

CMP: INR 513

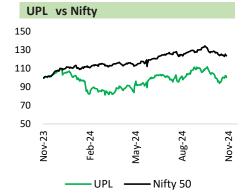
Rating: BUY

Target Price: INR 646

Stock Info	
BSE	512070
NSE	UPL
Bloomberg	UPLL:IN
Sector	Agrochemicals
Face Value (INR)	2
Equity Capital (INR Bn)	150
Mkt Cap (INR Bn)	386
52w H/L (INR)	625/448
Avg Yearly Volume (in 000')	467

Shareholding Pattern % (As on Sept, 2024)	
Promoters	32.51
FIIs	34.22
DIIs	17.64
Public & Others	15.59

Stock Performance (%)	1m	6m	12m
UPL	-12.0%	-3.9%	-7.1
NIFTY	-3.3%	9.2%	24.2%



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Excess Capacities in China not letting Supplies dry down, recovery expected after Q1FY26

UPL Ltd has reported Net Loss of INR 4.43 bn on account of strong volume growth of 16% YoY negated by a price erosion of 7% YoY across all product segments of the Company. The Company's earnings were below our estimates across all parameters. Revenues came at INR 110.9 bn (down 22.3% QoQ / down 9% YoY) against our estimates of INR 105.2 bn. EBITDA for Q2FY25 stood at INR 15.76 bn (up 37.6% QoQ/ flat YoY) against our estimates of INR 15.99 bn. EBITDA Margins expanded by 160 bps QoQ / down 130 bps YoY to 14.2%. Q2FY25 Net Loss reported was INR 4.43 bn against Net Loss of INR 3.84 bn in Q1FY25 and Net Loss of 1.89 bn in Q2FY25, below our estimates of Net Profit of INR 0.92 bn.

Anticipating Demand recovery in H2CY25 Across Different Regions

Channel inventories across export markets remain higher than historical levels which the Management attributed to the excess capacities in China has ben dumping to. Revenue in Latin America markets were flat annually to INR 44.47 bn, up 1% YoY, North America was up by 16% YoY to INR 4.15 bn, Europe was up by 18% YoY to INR 12.6 bn while Rest of the World fell marginally by 2% YoY to INR 15.34 bn. In India, Crop Protection was up by 20% YoY in Q2FY25, which was flat on H1FY25 basis, reflecting slow start to monsoon season demand in Telangana and Karnataka along with lower cotton crop acreage in Northern India.

Some countries in LatAm region still preferring Chinese supplies

UPL's largest markets in Latin America including Brazil, saw good demand of Insecticides and Fungicides. However, they witnessed Brazil was impacted by price erosion of Insecticides.

Debt levels to remain elevated in the Medium Term

The Company intends to close the rights issue of USD 400 mn to reduce debts to be completed by FY25 end. The Net Debt stands at USD 3.33 bn, which we believe will remain at high levels in the near future, although the Management intends to bring it down to USD 2.5 bn levels, as earlier guided.

OUTLOOK

UPL saw good volume growth of 16% YoY across all markets while Prices declined by 7% for Q2FY25 for overall blended chemical prices. Although the Company has stopped giving discounts in LatAm markets, the supplies remain high from Chinese suppliers due to excess capacities in China. UPL has implemented cost effective measures due to which the SG&A expenses reduced by 3% in Q1FY25 over last year and the company intends to reduce FY25 SG&A expenses by USD 100 mn against FY24 expenses. Due to the H1FY25 earnings and lower expectations for the full year FY25, we have reduced our estimates for the current year and FY26E & FY27E, but believe demand to pick up from H2FY25 and beyond. Hence, we remain positive on UPL Ltd, valuing the company at 7x EV/EBITDA of its revised FY27E EBITDA of INR 96 bn, with a revised target price of INR 646 per share (earlier INR 690) giving an upside of 26% from current levels with BUY ratings.

Link to Our Initiating Coverage Report: Click Here

Valuation summary (Rs Bn)	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Net Sales	431	437	551	606
EBIDTA	55	44	89	96
Net Profit	(7)	(7)	25	28
PAT Adj	(5)	(6)	21	23
Diluted EPS	(6.2)	(7.4)	27.6	30.3
P/E (x)	(116.1)	(96.6)	25.9	23.6
EV/EBIDTA (x)	13.2	16.6	8.3	7.5
P/BV (x)	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.7
Debt/Equity (x)	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6

Particulars (Consolidated)(In INR Mn)	Q2FY25	Q1FY25	Q2FY24	Q-o-Q	Y-o-Y
Revenue from Operations	110,900	90,670	101,700	22.3%	9.0%
Raw Material Costs	58,230	45,200	52,320	28.8%	11.3%
Gross Profit	52,670	45,470	49,380	15.8%	6.7%
Gross Margin (%)	47.5%	50.1%	48.6%	-5.3%	-2.2%
Employee Cost	13,370	13,370	12,510	0.0%	6.9%
Other Exp	25,780	21,090	23,620	22.2%	9.1%
EBITDA	13,520	11,010	13,250	22.8%	2.0%
EBITDA Margin %	12.2%	12.1%	13.0%	0.4%	-6.4%
Depreciation	6,970	6,600	6,570	5.6%	6.1%
EBIT	6,550	4,410	6,680	48.5%	-1.9%
Other Income	1,110	980	1,050	13.3%	5.7%
Finance costs	10,700	9,130	8,710	17.2%	22.8%
PBT	(3,040)	(3,740)	(980)	-18.7%	210.2%
Share of (loss)/profit from JV	(1,350)	(320)	(2,040)	321.9%	-33.8%
Exceptional Items	(80)	(490)	(870)	-83.7%	-90.8%
Total taxes	-1,380	-720	960	91.7%	-243.8%
PAT	(5,850)	(5,270)	(2,930)	11.0%	99.7%
PAT Margin (%)	-5.3%	-5.8%	-2.9%	-9.2%	83.1%

Concall Highlights

Guidance:

- Going forward, the Company is focused on improving margins, driven by new product launches, favourable product mix, increase in market share, lower input cost and cost optimization measures.
- · They are trying to reduce working capital through strict credit control and improved collections.
- The Company anticipates a revenue growth of 4-8% YoY, backed by a strong pipeline of new products.
- The Management guided the capex to be in the range of INR 18 bn for FY25.
- They are exploring for inorganic growth opportunities in the coming future.
- The Company expects to maintain a net debt-to-EBITDA ratio of 2.2x by March 2025 and below 2x after the rights issue proceeds are received.
- They plan to raise USD 400 mn through a rights issue to strengthen the Company's financial position.

Key Highlights:

- Revenues came at INR 110.9 bn (down 22.3% QoQ / down 9% YoY) against consensus estimates of INR 105.2 bn.
- EBITDA for Q2FY25 stood at INR 15.76 bn (up 37.6% QoQ/ flat YoY) against consensus estimates of INR 15.99 bn.
- EBITDA Margins expanded by 160 bps QoQ / down 130 bps YoY to 14.2%.
- Q2FY25 Net Loss reported was INR 4.43 bn against Net Loss of INR 3.84 bn in Q1FY25 and Net Loss of 1.89 bn in Q2FY25, below consensus estimates of Net Profit of INR 0.92 bn.
- The Volumes grew by 16% YoY while prices declined by 7% YoY.
- The Net working capital days stood at 123 days and it improved by 26 days YoY, primarily driven by better inventory management, reduced receivable days and extended payable days.
- In Q2FY25, foreign exchange losses stood at INR 3.75 bn, and it increased by INR 1.46 bn YoY due to higher and increased hedging cost in certain countries.
- Net Debt stood at INR 275.31 bn and it reduced YoY basis, primarily due to lower capex and reduced working capital days.

Segmental Performance:

Latin America:

- During Q2FY25, revenue from this region stood at INR 44.47 bn and it remained almost flat annually with higher volumes and price erosion.
- In Q2FY25, their volumes in Brazil grew by 30% YoY, driven by fungicide products. However, they witnessed price erosion in certain products. Additionally, the Management anticipates higher demand from Brazil as the soyabean planting season progresses.
- Revenue from Argentina during Q2FY25 declined owing to purchase delays with dealers and grower purchasing closer to the usage season.
- They aim to capitalize on the underlying demand in Latin America by continuing to expand its market share and drive volume growth.

North America:

- In Q2FY25, revenue stood at INR 4.15 bn and it increased by 16% YoY, driven by strong demand in products like insecticides, fungicides etc.
- The Management expects that potential changes in international trade policies, particularly higher tariffs on Chinese exports to the U.S would strengthen their position in North America.

Europe:

- During Q2FY25, revenue from this region stood at INR 12.58 bn and it increased by 18% YoY, owing to sales growth of fungicides.
- Additionally, their NPP bio solutions business also performed well in Europe, with revenue growing by 25% YoY, fuelled by strong volume increases.
- They anticipate continued growth in Europe, based on new product launches, stable active ingredient pricing and internal improvements in the supply chain.

Rest of the World:

• Revenue stood at INR 15.34 bn, a decline of 2% YoY due to lower sales in herbicides and insecticides, which were partially offset by growth in fungicides.

Advanta:

• It reported a 4% YoY increase in revenue to INR 11.1 bn, primarily driven by higher prices.

UPL SAS:

- Revenue increased by 20% YoY to INR 10.13 bn in Q2FY25, backed by increased volumes, particularly in herbicides and normalized channel inventory.
- During Q2FY25, sales related to cotton were negatively impacted due to low spraying activity in northern India. However, the company achieved growth by diversifying into other crops such as rice, maize, sugarcane etc.
- In Q2FY25, contribution margin stood at 30% and it expanded by 1,290 bps YoY.
- The improvement in contribution margins was attributed to new molecule launches and a favourable product
- EBITDA for Q2FY25 stood at INR 2.03 bn and it increased by 592% YoY, primarily due to improvement in contribution profit and reduction in selling, general & administrative expenses.
- In H1FY25, this segment reported a revenue of INR 20.16 bn with an EBITDA of INR 3.72 bn.

Other Updates:

- The Management highlighted that they would face pricing pressure in the coming period due to overcapacity issues in China and tight grower margins.
- They are strategically shifting their product mix towards differentiated and sustainable products.

Financial Statements

Income Statement					
Income Statement (INR Mn)	Mar-23	Mar-24	Mar 25E	Mar 26E	Mar 27E
Net sales	535,750	430,980	437,350	550,510	605,561
Growth (%)	15.9	(19.6)	1.5	25.9	10.0
Operating expenses	(424,160)	(375,830)	(392,912)	(461,931)	(509,531)
EBITDA	111,590	55,150	44,437	88,579	96,030
EBITDA Margin %	20.8%	12.8%	10.2%	16.1%	15.9%
Growth (%)	9.8	(50.6)	(19.4)	99.3	8.4
Depreciation	(25,470)	(27,630)	(34,786)	(39,809)	(44,309)
Other income	4,770	4,830	4,818	4,842	4,866
EBIT	90,890	32,350	14,470	53,613	56,588
Finance cost	(29,630)	(38,520)	(22,899)	(22,899)	(22,899)
Exceptional & extradordinary	(11,340)	(2,520)	0	0	o
Profit before tax	49,920	(8,690)	(8,429)	30,714	33,689
Tax (current + deferred)	(7,360)	2,090	1,517	(5,528)	(6,064)
P / L form discontinuing operations	0	0	0	0	o
Profit / (Loss) for the period	42,560	(6,600)	(6,912)	25,185	27,625
PAT Margin %	7.9%	-1.5%	-1.6%	4.6%	4.6%
P/L of Associates, Min Int, Pref Div	(6,870)	1,984	1,360	(4,482)	(4,926)
Reported Profit / (Loss)	35,690	(4,616)	(5,552)	20,704	22,699
Adjusted net profit	47,030	(4,616)	(5,552)	20,704	22,699

Balance Sheet					
Balance Sheet (INR Mn)	Mar-23	Mar-24	Mar 25E	Mar 26E	Mar 27E
Share capital	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Reserves & surplus	296,940	278,620	275,489	297,810	314,615
Shareholders' funds	298,440	280,120	276,989	299,310	316,115
Minority Intersts and others	55,850	55,850	55,850	55,850	55,850
Non-current liablities	241,110	240,110	240,110	240,110	240,110
Long-term borrowings	201,440	200,440	200,440	200,440	200,440
Other non-current liabilities	39,670	39,670	39,670	39,670	39,670
Current liabilities	290,370	212,038	226,835	282,624	308,024
ST borrowings, Curr maturity	28,550	28,550	28,550	28,550	28,550
Other current liabilities	261,820	183,488	198,285	254,074	279,474
Total (Equity and Liabilities)	885,770	788,118	799,784	877,893	920,100
Non-current assets	465,890	462,623	459,351	456,045	444,322
Fixed assets (Net block)	207,270	202,990	198,204	188,397	174,089
Non-current Investments	16,180	16,180	16,180	16,180	16,180
Long-term loans and advances	570	4,051	4,373	5,505	6,056
Other non-current assets	241,870	239,403	240,594	245,964	247,997
Current assets	419,880	325,495	340,433	421,848	475,778
Cash & current investment	60,970	37,930	28,195	27,224	41,691
Other current assets	358,910	287,565	312,237	394,624	434,087
Total (Assets)	885,770	788,118	799,784	877,893	920,100
Total debt	229,990	228,990	228,990	228,990	228,990
Capital employed	623,950	604,630	601,499	623,820	640,625
Source: Company Reports, Arihant Research					

Financial Statements

Cash Flow Statement					
Cash Flow Statement (INR Mn)	Mar-23	Mar-24	Mar 25E	Mar 26E	Mar 27E
Profit before tax	49,920	(8,690)	(8,429)	30,714	33,689
Depreciation	25,470	27,630	34,786	39,809	44,309
Change in working capital	910	(10,468)	(10,198)	(27,730)	(14,612)
Total tax paid	(13,340)	2,090	1,517	(5,528)	(6,064)
Others	20,140	24,860	33,690	18,081	18,059
Cash flow from oper. (a)	87,820	44,252	35,757	55,323	75,356
Capital expenditure	(37,360)	(23,350)	(30,000)	(30,001)	(30,001)
Change in investments	(4,880)	0	0	0	o
Others	6,730	7,297	3,627	(527)	2,833
Cash flow from inv. (b)	(35,510)	(16,053)	(26,373)	(30,528)	(27,168)
Free cash flow (a+b)	52,310	28,200	9,384	24,795	48,188
Equity raised/(repaid)	(30)	0	0	0	o
Debt raised/(repaid)	(28,670)	(1,000)	0	0	o
Dividend (incl. tax)	(9,959)	2,421	1,617	(5,893)	(6,464)
Others	(13,881)	(52,661)	(20,736)	(19,869)	(27,253)
Cash flow from fin. (c)	(52,540)	(51,240)	(19,118)	(25,762)	(33,717)
Net chg in cash (a+b+c)	(230)	(23,040)	(9,735)	(967)	14,471

Key ratios					
Key Ratios (%)	Mar-23	Mar-24	Mar 25E	Mar 26E	Mar 27E
Adjusted EPS (Rs)	62.7	(6.2)	(7.4)	27.6	30.3
Growth	4.6				9.6
CEPS (Rs)	96.7	30.7	39.0	80.7	89.3
Book NAV/share (Rs)	397.9	373.5	369.3	399.1	421.5
Dividend/share (Rs)	10.0	10.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
Dividend payout ratio	27.9	52.4	29.1	28.5	28.5
EBITDA margin	20.8	12.8	10.2	16.1	15.9
Tax rate	12.0	24.1	18.0	18.0	18.0
RoCE	15.0	5.3	2.4	8.8	9.0
Total debt/Equity (x)	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6
Net debt/EBITDA (x)	1.5	3.5	4.5	2.3	2.0
Net debt/Equity (x)	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5
Du Pont Analysis - ROE					
Net margin	8.8	(1.1)	(1.3)	3.8	3.7
Asset turnover (x)	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7
Leverage factor (x)	3.1	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9
Return on equity	17.3	(1.6)	(2.0)	7.2	7.4

Valuations					
Valuations (x)	Mar-23	Mar-24	Mar 25E	Mar 26E	Mar 27E
PER	11.4	(116.1)	(96.6)	25.9	23.6
PCE	7.4	23.3	18.3	8.9	8.0
Price/Book	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.7
Yield (%)	1.6	(0.4)	(0.3)	0.9	1.0
EV/EBITDA	6.3	13.2	16.6	8.3	7.5
Source: Arihant Research					

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Stock Rating Scale	Absolute Return
BUY	>20%
ACCUMULATE	12% to 20%
HOLD	5% to 12%
NEUTRAL	-5% to 5%
REDUCE	-5% to -12%
SELL	<-12%

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