

## **Brief profile of VR (Ram) Kaundinya**

Ram Kaundinya is an expert in the field of management especially in the business of agriculture. He has a total corporate experience of about 35 years at very senior positions. He is an author, strategic management consultant, teacher and a policy analyst in India.

A graduate in Agricultural Sciences from the Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University, Bapatla campus and a Post Graduate Diploma in Management with specialization in Agriculture from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.

### **Industry Experience.**

He worked for 22 years in agrochemical industry including 14 years with Hoechst India and 8 years with Cyanamid India, the last assignment being the Managing Director of Cyanamid Agro.

Subsequently he worked for 13 years in the seed industry including 5 years as the Managing Director of Emergent Genetics and 8 years as the Global CEO of Advanta Seeds.

Mergers and Acquisitions was a major area of expertise that he developed during his career.

### **Policy Analysis and Advocacy work:**

He was the Chairman of the Agriculture Group of the biotech industry association called ABLE AG for 4 years. He is currently the Director General of Federation of Seed Industry of India (FSII).

He has been at the forefront of the expansion of biotechnology applications in agriculture in India. Served as a member of the MS Swaminathan Task Force that developed the biotechnology policy for Indian agriculture between 2002 and 2004.

He has a wide experience in the area of policy advocacy for agricultural input industry. He writes regularly in the print media about various agricultural matters of national importance with particular reference to the policy interventions.

### **Academic Work:**

He teaches courses in Marketing and Corporate Strategy to MBA students in different institutions. He co-authored a book titled 'Agri Input Marketing in India' with Prof Venugopal of XLRI.

### **Consulting and Board Memberships:**

He served as an independent director on the boards of Axis Bank (2009- 2017). Currently he is on the boards of some companies including Axis Finance (a Non Banking Financial Company that is fully owned by Axis Bank) and Syngenta India.

He serves on the Expert Review Committee of Access to Seeds Foundation, Netherlands ([www.accesstoseeds.org](http://www.accesstoseeds.org)).

He serves on the MAIZE Independent Steering Committee of the CGIAR Institution CYMMIT. The ISC advises the Research Program on maize (known as “MAIZE”) on matters of strategy, priorities and program management.

Served as a member of a committee set up by the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Prime Minister of India to suggest “Agricultural policies and action plans for a secure and sustainable agriculture“ under the Chairmanship of Dr Raj Paroda. The report is submitted in August 2019.

He co-founded ThinkAg, a platform to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in food and agri sectors in 2018. ([www.thinkag.in](http://www.thinkag.in))

He is a partner with a global philanthropic organization called Social Venture Partners in their Hyderabad chapter. Helps NGOs to scale up their operations. ([www.socialventurepartners.org](http://www.socialventurepartners.org)).