

Background

Technology Mission on Oilseeds (TMO) was created in Department of Agriculture Research & Education (DARE) in May, 1986, under the chairmanship of Secretary Agriculture & Cooperation) with DG, ICAR and Secretary DARE) being its co-Chairmen, to increase the production of oilseeds, reduce the import of oilseeds and achieve self-sufficiency in edible oils. The TMO was transferred from DARE to DAC in March, 1990. Keeping in view the success on oilseeds production, pulses were brought under the Technology Mission in 1990. Oil Palm and Maize were also brought under the Technology Mission in 1992-93 and 1995-96 respectively.

Objectives of the Mission

The main objectives of the Mission as envisaged in the Note for the Cabinet were to make the country self-reliant as early as possible in edible and non-edible oils and reduce imports through integrated approach involving different developmental, scientific, input, banking and marketing agencies. It was also envisaged in the Note for the Cabinet that the Mission would

- I. aim at increasing production and productivity of the different oilseed crops in 180 districts through assured input supply and technology packages,
- II. develop location-specific technologies for each of the crops for maximizing production,
- III. produce adequate quantities of breeder's seed, foundation seed and certified seed of different oilseed crops,
- IV. take up mass multiplication of tissue-cultured plants of oil palm and coconut,
- V. modernize cyro-preservation of important germplasms of oilseed crops and also develop facilities for importing superior oil-yielding plants from outside,
- VI. organize seed gardens to produce superior quality varietal and hybrid materials of oil palm and coconut,
- VII. create an awareness about the improved and emerging technologies in selected blocks through National Demonstrations, Operational Research Projects, Krishi Vigyan Kendras and Lab-to-Land Programmes,
- VIII. assist the developmental workers in training and imparting latest technologies of science,
- IX. help modernize the processing technology to increase the output and improve the safety and quality of oil.

It was further envisaged that the Mission would concentrate first on the major crops which contributed the maximum to the edible oils economy of India. The crops that would receive priority are groundnut, rapeseed-mustard, soybean, sunflower, safflower, linseed, sesamum and niger in the given order. It was further provided that the Mission would also give priority to non-edible oilseed crops to meet the requirement of industry.