

Camson, Dutch varsity tie-up to produce bio-friendly crops

Our Bureau

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Camson Bio Technologies has signed an agreement with Netherland-based Wageningen University to develop disease-resistant and bio-friendly fruits and vegetables.

The tie-up will pave the way to garner a large share of the cash crops segment, which is pegged at Rs 4,000 crore in India and slated to grow at 25-30 per cent per annum.

Mr Dharendra Kumar, Managing Director, Camson Biotech, said the technological tie-up with Wageningen University will pave the path for a biotech revolution for developing hybrid seeds that can be used to satisfy the hunger situation across the globe.

WU is globally renowned for its expertise in implementing Cisgenesis to arrive at superior produce. The University was in the news recently for its pio-

neering work in developing disease-resistant potatoes.

Through Cisgenesis, Camson will be able to develop new cultivars that are strongly tolerant to biotic and abiotic stress. In Cisgenesis, hybrid seeds are developed from genes of the same plant or from those belonging to the same species. For instance, a hybrid seed could be developed from the genes of two unrelated chili plants.

Cisgenic plants are considered as safe genetically modified organism because it does not use the genes from unrelated species as in the case of transgenic.

Over the years, Camson has successfully launched several vegetable and fruit hybrids such as the yellow-skin watermelon, yellow flesh watermelon, pink tomatoes, orange tomatoes and disease-tolerant tomatoes.