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Dr. Pandey is currently serving as ADG Horticulture Science in ICAR. He joined at ICAR HQ in the year 2013 as Principal scientist. Prior to this, he served at ICAR-IIHR, Regional Station, Bhubaneswar, NRC for Banana, Tiruchchirappalli; ICAR-IIVR, Varanasi as Scientist, Sr. Scientist & Principal Scientist up to 2013. He has widely travelled (5 countries) to represent India at international forums, conferences, etc. He joined ARS in 1996. He completed his PhD from Banaras Hindu University in 1998. He completed his PG from Chandra Shekhar Azad University of agriculture and technology, Kanpur with 1st rank in the University and for which he also received Chancellor's Gold Medal.

Dr Pandey has more than 55 research papers published in national and international journals of repute. He published 12 technical bulletins, 60 seminar proceedings, 10 popular articles, and 30 extension folders. He has authored 7 books. He has identified new varieties of Mango, custard apple and chilli.

Presentation Summary

Fruit and Vegetable Processing Challenges in Rural India

Presentation summarizes about the horticulture development scenario in the country. How India managed to become the leading producer of fruits and vegetables in the world. Despite the high production and increasing area under horticultural crops, India struggled largely on issues like low productivity, indigenous planting material, fragmented land holdings, adoption of scientific practices to grow the crop, consonance between farmers and industry, huge postharvest losses and lower processing and value addition. Farmers are generally more production oriented and their major concern is to harvest a good crop and sell in the market at profitable proposition. They lack awareness about avenues to process it and increase the value of crop. Another important aspect is that farmers lack awareness about the requirements of food processing industries in terms of raw material/ quality traits of fruits and vegetables for processing. Appropriate strategies are needed to address these challenges where suitable government schemes to promote fruit and vegetable processing and extension services play a vital role.