India | Agribusiness

# **PI Industries**

Equity Research December 14, 2023

# Key product risk manageable

Innovator guided for volume driven growth in key product in FY24 despite price reduction to protect market share. PI doesn't expect any price erosion on the product as it's price for the AI is a fraction of the final retail price. Committed volumes in FY25 provide strong growth visibility. We have lowered FY24/25E EPS 2%/4% on short destocking and project 12% EPS growth in FY25E. Valuation is reasonable at 29x FY25E EPS. Maintain Buy, PT Rs 4,120.

**Kumiai guides for vol driven growth in Pyroxasulfone in FY24:** Kumiai guided for 3% US \$ value growth in agrochem segment in FY24 (ending Oct-24) driven by volume growth in pyroxasulfone. 1HFY24 will see some destocking with improvement in 2H.

Some price cut to counter generics in FY24: Kumiai will take some price cuts to counter generics. We note that Kumiai has ~94% market share in Australia after 2 years of patent expiry despite introduction of generics by prominent players like Bayer CropScience, Adama, UPL and Nufarm.

PI doesn't expect any price erosion on its supplies of the product: PI works on cost+ basis where its costs are reviewed periodically by the innovator. The pricing contract allows for adjustment of raw material costs only. PI's price for pyroxasulfone AI supplies are a fraction (~15%) of the final retail price of the product. PI expects the price adjustment by the innovator to come out of the marketing margin across the chain rather than its contracted price. It expects to protect margins near current levels in FY25.

Mgmt expects strong volume growth in FY25: Committed offtake currently points to strong volume growth in pyroxasulfone in FY25. The patent on solo pyroxasulfone that accounts for 15% of overall sales volume of the product runs out in the US in Feb-25. Company expects the threat from generics FY26 onwards to be mitigated as 85% of pyroxasulfone sales by volume happen in the form of combinations that are protected by patents in the US market till the end of this decade.

**Inorganic growth optionality:** PI has net cash of Rs 29bn as of 1HFY24 and has a portfolio heavily weighted towards Japanese innovators. This opens up interesting opportunity to acquire a CSM player with strong innovator relationships in the US/the EU in our view. This could offset the erosion in pyroxasulfone market share/pricing in the medium term.

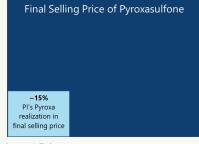
We expect 12% EPS growth in FY25E, maintain Buy: We lower FY24/25E revenue 2%/4% on account of short destocking cycle. We have cut FY24/25E EPS 2%/4% as a result. We see Pl's strong visibility of volumes and steady pricing yielding 12% EPS growth y/y in FY25E. Stock trades at 29x FY25E making risk-reward favorable in our view. Maintain Buy with PT of Rs 4,120 - at 33x fwd PE.

(FY Mar)	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E
Rev. (MM)	64,920.0	81,864.0	93,263.0	109,533
EBITDA (MM)	15,421.0	19,825.0	22,461.0	25,808.0
Net Profit	12,295.0	15,648.0	17,545.0	20,328.0
EPS	81.04	103.14	115.64	133.99

TARGET   ESTIMATE CHANGE								
RATING	BUY							
PRICE	INR3,363.50^							
PRICE TARGET I % TO PT	<b>VINR4,120 (INR4,290)</b>							
TRICE TARGET   % TOT T	+22%							
52W HIGH-LOW	INR4,010.00 - INR2,870.00							
FLOAT (%)   ADV MM (USD)	52.1%   1,637.23							
MARKET CAP	INR510.3B   INR510.3B							
TICKER	PI IN							
^Prior trading day's closin noted.	ng price unless otherwise							
CHANGE TO	) JEFe JEF vs CONS							

	CH	ANGE I	J JEFe	JEF V	s CONS
	2	2024	2025	2024	2025
REV		-2%	-4%	NA	NA
EPS		-2%	-4%	NA	NA
2024 (INR)	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	FY
EPS	-	-	-	- 4	103.14
PREV					105.29

Exhibit 1 - Majority of marketing margins of pyroxasulfone is in the pricing chain outside of Pl's realizations



Source: Jefferies

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PI Industries (PI IN)

Equity Research December 14, 2023

# The Long View: PI Industries

### Investment Thesis / Where We Differ

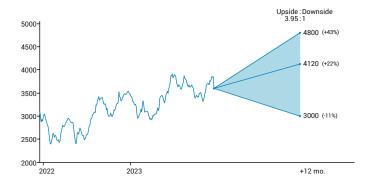
PI Industries is a major player in the agrochemical CDMO space with a strong presence in both domestic and export markets. The company recently diversified into pharma CDMO space.

Pharma entry derisks agrochem concentration, earnings contribution to remain low in the near term.

Global agro chem destocking near-term risk to growth, strong growth of key product could cushion downside.

Expect healthy earnings growth over FY23-26E.

#### Risk/Reward - 12 Month View



# Base Case, INR4120, +22%

Revenue CAGR 19% over FY23-26E on robust outlook on CSM growth

EBITDA margin stable at c.24%

19% EBITDA CAGR and 18% PAT CAGR over FY23-26E

PT Rs 4,120 at 33x fwd P/E

# Upside Scenario, INR4800, +43%

Revenue CAGR 22% over FY23-26E, limited impact of generics on key product

25% EBITDA CAGR and 25% PAT CAGR over FY23-26E

PT Rs 4,800 at 40x fwd P/E

# Downside Scenario, INR3000, -11%

Revenue CAGR 17% over FY23-26E, higher than expected impact of generics on key product

15% EBITDA CAGR and 15% PAT CAGR over FY23-26E

PT Rs 3,000 at 27x fwd P/E

## Sustainability Matters

**Top Material Issue(s): 1) Hazardous material/waste management:** Adequate systems and processes are required for handling, storage, and transportation of hazardous material handling and waste disposal. **2) Process design to reduce waste:** Moving to continuous process from batch processes and using reduction at source to lower effluent production.

**Company Target(s): 1)** Increase renewable energy usage to 20% of total **2)** Reduce Specific CO2 emission by 25%. **3)** Reduce specific freshwater consumption by 25%. **4)** Reduce landfill Hazardous waste by 25%

Qs to Mgmt: 1) What process do you follow to track hazardous waste through disposal?

ESG Sector Integration | Indian Chemicals

### Catalysts

### **Downside Catalysts:**

Global agro chem slowdown

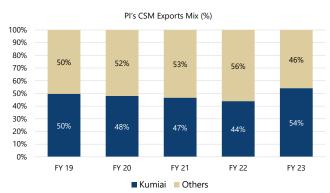
Failure to adhere to environmental standards

### **Upside Catalysts:**

Faster scale up of Pharma business

New inorganic acquisitions

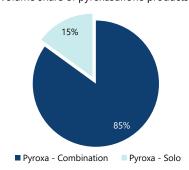
Exhibit 2 - Pyroxasulfone contributes 54% of PI's CSM revenues as of FY23



Source: Company reports, Jefferies

Exhibit 4 - 85% of pyroxa by volumes is patent protected till 2030

Volume share of pyroxasulfone products (%)



Source: Jefferies

Exhibit 6 - PI 1-yr fwd consensus PE band chart



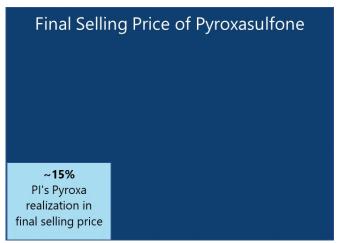
Source: Bloomberg, Jefferies

Exhibit 3 - Pyroxasulfone patent expiry timeline across different geographies

Country	Patent Expiry	FY22 Revenue (bn yen)	Revenue share (%)
Australia	2021	11	19%
Argentina	2022	7	12%
USA	2025	28	52%
Brazil	2030	5	8%
India		2	4%
Others		2	4%

Source: Company reports, Jefferies

Exhibit 5 - Majority of marketing margins of pyroxasulfone is in the pricing chain outside of PI's realizations



Source: Jefferies

Exhibit 7 - PI Summary Income Statement

(Rs mm)	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18	FY 19	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23	FY 24E	FY 25E	FY 26E
Net Revenues	20,963	22,768	22,771	28,409	33,665	45,770	52,995	64,920	81,864	93,263	109,533
Raw Material Costs	(11,585)	(11,632)	(11,690)	(15,502)	(18,474)	(25,712)	(29,228)	(35,527)	(43,946)	(51,590)	(61,161)
Gross Profit	9,378	11,136	11,081	12,907	15,191	20,058	23,767	29,393	37,917	41,673	48,372
Gross Profit Margin (%)	44.7%	48.9%	48.7%	45.4%	45.1%	43.8%	44.8%	45.3%	46.3%	44.7%	44.2%
Staff Costs	(1,931)	(2,226)	(2,431)	(2,647)	(3,209)	(4,169)	(4,804)	(5,266)	(7,040)	(8,021)	(9,420)
Other Operating Expenses	(3,135)	(3,378)	(3,715)	(4,496)	(4,804)	(5,767)	(7,539)	(8,706)	(11,052)	(11,192)	(13,144)
EBITDA	4,312	5,533	4,935	5,764	7,178	10,122	11,424	15,421	19,825	22,461	25,808
EBITDA Margin (%)	20.6%	24.3%	21.7%	20.3%	21.3%	22.1%	21.6%	23.8%	24.2%	24.1%	23.6%
Depreciation and Amortization	(543)	(730)	(830)	(930)	(1,367)	(1,748)	(2,018)	(2,265)	(2,847)	(3,374)	(3,826)
EBIT	3,770	4,802	4,105	4,834	5,811	8,374	9,406	13,156	16,978	19,087	21,982
EBIT Margin (%)	18%	21%	18%	17%	17%	18%	18%	20%	21%	20%	20%
Finance Costs	(96)	(72)	(53)	(50)	(170)	(282)	(128)	(371)	0	0	0
Other Income	355	366	602	595	489	1,249	1,014	1,590	1,576	1,718	2,127
Share of profit of JV/associates	0	(1)	1	0	8	44	36	68	75	82	91
PBT	4,028	5,095	4,655	5,379	6,138	9,385	10,328	14,443	18,629	20,887	24,200
PBT Margin (%)	19.2%	22.4%	20.4%	18.9%	18.2%	20.5%	19.5%	22.2%	22.8%	22.4%	22.1%
Taxes	(913)	(501)	(979)	(1,277)	(1,572)	(2,002)	(1,890)	(2,148)	(2,981)	(3,342)	(3,872)
Current Tax	(909)	(1,035)	(1,001)	(1,176)	(1,246)	(1,689)	(1,847)	(2,592)	(2,981)	(3,342)	(3,872)
Deferred Tax/Others	(4)	534	22	(101)	(326)	(313)	(43)	444	0	0	0
PAT	3,116	4,594	3,676	4,102	4,566	7,383	8,438	12,295	15,648	17,545	20,328
PAT Margin (%)	15%	20%	16%	14%	14%	16%	16%	19%	19%	19%	19%
ROE (%)	30%	33%	21%	19%	19%	19%	15%	18%	20%	19%	18%
ROCE (%)	25%	25%	17%	17%	17%	15%	13%	16%	18%	17%	16%

Exhibit 8 - PI Summary Balance Sheet

(Rs mm)	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18	FY 19	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23	FY 24E	FY 25E	FY 26E
Assets											
7.550.0											
Non Current Assets											
Gross PP&E	9,222	10,615	11,953	14,734	21,578	26,088	31,039	34,606	48,790	57,020	66,250
Accumulated Depreciation	528	1,239	2,047	2,943	4,240	5,891	7,709	9,662	12,509	15,883	19,709
Net PP&E	8,693	9,376	9,906	11,791	17,338	20,197	23,330	24,944	36,281	41,137	46,541
Capital work in progress	587	583	691	1,544	2,371	2,495	638	625	625	625	625
Goodwill	0	0	0	0	828	828	828	828	828	828	828
Other intangible assets	174	268	285	452	854	890	1,064	1,240	1,240	1,240	1,240
Other non-current assets	471	607	764	852	770	678	2,412	537	537	537	537
Total non current assets	9,926	10,835	11,646	14,639	22,161	25,088	28,272	28,174	39,511	44,367	49,771
Inventories	3.948	4.319	4.520	5,357	7.989	10.528	14,234	13,976	19.064	22.996	27.008
Investments	5,946 0	824	1,595	1,119	1,325	8,517	8,547	9,843	10,335	10,852	11,395
Trade receivables	3,978	4,237	5,268	6,618	6,465	7,035	8,687	9,843 7,720	9,735	11,090	13,025
Cash and cash equivalents	560	1,326	1,307	892	1,344	14.757	14.102	22,429	20.414	27.106	35,736
Other current assets	1.075	1,326	1,307	2,923	2,964	4,094	4,069	2,655	2,655	2,655	2,655
	,										
Total current assets	9,560	12,179	14,618	16,909	20,087	44,931	49,639	56,623	62,204	74,699	89,819
Total Assets	19,486	23,014	26,264	31,548	42,248	70,019	77,911	84,797	101,715	119,066	139,590
Equity and Liabilities											
Equity Share Capital	137	138	138	138	138	152	152	152	152	152	152
Other Equity	11.572	16,134	19,110	22,716	26,053	53,272	61.052	71.833	85,916	101.707	120.002
Total Equity	11,709	16,272	19,248	22,854	26,191	53,424	61,204	71,985	86,068	101,859	120,154
Borrowings	1,224	830	463	99	3,994	2,574	1,699	0	0	0	0
Other financial liabilities	286	399	416	480	956	655	651	781	781	781	781
Deferred tax liabilities (net)	353	0	0	0	102	796	875	213	213	213	213
Total non current liabilities	1,864	1,229	879	579	5,052	4,025	3,225	994	994	994	994
Borrowings	20	0	0	0	1,083	705	979	0	0	0	0
Current maturities of long term debt	0	0	0	0	1,003	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trade payables	3.661	2,878	3.687	5.130	5.909	7,960	9,242	8.380	11,214	12,776	15,005
Other financial liabilities	1,783	2,228	2.144	2,419	2,970	2,488	1,988	2,230	2,230	2,230	2,230
Other current liabilities	449	408	306	566	1,043	2,400 1,417	1,273	1,208	1,208	1,208	1,208
Total current liabilities	5,913	5,513	6,137	8,115	11,005	12,570	13,482	11,818	14,652	16,214	18,443
	· ·	•		·			_				
Total Liabilities	7,777	6,742	7,016	8,694	16,057	16,595	16,707	12,812	15,646	17,208	19,437
Total Equity and Liabilities	19,486	23,014	26,264	31,548	42,248	70,019	77,911	84,797	101,715	119,066	139,590
				-		•	-			•	-

Exhibit 9 - PI Summary Cash Flow Statement

(Rs mm)	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18	FY 19	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23	FY 24E	FY 25E	FY 26E
Cash From Operating Activities											
Cash generated from operations	4,626	4,601	4,157	5,091	8,029	8,896	7,038	17,572	15,631	18,817	22,181
Income tax paid	(958)	(1,212)	(963)	(1,183)	(1,048)	(1,647)	(1,751)	(2,558)	(2,981)	(3,342)	(3,872)
Net Cash From Operating Activities	3,668	3,388	3,194	3,908	6,981	7,249	5,287	15,014	12,651	15,475	18,309
Cash From Investing Activities											
Capital Expenditure	(3,188)	(1,413)	(1,696)	(3,677)	(6,693)	(4,375)	(3,362)	(3,225)	(14,184)	(8,230)	(9,230)
Others	154	(939)	(109)	461	(3,156)	(19,929)	2,258	(1,737)	1,083	1,201	1,585
Net Cash From Investing Activities	(3,034)	(2,351)	(1,805)	(3,216)	(9,849)	(24,304)	(1,104)	(4,962)	(13,101)	(7,029)	(7,645)
Cash From Financing Activities											
Proceeds from issue of shares / Buyback of shares	63	83	19	29	80	19,789	0	0	0	0	0
Net Borrowings	287	(297)	(365)	(399)	4,562	(1,786)	(720)	(2,669)	0	0	0
Payment towards lease liability	0	0	0	0	(215)	(248)	(210)	(683)	0	0	0
Finance costs paid	(101)	(72)	(53)	(50)	(179)	(244)	(85)	(342)	0	0	0
Dividends paid (including Tax)	(725)	(248)	(662)	(831)	(748)	(607)	(758)	(1,137)	(1,565)	(1,754)	(2,033)
Net Cash From Financing Activities	(476)	(534)	(1,061)	(1,251)	3,500	16,904	(1,773)	(4,831)	(1,565)	(1,754)	(2,033)
Net Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents	159	503	328	(559)	632	(151)	2,410	5,221	(2,015)	6,691	8,630

Exhibit 10 - PI Key Ratios Summary

(Rs mm)	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18	FY 19	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23	FY 24E	FY 25E	FY 26E
Income Statement											
Earnings Per Share (EPS) (Rs/share)	22.6	33.3	26.6	29.7	33.1	49.9	55.6	81.0	103.14	115.64	133.99
Dividend Per Share (DPS) (Rs/share)	5.3	1.8	4.8	6.0	5.4	4.1	5.0	10.0	10.3	11.6	13.4
ROE (%)	30.1%	32.8%	20.7%	19.5%	18.6%	18.5%	14.7%	18.5%	19.8%	18.7%	18.3%
ROCE (%)	25.0%	24.6%	17.1%	17.3%	16.9%	15.5%	12.7%	15.7%	17.8%	16.9%	16.5%
Dividend Payout (%)	23%	5%	18%	20%	16%	8%	9%	12%	10%	10%	10%
Balance Sheet											
Book Value (Rs mm)	11,709	16,272	19,248	22,854	26,191	53,424	61,204	71,985	86,068	101,859	120,154
Book Value Per Share (Rs/share)	84.9	117.9	139.5	165.6	189.7	361.0	403.4	474.5	567.3	671.4	792.0
Net Debt (Rs mm)	684	(1,321)	(2,439)	(1,912)	2,408	(19,995)	(19,971)	(32,272)	(30,749)	(37,958)	(47,131)
Net Debt/Equity (%)	6%	-8%	-13%	-8%	9%	-37%	-33%	-45%	-36%	-37%	-39%
Net Debt/EBITDA (x)	0.2 x	-0.2 x	-0.5 x	-0.3 x	0.3 x	-2.0 x	-1.7 x	-2.1 x	-1.6 x	-1.7 x	-1.8 x
Cash Flow											
FCFF (Rs mm)	480	1,976	1,498	231	288	2,874	1,925	11,789	(1,533)	7,245	9,079
FCFE (Rs mm)	379	1,904	1,445	181	109	2,630	1,840	11,447	(1,533)	7,245	9,079
FCFF per share (Rs/share)	3.2	13.0	9.9	1.5	1.9	18.9	12.7	77.7	(10.1)	47.8	59.8
FCFE per share (Rs/share)	2.5	12.5	9.5	1.2	0.7	17.3	12.1	75.4	(10.1)	47.8	59.8
Valuation											
EV/EBITDA (x)	118.7 x	92.1 x	103.1 x	88.3 x	71.5 x	48.5 x	43.0 x	31.1 x	24.2 x	21.1 x	18.0 x
P/B (x)	39.7 x	28.6 x	24.2 x	20.3 x	17.8 x	9.3 x	8.4 x	7.1 x	5.9 x	5.0 x	4.3 x
P/E (x)	149.2 x	101.2 x	126.5 x	113.3 x	101.9 x	67.5 x	60.6 x	41.6 x	32.7 x	29.1 x	25.1 x
Dividend Yield (%)	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%
FCF Yield (%)	0.1%	0.4%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	0.4%	2.2%	-0.3%	1.4%	1.8%
Earnings Yield (%)	0.7%	1.0%	0.8%	0.9%	1.0%	1.5%	1.7%	2.4%	3.1%	3.4%	4.0%



# Company Description

#### PI Industries

PI Industries Ltd. engages in the manufacturing and selling of agro-inputs, which comprises of crop protection chemicals and plant growth nutrients. Its products include insecticides, fungicides, and herbicides. The firm also focuses on activities, such as research and development, market research, and investment. The company was founded by P. P. Singhal in 1946 and is headquartered in Gurgaon, India.

# Company Valuation/Risks

#### PI Industries

We value PI at 33x P/E for a PT of Rs 4,120. Key upside risks: Stronger CSM growth, Earnings accretive acquisition/s, Pharma ramp up better than guidance. Key Downside risks: Global agro chem cycle downturn, generic competition for Pyroxasulfone, deficient monsoon in India

#### Bayer AG

Valuation: PT represents the average of our DCF (€37/share) and SOTP (€38/share).

Risks include unfavourable litigation outcomes, weak corn/soy/wheat commodity prices, market share losses and patent expiries.

#### Nufarm

Our valuation is based on a DCF. The risk profile of Nufarm would be materially improved by the Latin American sale. The trading risks are mainly related to seasonal conditions which are impossible to predict with any degree of accuracy, and the ongoing improvement in the recent European acquisitions as the raw material supply issues are resolved. The legal challenges facing glyphosate may also present a risk to the share price periodically.

#### **UPL Limited**

**Valuation:** Our PT stands at Rs 675. We assign a target PE multiple of 9x to Sep'25e earnings; target PE at ~25% discount to stock's historical five-year average multiple.

**Key risks to our PT and estimates:** In our opinion, key to monitor in UPL's core business are global business scenario, channel inventories, pricing power, regional mix, high capex (50% toward registrations), currency fluctuations, and synergies emanating post Arysta integration. Other key risks are global disruption, pricing pressures, and missing the stated target on deleveraging.

### **Analyst Certification:**

I, Bhaskar Chakraborty, certify that all of the views expressed in this research report accurately reflect my personal views about the subject security(ies) and subject company(ies). I also certify that no part of my compensation was, is, or will be, directly or indirectly, related to the specific recommendations or views expressed in this research report.

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### Investment Recommendation Record

#### (Article 3(1)e and Article 7 of MAR)

Recommendation Published December 14, 2023 , 12:31 ET.
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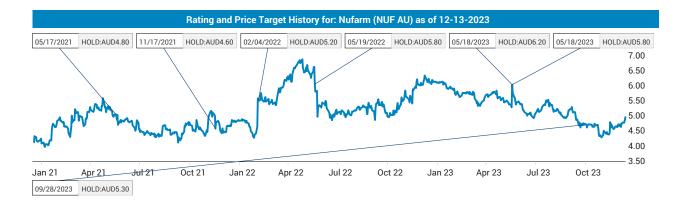
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### Other Companies Mentioned in This Report

- Bayer AG (BAYN GR: €31.06, HOLD)
- Nufarm (NUF AU: AUD4.89, HOLD)
- UPL Limited (UPLL IN: INR599.30, BUY)









**Notes:** Each box in the Rating and Price Target History chart above represents actions over the past three years in which an analyst initiated on a company, made a change to a rating or price target of a company or discontinued coverage of a company.

<u>Legend:</u>

- I: Initiating Coverage
- D: Dropped Coverage
- B: Buy
- H: Hold

UP: Underperform

Distribution of Ratings			IB Serv./P	ast12 Mos.	JIL Mkt Serv./Past12 Mos.		
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	
BUY	1938	58.55%	322	16.62%	115	5.93%	
HOLD	1210	36.56%	109	9.01%	17	1.40%	
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