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Press Release

JMI's CIE-Supported Startup KrishiGRO Wins TechForChange 2024 Competition Organized by Nasscom Foundation and Ciena

KrishiGRO, a trailblazing sustainable agrimech startup supported by Jamia Millia Islamia's (JMI) Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIE), has emerged as one of the winners of the highly acclaimed *TechForChange 2024 Competition*, jointly organised by the Nasscom Foundation and Ciena. This competition recognises technological innovations with transformative societal impact.

KrishiGRO captivated the jury with its ground-breaking innovation, the **Bheem 1.0 Walk Behind Electric Multi-Utility Vehicle (eMUV)**. Designed specifically for small and marginal farmers, this eco-friendly solution integrates solar and grid charging capabilities with 16 modular attachments. The eMUV supports diverse tasks such as farming, gardening, transportation, and home-utility operations. By reducing operational costs, emissions, and noise pollution, the Bheem 1.0 aligns perfectly with sustainable agriculture principles and technology-driven societal progress.

TechForChange, a CSR initiative led by Ciena in partnership with Nasscom Foundation, empowers young innovators to develop impactful solutions addressing pressing social challenges. KrishiGRO was selected from over 150 startups, securing a coveted position among the top five finalists and winning a prize of ₹5 lakh.

Prof. Mazhar Asif, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of JMI, lauded this remarkable achievement: "KrishiGRO's win reflects the innovative spirit of our entrepreneurial ecosystem and reaffirms Jamia's commitment to nurturing talent that addresses real-world challenges. We proudly support KrishiGRO and plan to deploy their farm machinery at Jamia Horticulture, showcasing our belief in sustainable innovations."

Prof. Md Mahtab Alam Rizvi, Registrar of JMI, added: "This accomplishment underlines Jamia's role as a hub of innovation and excellence. KrishiGRO's success is a proud moment for our University community."

Prof. Rihan Khan Suri, Director of CIE, emphasised: "This recognition highlights our University's dedication to fostering startups that drive social and environmental progress. KrishiGRO's success inspires us to continue supporting impactful ventures." **Prof. S.M. Muzakkir**, Innovation Coordinator at JMI's Institution's Innovation Council (IIC), praised the team's perseverance through rigorous selection stages, culminating in their well-deserved triumph. **Mr. Arif Jamal**, Founder & CEO of KrishiGRO and a JMI alumnus, expressed gratitude, saying: "This recognition validates our mission to empower small and marginal farmers through sustainable agrimech solutions. Being acknowledged by Nasscom Foundation and Ciena will accelerate our efforts to create lasting societal impact."

Another JMI-supported startup, **Dynamic Heavy Accident Avoidance & Locator System (DHAAL)**, was also among the top ten finalists, further solidifying the university's position as a hub of innovation.

Jamia Millia Islamia takes immense pride in KrishiGRO's outstanding achievement and reaffirms its commitment to advancing entrepreneurship, innovation, and sustainability.

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