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## AgSri inks pact to sell US firm's drip irrigation system

Our Bureau

Hyderabad, April 16

AgSri Agricultural Services Private Limited, an agriculture firm funded by Mr Akula Vikram, has signed an agreement with the US-firm Dripteck to exclusively distribute drip irrigation equipment in Andhra Pradesh.

Launched already in Maharashtra and Gujarat, the equipment costs Rs 12,000 an acre for a four-year system.

This comes with proprietary technology that puts very small holes in pipes, allowing water to drip at a uniform pressure.

AgSri promoter Dr Biksham Gujja, who developed water-efficient irrigation system for sugarcane, said Dripteck's equipment could be used for seasonal crops.

Mr Peter Frykman, Chief Executive Officer of Dripteck, said his company would set up a manufacturing facility in India to produce the equipment locally.

The company entered into exclusive agreements with Siddhi Vinayak Agri Processing, Godrej Agrovet and Namdhari Seeds for different States and crops. It has covered



**Low-cost system:** Ms Sarah Huber, Director of Business Development, DripTech Inc; Mr Peter Frykman, Founder and CEO of DripTech Inc; and Mr Biskham Gujja, Founder and Chairperson of AgSri unveiling a low-cost drip irrigation system for small farmers in Hyderabad on Monday. — P.V. Sivakumar

about 1,500 acres in India so far.

"We would like to cover Andhra Pradesh first. Later, we might look at States like Uttar

Pradesh and Punjab," he said.

He said that the new solution was far more efficient and cheaper than the conventional

drip irrigation systems. "Farmers need not spend huge amounts. Besides, it avoids clogging in the holes. Water us-

age will come down by 60 per cent," Dr Biksham said.

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