay today ranks among the world’s top three companies for the vast majority of its activities and delivered net sales of €9 billion in 2020. Solvay is listed on Euronext Brussels (SOLB) and Paris and in the United States, where its shares (SOLVY) are traded through a Level I ADR program. Learn more at www.solvay.com.

Press Contact

Enrico Zanini
+39 338 603 4561
enrico.zanini@solvay.com
Consumer Goods & Healthcare Communications Manager



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