# **Kaveri Seeds**

Buy

Estimate change	
TP change	
Rating change	

Motilal Oswal

Bloomberg	KSCL IN
Equity Shares (m)	63
M.Cap.(INRb)/(USDb)	34.4 / 0.4
52-Week Range (INR)	789 / 468
1, 6, 12 Rel. Per (%)	0/19/-32
12M Avg Val (INR M)	158

2022

9.7

2.0

2.1

20.9

36.4

(31.6)

220

(0.4)

16.8

18.4

12.5

15.6

17.6

0.7

2.4

Mar-22

57.4

7.0

19.1

16.5

2023E

11.8

3.0

3.0

25.1

52.1

43.1

263

(0.5)

21.6

24.4

17.4

10.9

11.9

1.4

8.7

Dec-21

57.4

6.7

19.1

16.8

Financials & Valuations (INR b)

Y/E Mar

Sales

PAT

EBITDA

EBITDA (%)

EPS Gr. (%)

BV/Sh. (INR)

EPS (INR)

Ratios

Net D/E

**RoE (%)** 

RoCE (%)

Payout (%)

Valuations

EV/EBITDA (x)

Div Yield (%)

FCF Yield (%)

Shareholding pattern (%)

P/E (x)

As On

DII

FII

Others

Promoter

 Lower than expected operating loss in 4QFY22 aided
by lower OPFX

2024E

13.2

3.3

3.4

25.2

59.0

13.1

313

(0.5)

20.5

23.1

15.4

9.6

10.6

1.4

8.1

Mar-21

55.5

8.5

19.8

16.2

**CMP: INR570** 

by lower OPEX
 Revenue fell 6% YoY in FY22 due to lower cotton/maize (down 24%/16%) volumes. Cotton seed volumes were impacted by lower cotton acreage and the use of illegal herbicide-tolerant Bt (HTBt) seeds, which impacted sales of

**TP: INR710 (+25%)** 

- branded seeds. Maize volumes fell due to no sales to the government.
- We largely retain our FY23/FY24 earnings for KSCL. We value the stock at 12x FY24E EPS to arrive at our TP of INR710. We reiterate our Buy rating.

# Strong volumes in cotton and maize drives revenue in 4QFY22

- Consolidated revenue rose 4% YoY to INR666m (est. INR677m) in 4QFY22. Operating loss stood at INR109m (v/s our operating loss estimate of INR181m) as compared to an operating loss of INR158m in 4QFY21. Gross margin expanded by 110bp YoY to 55.3%. As a percentage of sales, employee cost stood at 32.8% (v/s 35.4% YoY) and other expenses stood at 38.9% (v/s 43.4% YoY). Net loss stood at INR118m (v/s our net loss estimate of INR175m) as against a net loss of INR174m in 4QFY21.
- Volumes of cotton seeds fell 24% YoY to 5.4m packets in FY22, resulting in a 23% decline in revenue to INR3.4b. KSCL gained market share in cotton seeds in Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Haryana, while it lost share in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The contribution from new products in maize rose to 24% from 10% of volumes. Maize seed volumes dipped 16% YoY to 8,781MT and revenue fell 8% YoY to INR1,876m in FY22.
  - Hybrid rice volumes rose 19% to 6,772m packets in FY22, resulting in a 29.5% YoY growth in revenue to INR1,716m. Selection rice volumes grew 6% to 16,174MT in FY22, with revenue up 14% YoY to INR1,163m.
  - Revenue from vegetable seeds rose 18% YoY to INR466m in FY22, driven by a 21% growth in volumes to 307m packets.
  - Revenue/EBITDA/PAT fell 6%/32%/32% YoY to INR9.7b/INR2b/INR2.1b in FY22.
  - CFO stood at INR1.1b in FY22 v/s INR2.5b in FY21. Net cash stood at INR5.4b in FY22 v/s INR6.1b in FY21.

# Highlights from the management commentary

- Cotton: The management has guided at a 15-20% YoY increase in cotton volumes in FY23. It expects industry growth to be in the 10-15% range in FY23.
- It expects to maintain the demand momentum in maize seeds, with a rise in the area under cultivation and the launch of new hybrid seeds.
- The management has guided at an annual release of eight to 10 new hybrid products across segments.

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(INR m)

# Valuation and view

- KSCL is on track to diversify sales away from cotton seeds by increasing the share of higher margin rice and vegetables (v/s cotton seeds), which are growing at a faster pace.
- With an increase in commodity prices across the globe, the sowing pattern of farmers has seen an improvement. The company has observed good demand across cotton, rice, maize, and vegetable seeds. It expects this trend to carry forward in FY23.
- We largely retain our FY23/FY24 earnings for KSCL. We value the stock at 12x
  FY24E EPS to arrive at our TP of INR710. We reiterate our Buy rating.

## **Quarterly consolidated earnings**

Y/E March		FY	21			FY2	2		FY21	FY22E	FY22E	Var.
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q			4QE	%
Net Sales	7,195	1,340	1,185	643	6,298	1,476	1,261	666	10,363	9,700	677	-2
YoY Change (%)	14.6	13.9	-2.8	1.8	-12.5	10.1	6.3	3.6	11.4	-6.4	5.4	
Total Expenditure	4,325	1,174	1,083	801	4,302	1,412	1,187	775	7,383	7,674	858	
EBITDA	<b>2,86</b> 9	167	102	-158	1,996	64	74	-109	2,980	2,025	-181	NA
Margin (%)	39.9	12.4	8.6	-24.6	31.7	4.3	5.9	-16.4	28.8	20.9	-26.7	
Depreciation	55	56	56	56	48	50	55	57	222	209	56	
Interest	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	
Other Income	235	105	75	42	151	151	68	43	457	413	47	
PBT before EO expense	3,049	214	121	-174	2,099	165	87	-123	3,210	2,228	-191	
Extra-Ord. expense	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
РВТ	3,049	214	121	-174	2,099	165	87	-123	3,210	2,228	-191	
Tax	84	-20	30	4	52	37	16	-5	98	100	-11	
Rate (%)	2.8	-9.4	24.4	-2.4	2.5	22.3	18.7	4.1	3.1	4.5	6	
MI and Profit/Loss of Asso. Cos.	-11	1	0	4	-10	0	6	1	-7	-3	4	
Reported PAT	2,953	235	91	-174	2,037	128	76	-118	3,105	2,125	-175	
Adj. PAT	2,953	235	91	-174	2,037	128	76	-118	3,105	2,125	-175	NA
YoY Change (%)	28.6	72.1	10.4	-329.3	-31.0	-45.3	-16.1	32.2	19.9	-31.6	1	
Margin (%)	41.0	17.5	7.7	-27.0	32.4	8.7	6.1	-17.7	30.0	21.9	-25.9	

## **Key performance indicators**

Y/E March		F	Y21			F	FY21	FY22		
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q		
Segment Revenue Growth (%)										
Cotton Seed	4.8	(69.3)	(114.5)	30.9	(27.5)	87.4	(431.2)	45.4	(2.2)	(23.0)
Hybrid Rice	53.2	(65.7)	427.2	(50.5)	43.3	107.8	(62.1)	(280.8)	55.9	29.5
Maize Seeds	8.7	112.7	(26.0)	95.7	(7.8)	(38.3)	13.4	45.0	18.4	(7.7)
Cotton Seed volumes (m packets)	7.0	0.1	(0.1)	0.0	5.0	0.3	0.0	0.1	(1.9)	(24.3)
Cost break-up as a percentage of sales										
RM Cost	52.4	57.5	48.1	45.8	55.9	61.9	48.2	44.7	52.2	55.0
Staff Cost	2.3	15.7	20.7	35.4	3.2	15.4	20.9	32.8	8.2	9.4
Other Cost	5.4	14.4	22.6	43.4	9.2	18.3	25.1	38.9	10.9	14.7
Gross Margin (%)	47.6	42.5	51.9	54.2	44.1	38.1	51.8	55.3	47.8	45.0
EBITDA Margin (%)	39.9	12.4	8.6	-24.6	31.7	4.3	5.9	-16.4	28.8	20.9
EBIT Margin (%)	42.4	16.1	10.3	-26.8	33.3	11.2	6.9	-18.5	34.6	21.5

# Key exhibits

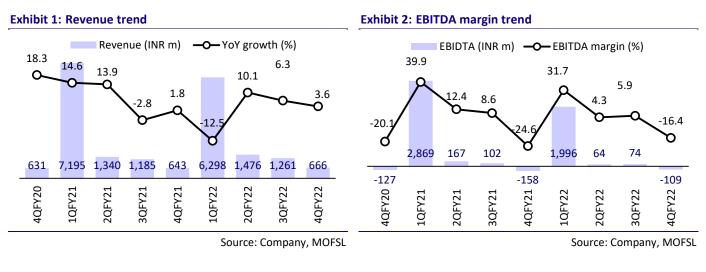
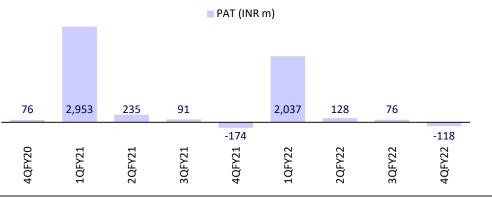
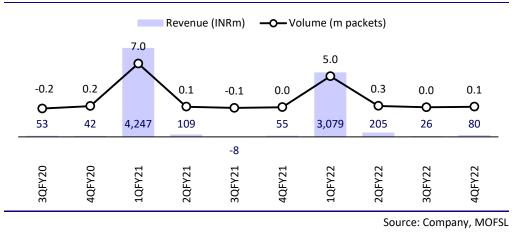


Exhibit 3: Adjusted PAT trend



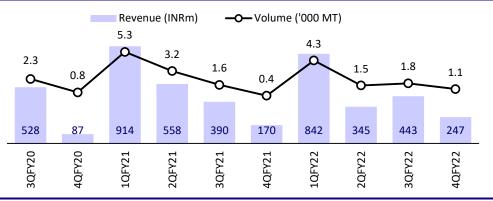
Source: Company, MOFSL

## Exhibit 4: Cotton revenue and volume trends



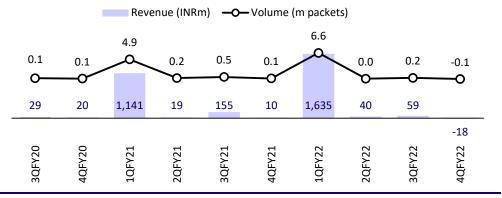
24 May 2022





Source: Company, MOFSL

## Exhibit 6: Hybrid rice revenue and volume trends



Source: Company, MOFSL



# Key highlights from the management interaction

# Cotton

- KSCL registered a volume decline of 24.3% in FY22 in the cotton seed segment, with corresponding revenue dropping 23% YoY over the same period.
- The management expects cotton volumes to take a lead from 4QFY22 and the demand to increase during the 1QFY23, on account of prevailing high cotton prices.
- It has guided a 15% to 20% increase in volumes in cotton (lower than 7m packets) v/s FY22. While industry growth is expected to be in the range of 10% to 15% in FY23.
- Currently, prices of cotton per packet are up by INR40 YoY v/s last year. Last year the company couldn't increase prices due to poor sentiment, but in this year the company remains confident that it will realize price hikes due to lower illegal BT cotton's share and better market sentiment overall.
- HT cotton and BT cotton seeds for illegal or small player segment may not go up. The increase in volumes would be for organized players as the unorganized player seeds had lower yields last year.
- For the quarter ahead, an increase in the volume of cotton seeds would continue to drive growth.
- The non-cotton segment contributes to 55% mix and is expected to inch up in the future. The earlier guidance of 15% growth in the non-cotton segment has been be retained by the management.

# Maize

- The maize seed segment reported 16.04% volumes de-growth and 7.69% revenue de-growth during the quarter.
- The contribution from new products in Maize rose to 24.3% from 10.1% of volumes.
- Maize seed is expected to maintain demand momentum with growing acres in the future as well as new hybrid seed being launched.

# Hybrid rice

- Hybrid Rice volumes increased 19.2% in FY22 along with a 29.5% revenue growth to INR1.7b in FY22.
- In FY22, hybrid rice sales were not encouraging, despite that the company has grown its hybrid rice revenue by more than 40% and gained market share.
- KSCL has a market share of 10% v/s 2% around a decade ago proving its distribution capabilities.
- The management expects prospects for hybrid rice growth during FY23 to be better than FY22.
- The contribution of new hybrid rice products rose to 75.5% from 68.2%.
- Selection Rice volumes grew by 6.3% in FY22.

# Vegetables

- Vegetables sales revenue increased by 18% in FY22, with volumes growing by 21.4% in FY22.
- The contribution of new products in vegetable seeds was up from 23.4% to 56.7% of volumes.

 The management has guided for a good revenue growth in Vegetable Seed in FY23.

# Other highlights

- Revenue and volume in FY22 were impacted due to supply chain disruptions on account of the overall shutdown in India in 1Q.
- General trade was better than pre-pandemic levels and demand was strong across cotton, rice, and vegetable seeds. But government tendering saw a slowdown during the year, and is expected to pick up hereon.
- Cash: Cash stood at INR4.68b as on Mar'22 v/s INR3.14b as on Dec'21.
- Volume mix: Currently share of non-cotton products is ~55%; going forward, the share is further expected to improve.
- The overall confidence among farmer fraternity and general trade in the country has currently improved to either pre-COVID levels or better than that.
- With an increase in commodity prices across the globe, the sowing pattern of farmers has seen an improvement. The company has observed good demand across cotton, rice, maize, and vegetable seeds. It expects this trend to carry forward in FY23
- Contribution from new variants is growing at a healthy rate across rice, maize and vegetable seed segments.
- The company has outperformed the industry across the seed segments both on the revenue and volumes front, in spite of the prevailing non-conducive environment in the industry.
- The management has guided to release eight to 10 products across segments every year, mainly in the hybrid segment.
- Margin is expected to return to previous years as business normalizes ahead and are almost at normal levels currently.

# Valuation and view

- KSCL is well on track to diversify away from cotton seed sales by increasing the share of higher margin rice and vegetables (v/s cotton seeds), which are growing at a faster pace.
- With the increase in commodity prices across the World, the sowing pattern of farmers has witnessed improvement. The company has observed good demand across cotton, rice, maize and vegetable seeds and expects this trend to carry forward in FY23.
- We largely retain our FY23/FY24 earnings for KSCL. We value the stock at 12x
  FY24E EPS to arrive at our TP of INR710. We reiterate our Buy rating.

Earnings change	Old		New		Change (%)			
(INR m)	FY23E	FY23E	FY23E	FY24E	FY23E	FY24E		
Revenue	11,766	12,999	11,834	13,232	1	2		
EBITDA	2,952	3,275	2,969	3,334	1	2		
Adj. PAT	3,017	3,376	3,040	3,440	1	2		

## Exhibit 7: Revisions to our estimates

Source: MOFSL

# **Financials and valuations**

Consolidated Income Statement									(INR m)
Y/E March	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23E	FY24E
Net Sales	7,449	7,050	8,192	8,094	9,303	10,363	9,700	11,834	13,232
Change (%)	-35.9	-5.4	16.2	-1.2	14.9	11.4	-6.4	22.0	11.8
EBITDA	1,875	1,395	2,218	2,116	2,532	2,980	2,025	2,969	3,334
Margin (%)	25.2	19.8	27.1	26.1	27.2	28.8	20.9	25.1	25.2
Depreciation	274	302	251	230	257	222	209	245	264
EBIT	1,601	1,093	1,967	1,887	2,275	2,758	1,816	2,723	3,069
Int. and Finance Charges	2	2	6	5	5	5	1	5	4
Other Income - Rec.	131	344	237	430	456	457	413	516	593
PBT bef. EO Exp.	1,729	1,435	2,198	2,311	2,727	3,210	2,228	3,234	3,659
EO Expense/(Income)	0	592	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PBT after EO Exp.	1,729	843	2,198	2,311	2,727	3,210	2,228	3,234	3,659
Current Tax	58	75	87	117	118	67	75	194	220
Deferred Tax	-3	-5	-3	20	10	31	25	0	0
Tax Rate (%)	3.2	8.3	3.8	5.9	4.7	3.1	4.5	6.0	6.0
Minority Interest	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.7	7.1	3.5	0.0	0.0
Reported PAT	1,675	773	2,114	2,174	2,590	3,105	2,125	3,040	3,440
PAT Adj. for EO items	1,675	1,316	2,114	2,174	2,590	3,105	2,125	3,040	3,440
Change (%)	-44.4	-21.4	60.6	2.8	19.1	19.9	-31.6	43.1	13.1
Margin (%)	22.5	18.7	25.8	26.9	27.8	30.0	21.9	25.7	26.0
Consolidated Balance Sheet									(INR m)
Y/E March	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23E	FY24E
Equity Share Capital	138	138	132	126	121	121	117	117	117
Total Reserves	9,134	10,005	9,992	9,942	9,466	12,325	12,692	15,202	18,112
Net Worth	9,272	10,143	10,124	10,069	9,587	12,445	12,809	15,319	18,229
Minority Interest	-2	-7	-6	-6	2	10	13	13	13
Deferred Liabilities	0	0	168	202	182	157	168	168	168
Total Loans	16	46	29	68	58	16	11	6	6
Capital Employed	9,286	10,182	10,315	10,332	9,829	12,627	13,001	15,506	18,416
Gross Block	3,033	3,322	3,463	4,199	4,551	4,733	4,910	5,310	5,710
Less: Accum. Deprn.	1,018	1,320	1,571	1,800	2,057	2,279	2,489	2,734	2,998
Net Fixed Assets	2,015	2,002	1,892	2,399	2,494	2,454	2,421	2,576	2,712
Capital WIP	197	340	376	384	185	311	435	237	265
Total Investments	5,064	6,569	6,226	5,096	3,839	5,990	5,166	7,066	9,166
Curr. Assets, Loans, and Adv.	6,327	6,358	6,153	7,626	9,255	10,850	10,751	12,856	14,359
Inventory	5,044	4,478	4,428	5,612	6,391	7,195	7,606	8,153	9,116
Account Receivables	804	854	859	846	1,180	1,057	1,107	1,329	1,486
Cash and Bank Balance	94	210	139	87	81	141	201	652	714
Loans and Advances	386	817	727	1,081	1,603	2,457	1,837	2,722	3,043
Curr. Liability and Prov.	4,320	5,095	4,340	5,180	5,957	6,993	5,801	7,256	8,113
Account Payables	4,237	3,026	2,202	2,411	2,669	3,584	2,297	3,382	3,782
Provisions	83	9	116	72	68	117	160	87	97
Other current liabilities	0	2,060	2,022	2,696	3,221	3,291	3,344	3,787	4,234
Net Current Assets	2,007	1,263	1,814	2,446	3,297	3,857	4,950	5,600	6,246

9,286 10,182 10,315 10,332

Appl. of Funds

15,506 18,416

12,627 13,001

9,829

# **Financials and valuations**

Ratios									
Y/E March	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23E	FY24E
Basic (INR)									
EPS	28.7	22.6	36.2	37.3	44.4	53.2	36.4	52.1	59.0
Cash EPS	33.4	27.8	40.5	41.2	48.8	57.1	40.0	56.3	63.5
BV/Share	159.0	173.9	173.6	172.6	164.4	213.4	219.6	262.7	312.6
DPS	5.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	4.0	3.9	7.7	7.7
Payout (%)	24.7	32.2	11.7	11.3	9.5	8.8	12.5	17.4	15.4
Valuation (x)									
P/E	19.8	25.2	15.7	15.3	12.8	10.7	15.6	10.9	9.6
Cash P/E	17.0	20.5	14.0	13.8	11.6	10.0	14.2	10.1	9.0
P/BV	3.6	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.5	2.7	2.6	2.2	1.8
EV/Sales	4.8	5.1	4.4	4.4	3.9	3.5	3.7	3.0	2.7
EV/EBITDA	19.1	25.6	16.1	16.9	14.2	12.0	17.6	11.9	10.6
Dividend Yield (%)	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.7	1.4	1.4
FCF per share	37.1	26.8	23.8	8.5	29.3	36.6	13.7	49.6	46.2
Return Ratios (%)	-								
EBITDA Margin (%)	25.2	19.8	27.1	26.1	27.2	28.8	20.9	25.1	25.2
Net Profit Margin (%)	22.5	18.7	25.8	26.9	27.8	30.0	21.9	25.7	26.0
RoE	19.9	13.6	20.9	21.5	26.4	28.2	16.8	21.6	20.5
RoCE	21.2	16.0	22.5	24.2	28.9	30.0	18.4	24.4	23.1
RoIC	42.0	33.8	61.5	47.9	45.4	47.7	28.4	39.1	41.1
Working Capital Ratios									
Fixed Asset Turnover (x)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Asset Turnover (x)	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.7
Inventory (Days)	247	232	197	253	251	253	286	251	251
Debtor (Days)	39	44	38	38	46	37	42	41	41
Creditor (Days)	208	157	98	109	105	126	86	104	104
Working Capital Turnover (Days)	94	55	75	106	126	131	179	153	153
Leverage Ratio (x)									
Current Ratio	1.5	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.9	1.8	1.8
Interest Coverage Ratio	670	453	326	345	476	546	1,425	538	844
Debt/Equity ratio	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Consolidated Cash Flow Statement									(INR m)
Y/E March	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23E	FY24E
Net P/L Bef. Tax and EO. Items	1,729	1,435	2,198	2,311	2,727	3,210	2,228	3,234	3,659
Depreciation	274	302	2,150	2,311	257	222	209	245	264
Interest and Finance Charges	2/4	2	6	5	5	5	1	5	4
Direct Taxes Paid	58	75	87	117	118	67	75	194	220
(Inc.)/Dec. in WC	407	860	-621	-1,150	-952	-852	-1,261	-199	-584
CF from Operations	2,355	2,525	1,747	1,279	1,918	2,519	1,102	3,092	3,123
EO Expense	467	-245	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CF from Operations incl. EO	2,822	2,280	1,747	1,279	1,918	2,519	1,102	3,092	3,123
(inc.)/dec. in FA	-262	-432	-177	-744	-153	-308	-301	-202	-428
Free Cash Flow	2,560	1,848	1,570	535	1,765	2,211	801	2,890	2,695
(Pur.)/Sale of Investments	-2,114	-1,505	343	1,130	1,257	-2,151	824	-1,900	-2,100
Others	-4	-5	2	438	21	2,151	138	0	2,100
CF from Investments	-2,380	-1,943	168	824	1,125	-2,173	661	-2,102	-2,528
Issue of Shares	-2,380	-1,943	-2,000	-2,000	-2,404	-2,173	0	-2,102	-2,528
(Inc.)/Dec. in Debt	-5	30	-2,000	39	-2,404	-42	-5	-5	0
Interest Paid	-2	-2	-18	-5	-10	-42	-5	-5	-4
Dividend Paid	-414	-249	-247	-247	-247	-274	-265	-530	
CF from Fin. Activity	-414 - <b>415</b>	-249 -221				-274 -285		-530 - <b>540</b>	-530
Inc./Dec. in Cash	-415	-221	-1,985 -71	-2,156 -52	-3,049	-285	-1,703 61	-540	-533 62
		94			-6 97				
Add: Beginning Balance	66 <b>93</b>		210	139	87	81	141	201	652
Closing Balance	93	210	139	87	81	141	201	652	714

Explanation of Investment Rating						
Investment Rating	Expected return (over 12-month)					
BUY	>=15%					
SELL	<-10%					
NEUTRAL	< - 10 % to 15%					
UNDER REVIEW	Rating may undergo a change					
NOT RATED	We have forward looking estimates for the stock but we refrain from assigning recommendation					

\*In case the recommendation given by the Research Analyst is inconsistent with the investment rating legend for a continuous period of 30 days, the Research Analyst shall within following 30 days take appropriate measures to make the recommendation consistent with the investment rating legend.

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