

Estimate change	↔
TP change	↔
Rating change	↔

CMP: INR515 TP: INR550 (+7%) Neutral

Pricing pressure continues to hurt operating performance

Operating performance below expectations

Bloomberg	UPLL IN
Equity Shares (m)	751
M.Cap.(INRb)/(USDb)	386.7 / 4.6
52-Week Range (INR)	625 / 448
1, 6, 12 Rel. Per (%)	-8/-7/-30
12M Avg Val (INR M)	1771

- UPL Ltd (UPLL) reported a muted quarter as EBITDA remained flat on a YoY basis, largely due to a price decline (down 7% YoY) led by overcapacity in China. Volume grew 16% (indicating a healthy demand environment), resulting in revenue growth of 9% YoY.
- UPLL is expecting improvement in the global business, with inventory destocking nearing completion. Further, margins are expected to witness a significant uptick in 2H, led by the benefit of lower-cost inventory, increase in high-margin product sales, favorable regional mix, and margin expansion in the Indian business.
- We largely retain our FY25E/ FY26E EPS on the back of positive commentary on the outlook (expected margin recovery and mid-single digit volume growth in 2HFY25) and unchanged guidance. **Reiterate Neutral with a TP of INR550.**

Financials & Valuations (INR b)

Y/E Mar	2025E	2026E	2027E
Sales	461.7	506.7	545.3
EBITDA	77.8	93.2	106.3
PAT	19.2	36.0	50.1
EBITDA (%)	16.8	18.4	19.5
EPS (INR)	25.1	47.1	65.5
EPS Gr. (%)	587.0	87.2	39.2
BV/Sh. (INR)	497	547	625

Ratios

Net D/E	1.0	0.8	0.6
RoE (%)	7.7	13.7	16.9
RoCE (%)	5.2	9.9	11.6
Payout (%)	78.6	29.7	21.4

Valuations

P/E (x)	20.4	10.9	7.8
EV/EBITDA (x)	8.1	6.4	5.3
Div Yield (%)	2.8	2.8	2.8
FCF Yield (%)	15.3	18.8	17.9

Shareholding Pattern (%)

	Sep-24	Jun-24	Sep-23
Promoter	32.5	32.5	32.5
DII	17.7	15.7	17.3
FII	37.5	37.8	37.6
Others	12.3	13.9	12.6

Note: FII includes depository receipts

Strong volume growth drives revenue

- UPL reported revenue of INR110.9b (est. INR106.5b) in 2QFY25, up 9% YoY (volume growth: 16%, price decline: 7%). EBITDA stood at INR15.8b (est. INR16.8b), flat YoY. EBITDA margin was 14.2% vs. 15.5% in 2QFY24, due to a 110bp contraction in gross margin. The contribution margin was hit due to pricing pressure and a change in the regional mix.
- Net loss came in at INR630m (est. Adj. PAT INR635m) vs. net profit of INR1.1b in 2QFY24. The company witnessed a higher loss on account of the impact of income tax charge due to non-recognition and the reversal of DTA in some countries.
- India** revenue increased 13% YoY to INR15.7b, led by higher volume on account of better demand closer to application seasons. **North America** revenue grew 10% YoY to INR5.5b on account of the continued strong in-season demand. **LATAM** revenue was flat at INR50.4b, as the strong volume growth was offset by price softening. **Europe** revenue rose 8% YoY to INR13.6b, aided by strong volume growth in Fungicides, while **RoW** revenue grew 29% YoY to INR25.5b, owing to volume-led growth in Africa.
- Advanta revenue increased 4% YoY to INR11.1b, driven by grain sorghum in Argentina and Australia and corn in India, Thailand, and ASEAN, while UPL specialty Chemical revenue remained flat at INR26b as growth in the non-captive business was offset by a decline in the captive business.
- Gross debt (excluding perpetual bonds) declined to INR318.4b in Sep'24 vs. INR339.3b as of Sep'23, Net debt declined to INR275.3b in Sep'24 vs INR307b in Sep'23.
- In 1HFY25, revenue increased 5% to INR201.6b. However, EBITDA declined 14% YoY to INR27.2b. Net loss stood at INR2.7b vs Adj Pat of INR5.1m in 1HFY24. For 2HFY25, implied Revenue/EBITDA growth is 9%/2.2x, led by margin expansion.

Highlights from the management commentary

- **Guidance:** The company expects mid-single-digit volume growth in 2H. Management has maintained its guidance of ~4-8% revenue growth in FY25, with an absolute EBITDA growth of ~50%. It expects FCF generation of USD300-400m.
- **Outlook:** UPLL is expecting improvement in the global business with inventory destocking nearing completion. However, the pricing pressure continues due to overcapacity in China. Management expects it to abate going forward.
- **Capex:** UPLL will incur a capex of ~INR18b in FY25, with ~INR7b already incurred in 1HFY25.

Valuation and view

- We expect 2HFY25 to witness a recovery in margins, aided by the benefit of lower-cost inventory and a favorable regional mix. Demand is expected to be normalized with a major part of global inventory destocking being completed.
- However, any short-term challenges due to price volatility, cash flow generation, and debt repayments remain the key monitorables.
- **We reiterate Neutral with a TP of INR550 (based on 10x Sep'26E EPS)**

Cons.: Quarterly Earning Model

Y/E March	FY24				FY25E				FY24	FY25E	FY25E	(INRb)
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3QE	4QE		2Q	Var. %	
Net Sales	89.6	101.7	98.9	140.8	90.7	110.9	106.8	153.4	431.0	461.7	106.5	4%
YoY Change (%)	-17.2	-18.7	-27.7	-15.0	1.2	9.0	8.0	8.9	-19.6	7.1	4.7	
Total Expenditure	73.7	86.0	94.7	121.5	79.2	95.2	85.9	123.7	375.8	383.9	89.7	
EBITDA	15.9	15.8	4.2	19.3	11.5	15.8	20.9	29.7	55.2	77.8	16.8	-6%
Margins (%)	17.8	15.5	4.2	13.7	12.6	14.2	19.5	19.4	12.8	16.8	15.8	
Depreciation	6.4	6.6	6.8	7.9	6.6	7.0	7.5	8.6	27.6	29.7	6.7	
Interest	7.0	8.7	11.9	10.9	9.1	10.7	9.0	8.5	38.5	37.3	9.0	
Other Income	1.0	1.1	1.5	1.3	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.3	4.8	4.8	1.0	
Exch. difference on trade rec./payable	3.2	2.5	3.2	0.8	0.5	2.2	0.0	0.0	9.8	2.7	0.0	
PBT before EO expense	0.4	-1.0	-16.2	0.9	-3.7	-3.0	5.8	13.9	-15.9	12.9	2.1	
Extra-Ord expense	0.4	0.9	0.2	1.1	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	2.5	0.6	0.0	
PBT	0.0	-1.9	-16.4	-0.1	-4.2	-3.1	5.8	13.9	-18.5	12.3	2.1	
Tax	-1.6	-1.0	-0.6	1.1	0.7	1.4	1.0	2.5	-2.1	5.6	0.4	
Rate (%)	3,280.0	51.9	3.6	-733.3	-17.0	-44.2	18.0	18.0	11.3	45.7	18.0	
MI & P/L of Asso. Cos.	-0.1	1.0	-3.6	-1.7	-1.1	-0.1	-4.0	-1.7	-4.4	-6.9	1.1	
Reported PAT	1.7	-1.9	-12.2	0.4	-3.8	-4.4	8.7	13.2	-12.0	13.6	0.6	
Adj PAT	4.0	1.1	-5.9	3.6	-2.0	-0.6	8.7	13.2	2.8	19.2	0.6	NA
YoY Change (%)	-61.7	-89.8	-144.2	-65.1	-150.8	-159.3	-248.0	260.5	-93.7	587.0	-40.2	
Margins (%)	4.5	1.0	-6.0	2.6	-2.2	-0.6	8.2	8.6	0.6	4.2	0.6	

Note: Adjusted PAT = Reported PAT + forex adjustment + exceptional item

Key Performance Indicators

Y/E March	FY24				FY25E				FY24	FY25E
Consolidated	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3QE	4QE		
Sales Growth Split										
Volume (%)	-9.0	-7.0	-5.0	-2.0	16.0	16.0	0.0	0.0	-6.0	8.0
Price (%)	-10.0	-15.0	-24.0	-15.0	-14.0	-7.0	0.0	0.0	-17.0	-0.9
Exchange Impact (%)	2.0	3.0	1.0	2.0	-1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0
Cost Break-up										
RM Cost (% of sales)	43.8	51.4	64.0	64.0	49.9	52.5	48.2	54.5	56.8	51.7
Staff Cost (% of sales)	13.8	12.3	11.7	7.4	14.7	12.1	12.3	8.7	10.9	11.5
Other Cost (% of sales)	24.6	20.8	20.2	14.9	22.8	21.2	20.0	17.4	19.5	20.0
Gross Margins (%)	56.2	48.6	36.0	36.0	50.1	47.5	51.8	45.5	43.2	48.3
EBITDA Margins (%)	17.8	15.5	4.2	13.7	12.6	14.2	19.5	19.4	12.8	16.8
EBIT Margins (%)	10.7	9.0	-2.6	8.1	5.4	7.9	12.5	13.8	6.4	10.4

Key exhibits

Exhibit 1: Quarterly revenue trend

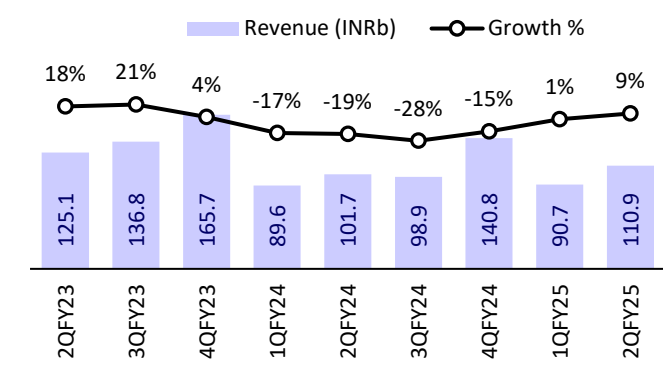


Exhibit 2: Quarterly EBITDA trend

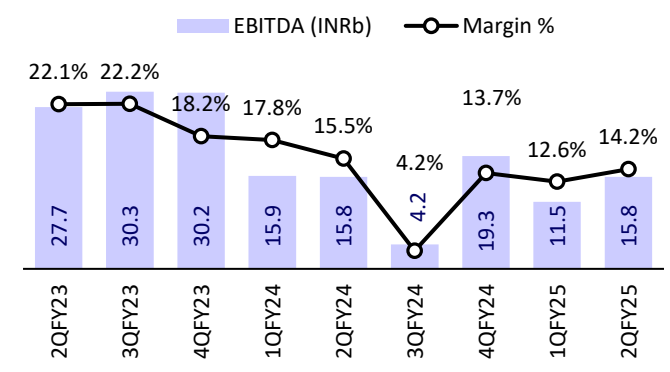


Exhibit 3: Quarterly adjusted PAT trend

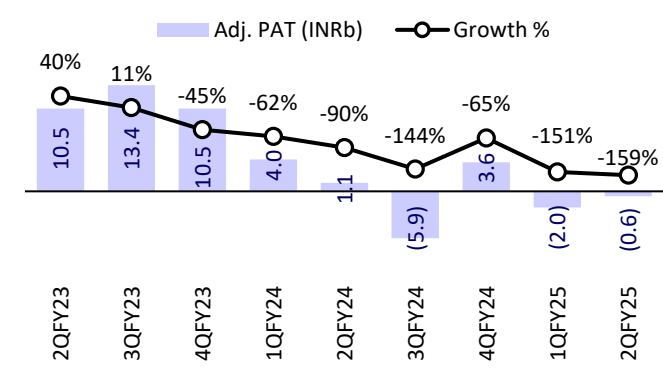


Exhibit 4: Quarterly and annual growth breakup

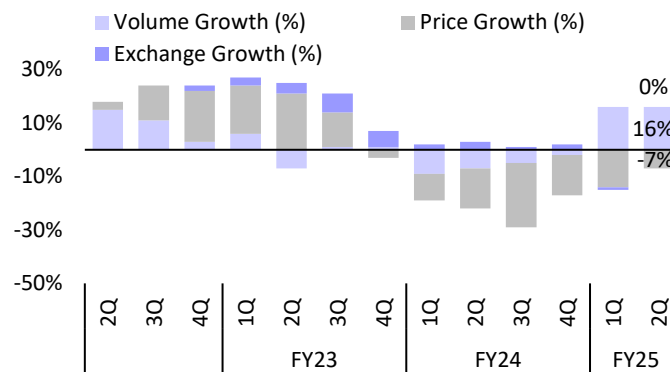


Exhibit 5: Quarterly revenue trend – India

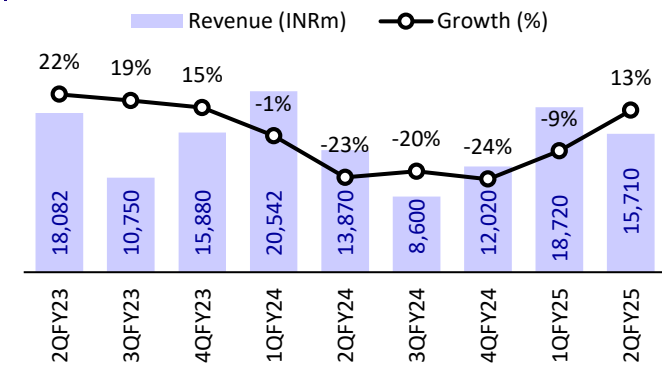


Exhibit 6: Quarterly revenue trend – LATAM

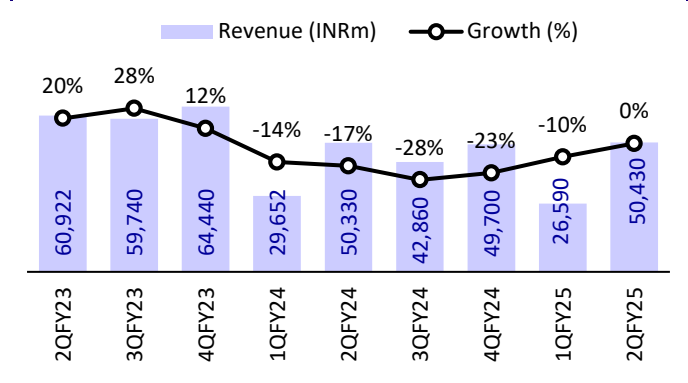


Exhibit 7: Quarterly revenue trend – Europe

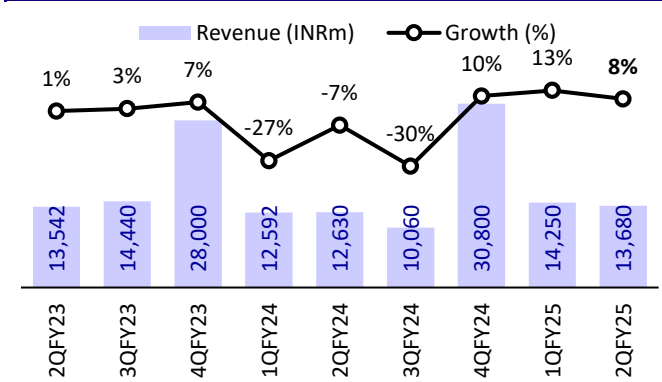
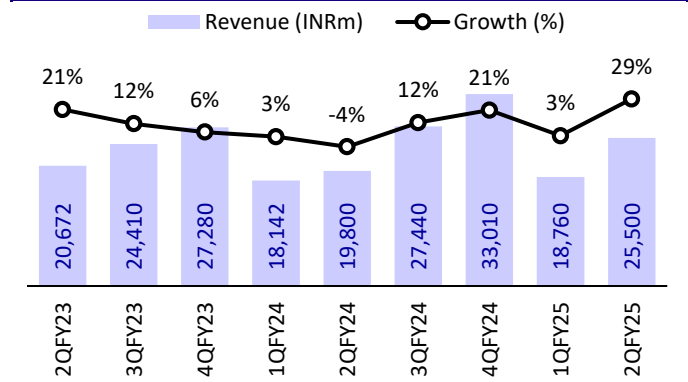


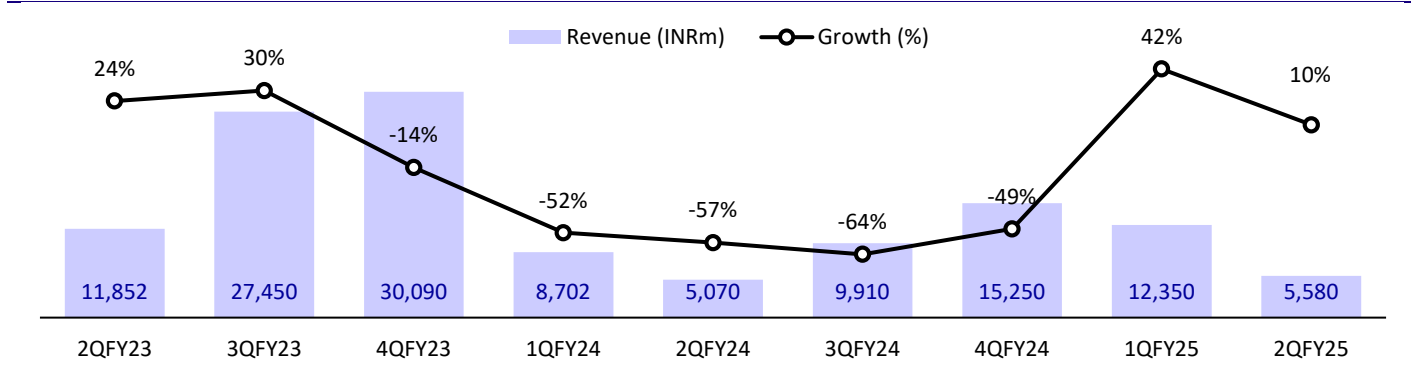
Exhibit 8: Quarterly revenue trend – RoW



Source: Company, MOFSL

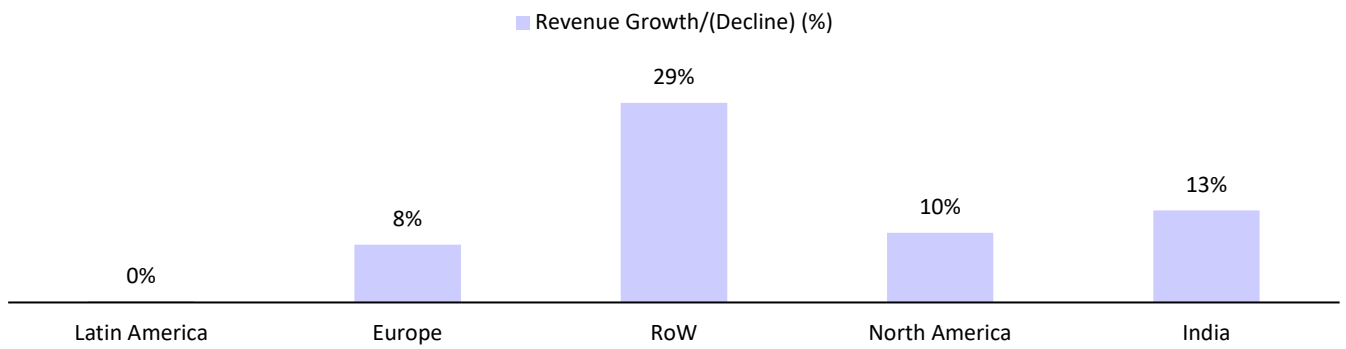
Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 9: Quarterly revenue trend – North America



Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 10: Revenue growth/decline by region in 2QFY25



Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 11: Gross and net debt trends (excluding perpetual bond of INR29.86b)

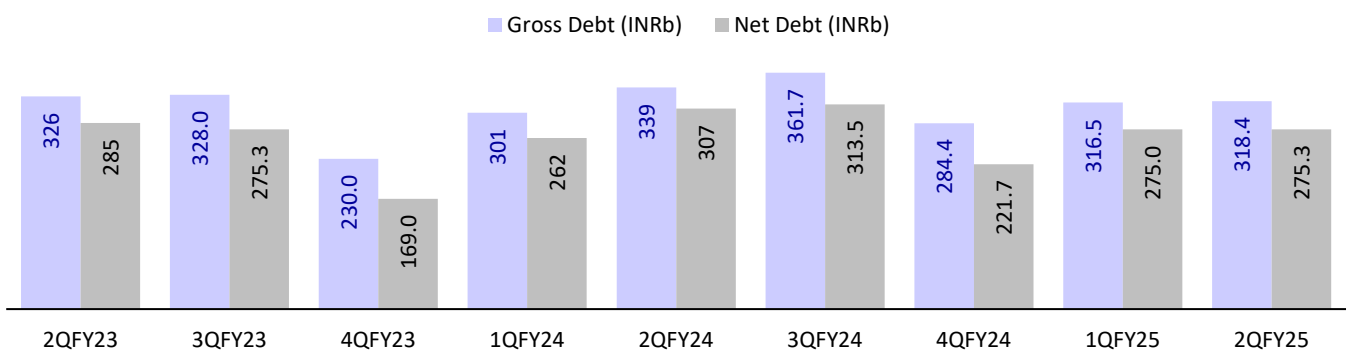
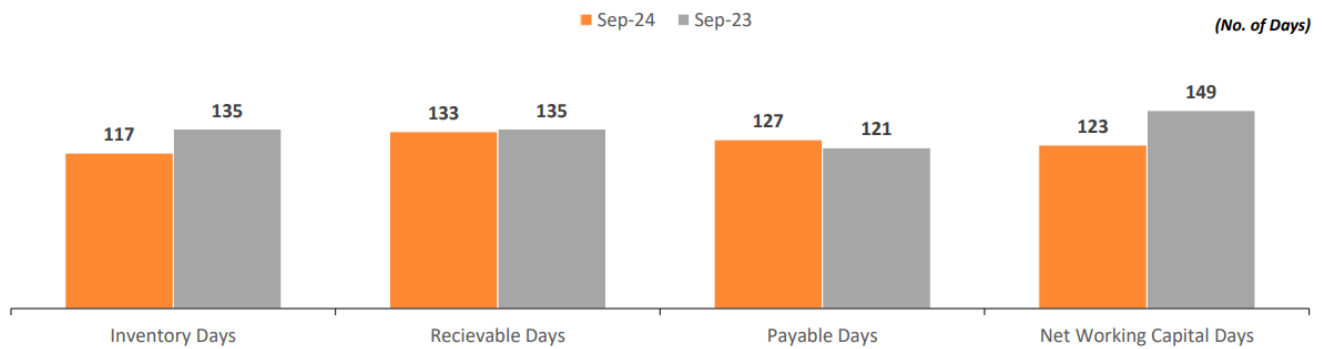


Exhibit 12: Working capital analysis (no. of days)



Source: Company, MOFSL



Highlights from the conference call

Operating Performance

- UPLL witnessed strong volume recovery across all geographies. However, the pricing pressure continued during the quarter.
- There was strong growth in Europe, primarily driven by increased fungicide and NPP volumes, with additional support from Brazil and North America. In India, growth was fueled by higher volumes, accompanied by margin expansion.
- The contribution margin stood at 37.7% (down 220bp) due to a drop in realizations and change in the regional mix.
- SG&A expense grew 5% YoY on account of one of the customers filing for bankruptcy, resulting in increased credit loss.
- The company witnessed a higher loss on account of the impact of income tax charge due to the non-recognition and reversal of DTA in some countries.
- Foreign exchange charge stood at ~INR3.75b due to higher revenue and significantly higher cost of hedging in some countries.
- Net working capital saw a significant reduction from 149 days in 1HFY24 to 123 days in 1HFY25.

Guidance and Outlook

- The company is witnessing strong recovery. The management maintains revenue growth guidance of ~4-8% in FY25.
- The company expects mid-single-digit volume growth in 2H. However, pricing pressure will abate going forward.
- Management expects ~50% YoY growth in EBITDA in FY25.
- EBITDA margins is expected to witness expansion, led by lower cost inventory, increase in high-margin product sales, favorable regional mix (US and Europe are margin geography), and a higher margin in India.
- 2H is a stronger period for the global crop protection business, providing the benefit of operating leverage.
- The company is well-positioned to generate USD300-400m of free cash flows, which will be used to repay debt.
- The company expects to incur a capex of ~INR18b in FY25, with ~INR7b already incurred in 1HFY25.

UPL Corporation

- Destocking of the global crop protection market is majorly complete and orders are coming in normally. However, price pressure continues due to overcapacity in China.
- UPL continues to perform well in maintaining and growing its market share in most regions.
- Margins were impacted in 2Q due to a price decline in LATAM, along with an unfavorable product mix in Europe.
- Growth of Fungicides volumes was led by Brazil and Europe, while the Herbicide performance was impacted in Argentina and North America. The Insecticide portfolio was impacted by pricing pressure.
- NPP witnessed a strong performance in 2QFY25, led by biocontrol in LATAM and Europe, along with key biostimulants in Brazil.
- Pricing pressure in key AIs will continue to be a key headwind for the company.
- With lower input costs, the company will continue to focus on margin improvement. It expects to witness a positive outcome from 2HFY25 onwards.

- **LATAM:** Strong volume growth in Brazil was offset by price softening, while Argentina was adversely impacted due to the shift of purchases closer to the season.
- **NAM:** It continued to witness strong season demand and experienced strong volume growth mainly in insecticides and fungicides.
- **EU:** It witnessed strong volume-led growth in fungicides; NPP revenue increased 25% on a YoY basis, primarily driven by volumes.
- **ROW:** Volume growth in Africa was offset by a decline in the APAC region; growth in fungicide was offset by a decline in insecticides and herbicides.

UPL SAS

- UPL's 2QFY25 revenue increased 20% YoY, primarily led by higher volumes.
- The growth was primarily on account of sales taking place closer to the application season, helping optimize working capital and minimizing the likelihood of sales return.
- Contribution margins expanded compared to last year, which were driven by new launches and the strong performance of key brands.
- Going forward, the continued focus on stricter credit, inventory norms, and margins will drive better cash flows, and the complete impact of these will be seen post the Kharif season.
- The company expects to witness a strong Rabi season going forward.

Advanta

- Revenue increased 4% YoY in 2QFY25, where prices increased 2%; volume remained flat and FX had a positive impact of 2%. Revenue was primarily driven by grains in Argentina and Australia and corn in India, Thailand, and ASEAN.
- Higher input costs were offset by the price increase due to production shortages. Contribution margin expanded 117bp YoY due to growth in grain sorghum and corn.
- Looking forward, continued strategic investments in 2HFY25 are expected to support growth, with sustained business momentum anticipated to yield favorable results.

UPL Specialty Chemical

- Revenue remained stable in 2QFY25, reflecting a slight decline in captive revenue primarily due to changes in the revenue mix. Captive margins remained flat, showing no significant variation during the period.
- Non-captive revenue grew 26% YoY, led by volume growth of ~33% YoY. Prices declined during the quarter by 7% YoY. EBITDA increased 7% YoY, led by operating leverage and better mix.
- Going forward, the company expects a strong demand outlook in the captive business.

Working Capital and Debt

- Working capital days declined 26 days YoY to 123 as of Sep'24, primarily due to better inventory management days (lower by 18 days), while the days reduced by 2 days and days payables increased by 6 days.
- Net debt stood at USD3.3b as of Sept'24. Adjusted for lower factoring, net debt stood at USD3.11b, down by USD586m compared to 2QFY24.

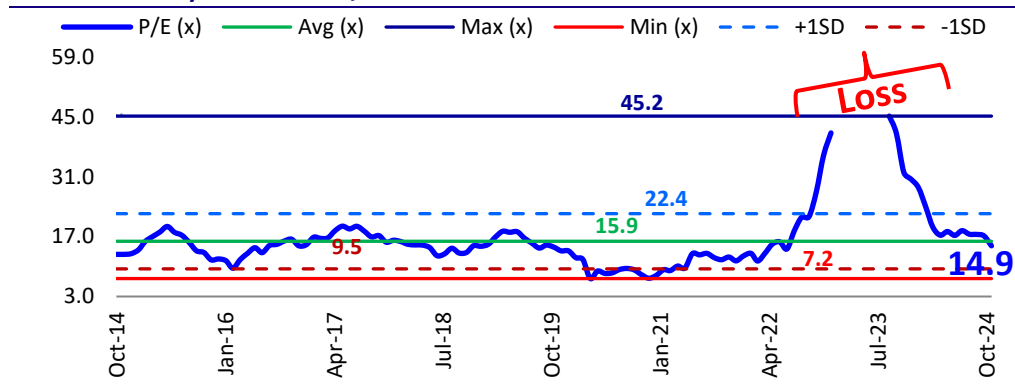
Other Highlights

- The company witnessed strong growth in the Biologicals business. It has a strong product portfolio and a strong pipeline. Over 75% of the pipeline is of differentiated products. The company expects this business to outpace other businesses going forward.
- The company expects prices to have bottomed out and is likely to stay at this level in the near term. Increase in prices are difficult to predict.
- The company will shortly announce updates on the rights issue (~USD400m issue). Net debt to EBITDA will go below 2x once the company receives proceeds from the rights issue.
- The average cost of debt in 2Q was ~7% in 2QFY25 vs 6.25% in 2QFY24.
- One of the large distributors has filed for bankruptcy. The company had ~USD15m outstanding from that distributor, of which ~USD8m has been recovered from the insurance company.
- The company is focusing on better inventory management, which is expected to result in the reduction of inventory days going forward.

Valuation and view

- We expect 2HFY25 to witness a recovery in margins, aided by the benefit of lower cost inventory and favorable regional mix. Demand is expected to be normalized with major part of global inventory destocking being completed.
- However, any short-term challenges due to price volatility, cash flow generation, and debt repayments remain key monitorables.
- **We reiterate Neutral with a TP of INR550 (based on 10x Sep'26E EPS).**

Exhibit 13: One-year forward P/E



Source: MOFSL

Exhibit 14: Changes to our estimates

Particulars (INR b)	Old		New		Change	
	FY25E	FY26E	FY25E	FY26E	FY25E	FY26E
Revenue	458	502	462	507	1%	1%
EBITDA	78	92	78	93	0%	1%
Adj. PAT	20	35	19	36	-4%	4%

Source: MOFSL

Financials and valuations

Consolidated - Income Statement								(INRm)	
Y/E March	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Total Income from Operations	218	358	387	462	536	431	462	507	545
Change (%)	25.7	63.7	8.2	19.5	15.9	-19.6	7.1	9.7	7.6
EBITDA	46	74	86	102	112	55	78	93	106
Margin (%)	20.8	20.8	22.3	22.0	20.8	12.8	16.8	18.4	19.5
Depreciation	9	20	22	24	25	28	30	31	33
EBIT	37	54	65	78	86	28	48	62	73
Int. and Finance Charges	10	15	21	23	30	39	37	31	26
Other Income	2	1	3	3	5	5	5	4	4
Exchange diff on trade rec. & payables	3	3	2	6	10	10	3	0	0
PBT bef. EO Exp.	27	37	45	52	52	-16	13	35	51
EO Items	9	10	3	3	2	3	1	0	0
PBT after EO Exp.	18	28	41	48	50	-18	12	35	51
Total Tax	2	6	7	5	7	-2	6	6	9
Tax Rate (%)	11.3	21.2	16.6	10.9	14.7	11.3	45.7	18.0	18.0
Share of (profit)/loss of ass. & JV	0	0	0	-1	-2	2	1	2	2
Minority Interest	1	4	6	8	8	-7	-8	-9	-10
Reported PAT	15	18	29	36	36	-12	14	36	50
Adjusted PAT	25	27	35	49	45	3	19	36	50
Change (%)	11.2	8.4	29.9	39.9	-7.8	-93.7	587.0	87.2	39.2
Margin (%)	11.3	7.5	9.0	10.5	8.4	0.6	4.2	7.1	9.2

Consolidated - Balance Sheet								(INR m)	
Y/E March	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Equity Share Capital	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Total Reserves	146	161	177	215	267	247	249	275	314
Net Worth	147	163	179	217	269	248	251	276	316
Minority Interest	35	33	37	46	56	49	41	32	21
Total Loans	291	288	238	259	230	284	259	239	204
Perpetual bonds	0	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
Total Loans (Including Perpetual bond)	291	318	268	289	260	314	289	269	234
Deferred Tax Liabilities	22	28	27	25	25	24	24	24	24
Capital Employed	495	542	510	576	609	636	605	601	595
Gross Block	230	260	281	311	345	370	402	424	447
Less: Accum. Deprn.	75	95	117	141	166	194	223	255	288
Net Fixed Assets	155	164	164	170	179	176	179	170	159
Goodwill on Consolidation	166	182	177	184	199	202	202	202	202
Capital WIP	19	21	21	25	28	30	15	13	15
Total Investments	7	6	6	19	16	22	22	22	22
Curr. Assets, Loans&Adv.	285	328	337	429	463	446	427	455	475
Inventory	91	79	94	131	140	128	124	133	142
Account Receivables	117	119	126	153	183	164	164	174	187
Cash and Bank Balance	29	68	49	61	61	60	46	57	54
Loans and Advances	48	63	68	83	80	95	92	91	93
Curr. Liability & Prov.	137	159	194	250	277	240	239	260	278
Account Payables	94	102	125	166	176	157	154	168	179
Other Current Liabilities	34	55	60	77	94	76	78	84	90
Provisions	9	1	9	8	7	7	7	8	9
Net Current Assets	148	169	142	178	186	206	188	195	197
Appl. of Funds	495	542	510	576	609	636	605	601	595

Financials and valuations

Ratios

Y/E March	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Basic (INR)									
EPS	32.2	34.9	45.4	63.5	58.5	3.7	25.1	47.1	65.5
Cash EPS	43.7	61.2	73.8	142.8	139.0	60.3	96.8	133.5	164.8
BV/Share	192.4	213.0	234.0	429.2	531.8	491.2	497.0	547.1	625.1
DPS	5.4	6.1	10.2	10.2	10.2	11.2	14.3	14.3	14.3
Payout (%)	27.1	25.8	26.6	21.1	21.4	-70.1	78.6	29.7	21.4
Valuation (x)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
P/E	15.9	14.7	11.3	8.1	8.8	140.2	20.4	10.9	7.8
Cash P/E	11.7	8.4	7.0	3.6	3.7	8.5	5.3	3.8	3.1
P/BV	2.7	2.4	2.2	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.8
EV/Sales	3.0	1.8	1.6	1.3	1.1	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.0
EV/EBITDA	14.2	8.5	7.0	6.0	5.2	11.6	8.1	6.4	5.3
Dividend Yield (%)	1.1	1.2	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.8	2.8	2.8
FCF per share	-357.0	90.7	68.6	32.3	33.1	-14.3	78.4	96.5	91.8
Return Ratios (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
RoE	20.6	17.2	20.3	24.5	18.4	1.1	7.7	13.7	16.9
RoCE	11.6	9.5	12.1	15.1	15.0	5.3	5.2	9.9	11.6
RoIC	12.0	9.6	12.2	15.4	15.1	4.8	5.0	9.8	11.8
Working Capital Ratios	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Fixed Asset Turnover (x)	0.9	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.2
Inventory (Days)	319	156	180	216	190	190	190	190	190
Debtor (Days)	195	121	119	121	125	139	130	125	125
Creditor (Days)	329	203	239	274	239	234	235	240	240
Leverage Ratio (x)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Debt (incl perpetual bonds)/Equity	1.8	1.5	1.2	1.0	0.7	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.6

Consolidated - Cash Flow Statement

(INR m)

Y/E March	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
OP/(Loss) before Tax	27	28	42	50	52	-21	13	35	51
Depreciation	9	20	22	24	25	28	30	31	33
Interest & Finance Charges	10	15	21	23	30	34	37	31	26
Direct Taxes Paid	-2	-8	-7	-10	-13	-11	-6	-6	-9
(Inc)/Dec in WC	-10	31	-2	-18	-14	-13	5	3	-5
CF from Operations	32	85	75	68	81	16	79	94	96
Others	-9	3	-3	-4	-3	2	-2	-2	-2
CF from Operating incl EO	24	87	72	65	78	18	77	92	94
(Inc)/Dec in FA	-291	-19	-21	-41	-53	-29	-18	-20	-25
Free Cash Flow	-268	68	51	24	25	-11	59	72	69
(Pur)/Sale of Investments	3	2	0	-13	3	-5	0	0	0
Others	-21	-9	0	16	35	9	0	0	0
CF from Investments	-309	-26	-21	-38	-15	-25	-18	-20	-25
Issue of Shares	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inc/(Dec) in Debt	225	-29	-42	13	-46	48	-25	-20	-35
Interest Paid	-10	-16	-17	-19	-23	-34	-37	-31	-26
Dividend Paid	-4	-5	-5	-8	-8	-7	-11	-11	-11
Others	74	28	-4	-5	15	-5	0	0	0
CF from Fin. Activity	285	-22	-67	-19	-62	1	-73	-61	-72
Inc/Dec of Cash	0	39	-19	10	2	-1	-14	11	-3
Opening Balance	29	29	68	51	59	61	60	46	57
Closing Balance	29	68	49	61	61	60	46	57	54

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