

Agriculture Research

8.64 India's National Agricultural Research System (NARS) through an extensive system of farmer support and extension network was instrumental in achieving food security in the country after seventies.

8.65 Some of the important technologies provided by NARS in addition to hybrids and high yielding varieties are: embryo transfer technique in cows, buffaloes and sheep; broiler strain Avimamus weighing more than 30 kg at 6 months; region specific Integrated Pest Management (IPM) modules; effective biological control measures; biopesticides (specially neem based); use of biofertilizers; and use of biologicals against bacterial, viral and parasitic diseases making India self-sufficient in preventive medicines for the livestock and poultry. Other major highlights are evolving and developing high yielding and high quality agricultural crops and improved technology - basmati rice, durum and dicoccum wheat,

confectionery grade groundnut, tomato and potato varieties suitable for processing, zero energy cool chamber technology for on-farm storage of fruits and vegetables, technology for absorbable surgical sutures from fish guts, technology of chitin/chitosan as haemostatic agent as well as growth promoters and true potato seed production technology - to strengthen and sustain exports.

8.66 In the fast changing global context, managing the change on a time scale, by converting weaknesses into opportunities to become internationally competitive is considered important. Perspective Plan - 2020 for all the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) institutions and State Agricultural Universities have been prepared. The Vision 2020 documents are based on the analysis of institutional strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT); past achievements and failures; likely challenges in future; and the suggested strategies to meet them effectively.