

For Immediate Release

Coconut Development Board & Camson Biotechnologies Ltd. sign MoU to undertake research on secondary metabolite based biocide

Bengaluru, 13th March 2015: - Camson Bio Technologies Ltd (Camson), India's leading IPR-driven biotechnology company, inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Coconut Development Board (CDB), a Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India enterprise, **to develop non-chemical, zero-residue, secondary metabolite based biocides to control red palm weevil (*Ryhnchophorus ferrugineus*) infesting coconut plantations.**

Secondary metabolite based solutions are the most advanced technologies used to make farm inputs in the organic space and **Camson is the only company in the country with the requisite research experience and execution skills. Camson has been partnered under the board's scheme "Technology Mission of Coconut" to conduct research over a period spanning two years.**

The red palm weevil menace: Red palm weevil, whose scientific name is *Ryhnchophorus ferrugineus*, is an economic pest that infects coconut, date, sago, oil and ornamental palms. A severely-attacked coconut palm exhibits a rotten trunk and loss of foliage, which eventually results in its death. Of the 40 million coconut trees in Kerala's Kochi/Travancore region, about 0.5 per cent are infected by the pest per year. This amounts to 2,00,000 palms. The pest is a severe menace internationally as well. It is found across Middle East, Far East & in Oceania.

Coconut Development Board has agreed to pay Camson Rs.25 lakh as its contribution towards the research.

Santosh Nair, Chief Executive Officer, CBTL, said, "This partnership signals the acknowledgement by the Government of India of the immense potential in Camson's unique strengths in secondary metabolite based technology to offer a **zero residue solution** for a perennial problem. It is an indication of the government's initiative to promote organic farming in India through technical capacity building of all the stakeholders."

"We are already working with a number of institutions, both in India and overseas including private players, plantations, exporters and vineyards. These are efforts to further Camson's vision of creating a healthy and disease free society" he added.

+++

About Camson Biotech- Established in 1993, Camson Bio Technologies combines the latest knowledge in breeding, molecular genetics and metagenomics in agriculture with the latest practices in environmental safety and protection, to market a wide range of products



spanning hybrid seeds, bio-fertilizers and biocides. These are non-poisonous, eco-friendly and residue-free. Headquartered in Bangalore, Camson Bio Technologies employs the best talent in the industry to bring innovative biotechnology products to the farmers. Partnering with farming communities, government agencies and corporate houses in India, Camson Bio Technologies aims at empowering farming communities by focussing its R&D to their needs.

You can also visit our website www.camsonbiotechnologies.com for more details on the company and products.

For more information:

Sunil Ramakirshnan

Rigveda consultancy & Services

sunil@rigvedaconsultancy.com

Mobile: - 09870110525