News Release

Multi-national seed companies and NGOs launch next phase of industry-wide collaboration to scale responsible labor practices across India's vegetable seed sector

- **Existing partnership (WISH) expands with new participating companies to strenghten labor practices across India's seed production regions**
- **New three-year program – WISH2GROW – will reach 45 villages across Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat**
- **Goals include support for 3,000 children, improved working conditions for 4,000 laborers and training for over 5,000 growers**
- **Builds on proven impact of WISH project, which impacted 10,000 stakeholders and contributed to higher school attendance and lower dropout rates**

The Netherlands, November 11, 2026 – Addressing systemic labor challenges across the world requires strong collaboration from many stakeholders. Following the successful completion of the WISH (Wage Improvements in Seed Hybrids) project, partners comprising global seed companies and NGOs have launched WISH2GROW, the next phase of a multi-stakeholder effort to strengthen labor rights, improve working conditions and support livelihoods in India's vegetable seed sector. Building on four years of demonstrated impact, the partnership is expanding both its scope and participation to drive lasting change across the sector.

The orginal WISH project demonstrated measurable progress in legal minimum wage compliance, school attendance, and child labor prevention through collaboration between companies, NGOs and local stakeholders in India, providing the foundation for this expanded next phase.

WISH2GROW brings together BASF | Nunhems, Syngenta Vegetable Seeds, Enza Zaden, HM.CLAUSE, Advanta, Bejo, East-West Seed and Arisa. The project is further supported by sector partners including RVO and ECHO and is being developed in close collaboration with Indian stakeholders, reflecting growing engagement and commitment within India's vegetable seed sector to address labor

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rights challenges collectively.

Building on proven results

Between 2021 and 2025, the WISH project combined research, stakeholder engagement, and field implementation to address systemic labor challenges in hybrid seed production. The experience, results, and lessons learned from WISH provided the foundation for WISH2GROW, which expands both participation across the sector and the range of labor rights topics addressed.

Through more than 1,450 training and awareness sessions, the initiative reached over 10,000 stakeholders, including growers, workers, and labor contractors. An independent evaluation confirmed increased school attendance rates for children aged 6 to 18 and lower dropout rates in project communities.

“The results of WISH demonstrated that collective action can generate tangible improvements in complex agricultural supply chains. WISH2GROW allows us to build on these achievements, engage more partners and further strengthen responsible business practices across the sector,” says Bas Gorissen, Program Manager Sustainability and responsible for the WISH project within BASF | Nunhems.

Expanding impact across the sector

While WISH primarily focused on minimum wage compliance and child labor prevention, WISH2GROW adopts a broader approach that addresses four interconnected priorities: child and adolescent labor, legal minimum wage compliance, occupational health and safety, and farmer resilience with a focus on climate adaptation. The project also integrates gender equality, grievance mechanisms, and responsible sourcing practices.

Over the next three years, partners aim to:

- Reach and support approximately 3,000 children through prevention and education-related activities.
- Improve working conditions for at least 4,000 laborers.
- Train more than 5,000 growers and workers on labor rights, minimum wages, occupational health and safety, and sustainable farming practices.

- Strengthen company due diligence systems and promote collective learning across the vegetable seed sector.

“The challenges addressed through WISH2GROW are often systemic and cannot be solved by individual companies alone. By working together, sharing knowledge, and aligning practical solutions, we can accelerate progress and create lasting impact for workers, farming communities, and the sector as a whole,” says Nalan Gurol, Global Field Sustainability Lead for Syngenta Seeds.

About Arisa

Arisa – Advocating Rights in South Asia – works to improve respect for human rights and labour rights in global supply chains. Working with civil society partners in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan, among other countries, it exposes human rights and labour abuses in the production of garments, leather, natural stone and vegetable seeds, and calls on companies and governments to ensure that rights are respected. Arisa prioritise the position of the people in the most vulnerable situations in global supply chains and work to eliminate child labour, forced labour and caste discrimination. Since 2027, Arisa published several reports about labor rights issues in the seed sector. For more information: www.arisa.nl.

About BASF Agricultural Solutions

Everything we do, we do for the love of farming. Farming is fundamental to provide sufficient and affordable food for a rapidly growing population, while reducing environmental impacts. That’s why we are working with partners and experts to integrate sustainability criteria into all business decisions. With €990 million in 2025, we invest in a strong R&D pipeline, and our solutions are purpose-designed for different crop systems. Connecting seeds and traits, crop protection products, digital tools and sustainability approaches, to help deliver the best possible outcomes for farmers, growers and stakeholders along the value chain. In 2025, our business generated sales of €9.6 billion. For more information, please visit www.agriculture.basf.com or our social media channels.

About Syngenta

Syngenta is a leading science-based agricultural technology (AgTech) company, creating Breakthroughs for farmers, in every field™ to help meet the demands of modern agriculture. Using cutting-edge innovation and guided by its Sustainability Goal of higher yields with lower impact, Syngenta helps farmers to grow resilient, healthy crops that can feed a growing global population, while protecting and enhancing the planet. Syngenta is part of Syngenta Group, headquartered in Switzerland.
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