Agriculture is the primary source of livelihood for about 58 per cent of India’s population. Gross Value Added by agriculture, forestry and fishing is estimated at Rs 18.53 trillion (US$ 271.00 billion) in FY18.

India is expected to achieve the ambitious goal of doubling farm income by 2022. The agriculture sector in India is expected to generate better momentum in the next few years due to increased investments in agricultural infrastructure such as irrigation facilities, warehousing and cold storage. Furthermore, the growing use of genetically modified crops will likely improve the yield for Indian farmers. India is expected to be self-sufficient in pulses in the coming few years due to concerted efforts of scientists to get early-maturing varieties of pulses and the increase in minimum support price.

Taking this initiative forward, ASSOCHAM organized a “National Conference on Indian Agriculture – Agenda for Inclusive Growth” in association with Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers’ Welfare, Government of India and Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India on September 19, 2019 at Hotel The Park, New Delhi.

This Conference was organized to promote investments in agri and allied sectors, enhancing “Make in India” initiative and Exports, boosting Research and Development in agri sector, reducing post harvest losses effectively, opportunities in irrigation and also to promote business potentials in this sector. The highlight of the conference was to brainstorm on various actionable ideas for development of agriculture sector in India.

ASSOCHAM has also released White Paper which was jointly prepared by ASSOCHAM & PwC with the objective of suggesting policy recommendations for the Government specifically for the agriculture sector.

The Conference was inaugurated by Shri Parshottambhai Rupala, Hon’ble Minister of State of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare, Govt. Other dignitaries present in the Inaugural Session were Dr. P K Chakrabarty, Member, Agriculture Scientist Recruitment Board, Shri Ajay Kakra, Leader, Food and Agriculture, PwC India, Shri Joe Phelan, Director, WBCSD India, Shri Jaidev Shroff, Chairman, ASSOCHAM’s Council on Agri Inputs and Farming Practices & CEO, UPL Global, Shri Deepak Sood, Secretary General, ASSOCHAM.

The first session on “Enhancing Enhancing Make in India & Agriculture Exports to Accomplish
Doubling the Farmers’ Income by 2022” was moderated by Shri Sagar Kaushik, Global COO, UPL Ltd. and the panelists were Dr. Raju Kapoor, Director – Corporate Affairs, FMC Shri A K Gupta, Director, APEDA Shri Ravinder Grover, Associate Director, Agriculture and Natural Resources (GRID) PwC India, Food and Agriculture, PwC India Shri Nilesh Kulkarni, Commercial Head, Gharda Chemicals, Dr. Sangeeta Dawar, Outreach Manager, Public Affairs and Sustainability, Bayer CropScience, Shri S O Tyagi, Head - Government Commercial Liaising, Mahindra & Mahindra Limited

The subsequent session on “Concurrent Challenges for Sustainable Farming” was moderated by Shri Vijay Sardana, Agribusiness Expert and the panelists in this session were Ms. Vineeta Hariharan, Government Relations, Public Policy and Programme Formulation, World Bank Group, Dr. Sangita Ladha, VP – Marketing, Jain Irrigation Systems, Shri V. Padmanand, Partner, Grant Thornton, Shri Krishan S. Rautela, Associate Project Officer (Infrastructure), Asian Development Bank.

The last session was on “New Tech and Start Ups in Farming” and was chaired by Dr. Neeru Bhooshan, CEO, Pusa Krishi Incubator, ZTM & BPD Unit, IARI and the panelists were Dr. Manisha Acharya, CEO, Indigram Labs Foundation, Ms. Nupur Bhatnagar, Director, Business Development, Agsmartic Technologies Pvt. Ltd., Shri Swanand Gudhate, Business Development (Agri), IdeaForge Technology, Shri V R Rajesh, Regional Head of Business Development (India and Nepal), CropIn Technology.

There was participation of about 200 various stakeholders from agriculture, Public and private players, nutrition experts, technology providers, entrepreneurs, self-help groups, retails companies, food processing units, students etc.

This Conference was supported by UPL.

The Event was well covered by print, electronic and online media.