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India, US sign pact to energise agri research

Economy Bureau

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India and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) today signed a joint declaration to energise agricultural research between the two countries.

The initiative may consider areas for joint research using biotechnology for harnessing genetic potential of agriculturally important plant and animal species. The joint working group on agricultural biotechnology, a USAID supported effort, may coordinate with this Initiative to promote these objectives.

Collaborative research, information, education, communication technologies, commercialisation, aligning Indian agriculture and research to international standards and certi-

fication in global markets, sanitary and phytosanitary standards and related areas are among few subjects in the joint declaration.

The director-general of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Dr Mangala Rai and J B Penn, under secretary for farm and foreign agricultural services in the USDA signed the joint declaration in the presence of Union agriculture minister, Sharad Pawar.

A high level delegation from US, consisting Robert Portman, US Trade Representative, JB Penn, David C Mulford, US ambassador in India called upon Union agriculture minister, Sharad Pawar before signing the joint declaration.

It is to be recalled that a newly signed declaration was to formalise India-US knowledge initiative on agriculture. ♦