



NANO Manufacturing 2018

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Topic

Microbes will rule the biologicals space in sustainable agriculture

Summary

Biologicals in agriculture have arrived and are here to stay. Their growth is substantiated by growing demand for technologies in improving efficiencies of fertilizers, pesticides and improving the soil for sustenance. Moreover, affluent consumers are also demanding solutions for pesticide residues in food and environment. To cope up with the markets, farmers cannot afford to spend any extra amount but have to go by the adage – “More from less”. Biologicals specially microbial fit into this scenario as they can conserve the soils by building improving soil structure by helping sequester carbon and add to fertility in terms of nutrients. Microbials can also be used with chemical pesticides to improve pesticide efficiency. Microbials also fit in the demands of organic farming for improving profitable yields. Main challenges in scaleup of microbial technologies are shelf-stability, environmental stability, compatibility with currently used fertilizers/pesticides and last but not the least the mind-set/capacities of distribution channel. The microbiome has unleashed huge opportunities for new microbials which can deliver solutions to existing issues in agriculture. Various next generation technologies will be highlighted in formulation development of microbials which will improve their contribution in the total farm inputs. Successful implementation of Kan biosys technologies and future growth will be showcased.

Sandeepa Kanitkar

CMD

Kan biosys

About the speaker

I am an industrial microbiologist and a technocrat at heart. Since the age of 22 I dreamed of fermenting bacteria in large bioreactors. This dream was realized when I got a chance to join a start-up and set up fermentation plant to produce *Azotobacter* in 1991. I selected this option over pursuing my higher studies in India and then in the USA after my postgraduation. I was a co-inventor in production of liquid inoculants of *Azotobacter* using dormant forms called cysts. This technology won the WIPO Gold medal of United Nations in 2000 and the first Technology day award in 1999 in India. In 2005 I founded Kan biosys – The Microbial Company for working with microbes for agriculture and environment. Since its inception Kan biosys has grown from a revenue of 15,384USD to 4 Million USD presently. With a growth plan in place to cross 50 million by 2022, Kan biosys is surging ahead with a confident team. Innovation remains a key driver of growth at Kan biosys. Launching relevant technologies as solutions for soil carbon management, plant nutrition and protection within the shortest time- to-market strategies is the main strength of Team Kan biosys. With a young team of 200 people and export to 5 countries Kan biosys aspires to excel in microbial technologies for sustainable agriculture through out the world.
