# SUPER CROP SAFE LIMITED

WHISTLEBLOWER POLICY

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## 1. PREFACE

The Company believes in the conduct of the affairs of its constituents in a fair and transparent manner by adopting highest standards of professionalism, honesty, integrity and ethical behaviour. Towards this end, the Company has adopted Code of Conduct which lays down the principles and standards that should govern the actions of the Company and its employees. Any actual or potential violation of the Code, howsoever insignificant or perceived as such, would be a matter of serious concern for the Company. The role of the employees in pointing out such violations of the Code cannot be undermined.

Super Crop Safe Limited (herein after referred as "the Company") being listed company requires to establish a vigil mechanism for directors and employees to report the genuine concerns as per the provisions of the section 177 of the Companies Act, 2013 in such manner as may be prescribed.

Regulation 22 of the Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirement Regulation, 2015 between listed companies and the Stock Exchanges, inter alia also provides a mandatory requirement for all listed companies to devise an effective whistleblower mechanism for directors and employees to report concerns about unethical behavior, actual or suspected fraud or violation of the company's code of conduct or ethics policy.

The company has adopted a Code of Conduct ("the Code") for directors and senior management, which lays down the principles and standards that should govern the action of the company and its employees.

Accordingly, this Whistleblower Policy ("the Policy") has been formulated with a view to provide a mechanism for directors and employees of the Company to approach the chairman of the Audit Committee of the Company.

# 2. OBJECTIVE OF THE POLICY

The purpose and objective of this Policy is to provide a framework to promote responsible and secure whistle blowing. It protects the employees wishing to raise a concern about serious irregularities within the Company.

To maintain the standards and objectives mentioned above, the Company encourages its directors and employees who have genuine concerns about suspected misconduct to come forward and express their concerns without fear of punishment or unfair treatment. A Vigil (Whistleblower) mechanism provides a channel to the employees and Directors to report to the management concerns about unethical behaviour, actual or suspected fraud or violation of the Code of conduct or policy. The mechanism provides for adequate safeguards against victimization of employees and Directors to avail of the mechanism and also provide for direct access to the Chairperson of the Audit Committee in exceptional cases.

This policy, however, neither releases employees from their duty of confidentiality in the course of their work nor can it be used as a route for raising malicious or unfounded allegations against people in authority and / or colleagues in general.

# 3. SCOPE OF THE POLICY

This Policy covers malpractices and events which have taken place, suspected to have taken place, misuse or abuse of authority, fraud or suspected fraud, violation of company rules, manipulations,

negligence causing danger to public health and safety, misappropriation of monies, and other matters or activity on account of which the interest of the Company is affected and formally reported by whistleblowers. This Policy is intended to encourage and enable employees to raise serious concerns within the Company prior to seeking resolution outside the Company.

They are not required or expected to act as investigators or finders of facts, nor would they determine the appropriate corrective or remedial action that may be warranted in a given case. Whistleblowers should not act on their own in conducting any investigative activities, nor do they have a right to participate in any investigative activities other than as requested by the Chairman of the Audit Committee or the Investigators.

# 4. **DEFINITIONS**

"Audit Committee" means a Committee constituted by the Board of Directors of the Company in accordance with guidelines of Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirements Regulations, 2015 and Companies Act, 2013.

**"Board"** means the Board of Directors of the Company.

"Company" means the Super Crop Safe Limited.

"Code" means Code of Conduct and Ethics for Directors and Senior Management adopted by Super Crop Safe Limited.

"**Employee**" means every employee of the Company including Directors in the employment of the Company.

"**Protected Disclosure**" means any communication in good faith that discloses or demonstrates information that may evidence unethical or improper activity.

"**Subject**" means a person or group of persons against or in relation to whom a Protected Disclosure is made or evidence gathered during the course of an investigation.

"Vigilance and Ethics Officer" means an officer appointed to receive protected disclosures from whistleblowers, maintaining records thereof, placing the same before the Audit Committee for its disposal and informing the Whistleblower the result thereof.

"Whistleblower" is an employee or group of employees who make a Protected Disclosure under this Policy and also referred in this policy as complainant.

# 5. **REPORTING OF PROTECTED DISCLOSURES**

All employees of the company are eligible to make protected disclosures under the policy in relation to matters concerning the company. The Company does not tolerate any malpractice, impropriety, statutory non-compliance or wrongdoing. This Policy ensures that employees are empowered to proactively bring to light such instances without fear of reprisal, discrimination or adverse employment consequences.

This Policy is not, however, intended to question financial or business decisions taken by the Company that are not Protected Disclosures nor should it be used as a means to reconsider any matters which have already been addressed pursuant to disciplinary or other internal procedures of the Company. This policy shall not be used:

- i. For raising grievances related to employees' own career / other personal grievances.
- ii. For raising grievances related to career of other employees / colleagues.
- iii. Grievances arising out of the policies / procedures of the Company and any taken by the superior / management in this respect.
- iv. Grievances related to such other similar issues like (i), (ii) and (iii) hereinabove.

All Protected Disclosures should be reported in writing by the Whistleblower as soon as possible after the Whistleblower becomes aware of the same so as to ensure a clear understanding of the issues raised.

Employees can lodge a Protected Disclosure in one of the following ways:

- i. By sending an email to super\_investors\_greivance@yahoo.in with the subject "Protected Disclosure under the Whistleblower Policy".
- By sending letter in a closed and secured envelop and super scribed as "Protected Disclosure under the Whistleblower Policy" to the Vigilance and Ethics Officer (as notified from time to time). Letter should either be typed or written in a legible handwriting in English or Hindi or Gujarati.

All Protected Disclosures should be addressed to the Vigilance and Ethics Officer of the Company or to the Chairman of the Audit Committee in exceptional cases.

The contact details of the Vigilance and Ethics Officer are as under :-

Name and Address -

CA. Naresh R. Panchal C-1/290, G.I.D.C Estate, Phase-I, Naroda, Ahmedabad-382330.

The Protected Disclosure should be forwarded under a covering letter which shall bear the identity of the Whistleblower. The Chairman of the Audit Committee / Vigilance and Ethics Officer or, as the case may be shall detach the covering letter and forward only the Protected Disclosure to the Investigators for investigation.

In order to protect identity of the complainant, the Vigilance and Ethics Officer will not issue any acknowledgement to the complainants and they are advised not to write their name / address on the envelope nor enter into any further correspondence with the Vigilance and Ethics Officer. The Vigilance and Ethics Officer shall assure that in case any further clarification is required he will get in touch with the complainant.

Anonymous / Pseudonymous disclosure shall not be entertained by the Vigilance and Ethics Officer. While this Policy is intended to protect genuine Whistleblowers from any unfair treatment as a result of their disclosure, misuse of this protection by making frivolous and bogus complaints with mala fide intentions is strictly prohibited. An employee who makes complaints with mala fide intentions and which is subsequently found to be false will be subject to strict disciplinary action.

The Whistleblower's role is that of a reporting party. Whistleblowers are not investigators or finders of facts; neither can they determine the appropriate corrective or remedial action that may be warranted.

All Protected Disclosures should be addressed to the Vigilance and Ethics Officer of the Company or to the Chairman of the Audit Committee in exceptional cases.

Protected Disclosure against the Vigilance and Ethics Officer should be addressed to the Chairman of the Audit Committee.

Although a Whistleblower is not required to furnish any more information than what he/she wishes to disclose, it is essential for the Company to have all critical information in order to enable the Company to effectively evaluate and investigate the complaint. It is difficult for the Company to proceed with an investigation on a complaint, which does not contain all the critical information such as the specific charge. The complaint or disclosure must therefore provide as much detail and be as specific as possible in order to facilitate the investigation.

To the extent possible, the complaint or disclosure must include the following:

- i. The employee, and/or outside party or parties involved;
- ii. The sector of the Company where it happened (Location, Department, office);
- iii. When did it happen: a date or a period or time;
- iv. Type of concern (what happened);
  - a) Financial reporting;
  - b) Legal matter;
  - c) Management action;
  - d) Employee misconduct; and/or
  - e) Health & safety and environmental issues.
- v. Submit proof or identify where proof can be found, if possible;
- vi. Who to contact for more information, if possible; and/or
- vii. Prior efforts to address the problem, if any.

## 6. RECEIPT, INVESTIGATION AND DISPOSAL OF PROTECTED DISCLOSURES

On receipt of the Protected Disclosure the Vigilance and Ethics Officer / the Chairman of the Audit Committee, as the case may be, shall make a record of the Protected Disclosure and also ascertain from the complainant whether he was the person who made the protected disclosure or not. He shall also carry out initial investigation either himself or by involving any other Officer of the Company

before referring the matter to the Audit Committee of the Company for further appropriate investigation and needful action. The record will include:

- i. Brief facts;
- ii. Whether the same Protected Disclosure was raised previously by anyone on the subject, and if so, the outcome thereof;

- iii. Details of actions taken by the Vigilance and Ethics Officer / the Chairman of the Audit Committee processing the complaint
- iv. Findings and recommendations.

The Audit Committee, if deems fit, may call for further information or particulars from complainant.

## Investigation

The decision to conduct an investigation is by itself not an accusation and is to be treated as a neutral fact finding process. Subject(s) will normally be informed in writing of the allegations at the outset of a formal investigation and have opportunities for providing their inputs during the investigation. He shall have a duty to co-operate with the Audit Committee or any of the Officers appointed by it in this regard and shall be subject to strict disciplinary action up to and including immediate dismissal, if they fail to cooperate in an investigation, or deliberately provide false information during an investigation.

Subject(s) have a right to consult with a person or persons of their choice, other than the Vigilance and Ethics Officer / Investigators and/or members of the Audit Committee and/or the Whistleblower. He has a responsibility not to interfere with the investigation. Evidence shall not be withheld, destroyed or tampered with and witness shall not be influenced, coached, threatened or intimidated by him.

Unless there are compelling reasons not to do so, he will be given the opportunity to respond to material findings contained in the investigation report. No allegation of wrong doing against him shall be considered as maintainable unless there is good evidence in support of the allegation. He has a right to be informed of the outcome of the investigations. If allegations are not sustained, he should be consulted as to whether public disclosure of the investigation results would be in the best interest of him and the Company.

The investigation shall be completed normally within 45 days of the receipt of the protected disclosure and is extendable by such period as the Audit Committee deems fit.

All information disclosed during the course of the investigation will remain confidential, except as necessary or appropriate to conduct the investigation and take any remedial action, in accordance with any applicable laws and regulations. The Company reserves the right to refer any concerns or complaints regarding Protected Disclosure to appropriate external regulatory authorities.

#### Disposal

If an investigation leads the Vigilance and Ethics Officer to conclude that an improper or unethical act has been committed, the Vigilance and Ethics Officer shall recommend to the management of the Company to take such disciplinary or corrective action commensurate with the severity of the offence, as he may deem fit. The company may also take reasonable and necessary measures to prevent any further violations which may have resulted in a complaint being made. It is clarified that any disciplinary or corrective action initiated against the Subject as a result of the findings of an investigation pursuant to this Policy shall adhere to the applicable personnel or staff conduct and disciplinary procedures.

The Vigilance and Ethics Officer shall submit a report to the Chairman of the Audit Committee on a regular basis about all Protected Disclosures referred to him/her since the last report together with the results of investigations, if any.

A complainant who makes false allegations of unethical & improper practices or about alleged wrongful conduct of the Subject to the Vigilance and Ethics Officer or The Chairman or Chairman of the Audit Committee shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the rules, procedures and policies of the Company.

# 7. PROTECTION

No Personnel who, in good faith, makes a disclosure or lodges a complaint in accordance with this Policy shall suffer reprisal, discrimination or adverse employment consequences. Accordingly, the Company prohibits discrimination, retaliation or harassment of any kind against a Whistleblower, who based on his/her reasonable belief that one or more Protected Disclosure has occurred or are, occurring, reports that information. Any employee, who retaliates against a Whistleblower who has raised a Protected Disclosure or Complaint in good faith, will be subject to strict disciplinary action up to and including immediate termination of employment or termination of his/her relationship with the Company.

If any employee, who makes a disclosure in good faith, believes that he/she is being subjected to discrimination, retaliation or harassment for having made a report under this Policy, he/she must immediately report those facts to his/her supervisor, manager or point of contact. If, for any reason, he/she do not feel comfortable discussing the matter with these persons, he/she should bring the matter to the attention of the Vigilance and Ethics Officer or The Chairman of the Audit Committee in exceptional cases. It is imperative that such employee brings the matter to the Company's attention promptly so that any concern of reprisal, discrimination or adverse employment consequences can be investigated and addressed promptly and appropriately.

A Whistleblower, who report any violation of the above clause to the Vigilance and Ethics Officer or the Chairman of the Audit Committee, who shall investigate into the same and recommend suitable action to the management

The company will take steps to minimize difficulties, which the Whistleblower may experience as a result of making the Protected Disclosure. The identity of the Whistleblower shall be kept confidential to the extent possible and permitted under law. Any other Employee assisting in the said investigation shall also be protected to the same extent as the Whistleblower.

The Whistleblower shall have right to access Chairman of the Audit Committee directly in exceptional cases and the Chairman of the Audit Committee is authorized to prescribe suitable directions in this regard.

# 8. INVESTIGATORS

Investigators are required to conduct a process towards fact-finding and analysis. Investigators shall derive their authority and access rights from the Vigilance and Ethics Officer/ Audit Committee when acting within the course and scope of their investigation.

Technical and other resources may be drawn upon as necessary to augment the investigation. All Investigators shall be independent and unbiased both in fact and as perceived. Investigators have a duty of fairness, objectivity, thoroughness, ethical behavior, and observance of legal and professional standards.

Investigations will be launched only after a preliminary review which establishes that:

i. the alleged act constitutes an improper or unethical activity or conduct, and

ii. either the allegation is supported by information specific enough to be investigated, or matters that do not meet this standard may be worthy of management review, but investigation itself should not be undertaken as an investigation of an improper or unethical activity.

# 9. **DECISION**

If an investigation leads the Vigilance and Ethics Officer/ Chairman of the Audit Committee to conclude that an improper or unethical act has been committed, the Vigilance and Ethics Officer / Chairman of the Audit Committee shall recommend to the management of the Company to take such disciplinary or corrective action as the Vigilance and Ethics Officer / Chairman of the Audit Committee deems fit. It is clarified that any disciplinary or corrective action initiated against the Subject as a result of the findings of an investigation pursuant to this Policy shall adhere to the applicable personnel or staff conduct and disciplinary procedures.

# **10. REPORTING**

The Vigilance and Ethics Officer shall submit a report to the Audit Committee on a regular basis about all Protected Disclosures referred to him/her since the last report together with the results of investigations, if any.

# 11. RETENTION OF DOCUMENTS

The Company shall maintain documentation of all Protected Disclosures or reports subject to this Policy. The documentation shall include any written submissions provided by the complainant, any other Company documents identified in the complaint or by the Company as relevant to the complaint, a summary of the date and manner in which the complaint was received by the Company and any response by the Company to the complainant. All such documentation shall be retained by the Company for a minimum of five (5) years or such other period as specified by any other law in force, whichever is more, from the date of receipt of the complaint. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent reasonably practicable depending on the requirements and nature of the investigation, as indicated above.

# 12. AMENDMENT TO THIS POLICY

The Company reserves its right to amend or modify this Policy in whole or in part, at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever. Modification may be necessary, among other reasons, to maintain compliance with local, state, central and federal regulations and/or accommodate organizational changes within the Company. However, no such amendment or modification will be binding on the Employees and Directors unless the same is notified to them in writing.

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