



## India for ties with US varsities on agri research

OUR ECONOMY BUREAU  
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India wanted to work together with the agriculture universities and research laboratories in the US to tap the potential in horticulture and food processing, said Montek Singh Ahluwalia, deputy chairman of the Planning Commission.

"Through the Indo-US agriculture initiative, we are exploring possibilities for collaboration with US research laboratories, universities and even corporates. This will help us in agriculture research and tackle issues relevant under the World Trade Organisation to enter European markets," Ahluwalia said at a FICCI meeting. Ahluwalia is also the co-chair of the Indo-US energy dialogue.

"We need to give a big thrust to agriculture research. This requires a huge research agenda which will look into post-harvest technology, food processing, preservation, and sanitary and phyto-sanitary issues related with the WTO," he added.

On the Indo-US CEOs' Forum, he said at a meeting on September 9, the Indian CEOs were expected to present a short "laundry list" having critical policy issues that needed attention to boost bilateral trade.

The issues will then be discussed at the CEOs' forum meeting likely to be held next month. Ahluwalia said inter-governmental discussions would be held before the visit of the US President George W Bush scheduled for early next year.