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Priyanka Tripathi
Assistant Librarian, Integral
University, Lucknow, Uttar
Pradesh, India

Dr. Prashant Bhardwaj
Assistant Professor and HoD
University Librarian (I/C),
Central Library, Department
of Library and Information
Science, Jai Minesh Adivasi
University, Ranpur, Kota,
Rajasthan, India

Akshay Kumar
Assistant Professor,
Department of Library and
Information Science, Jai
Minesh Adivasi University,
Ranpur, Kota, Rajasthan,
India

Dr. Praveen Babel
Faculty & Librarian, Library
and Information Science
Banasthali Vidyapith, Tonk,
Rajasthan, India

Corresponding Author:
Priyanka Tripathi
Assistant Librarian, Integral
University, Lucknow, Uttar
Pradesh, India

Analysis of NIRF India rankings 2025: A study of top agricultural institutions in India

Priyanka Tripathi and Prashant Bhardwaj, Akshay Kumar and Praveen Babel

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Abstract

Educational Institutions are the main pillar of the nation that increase the development. According to the Economic Survey 2023-24 and current evaluations, the agriculture and allied sectors contribute around 18.2% to 18.3% to India's GDP (Gross Value Added) at present prices. Research institution and Agricultural universities perform important part in proceeding. Agricultural education is important in the growth of research, and technological innovation in India. These institutions provide an improving agricultural productivity. It also supporting rural development. These institutions addressing national challenges such as food security and sustainable agriculture. NIRF estimates higher education institutions constructed on the rules of including education, research, outreach, also perception. The present study examines the upper ten institutes ranked popular in NIRF India Positions 2025 under Agriculture Sector category. The study admits a descriptive and analytical research design. It is using secondary data collected from the official NIRF 2025 dataset. The study main variables measured institution name, city, state, rank, and score. The analysis also examines the availability of digital library services as well as institutions by converting selected digital services, like digital libraries, e-resources access, institutional repositories, remote access, and OPAC. Digital Service Score to allow comparative analysis besides graphical illustration. The findings specify that the IARI (Indian Agricultural Research Institute), New Delhi, secured the prime rank with the highest score. It is surveyed through ICAR, National Dairy Research Institute and Punjab Agricultural University. The results added expose that most top-ranked institutions are concentrated in Northern India. While southern and western regions are represented by institutions such as Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and the Central Institute of Fisheries Education. The comparative analysis of digital services shows that most institutions have well-established. Digital infrastructures, remote access services are comparatively less common. The paper has highpoints of the rising importance of digital library services and institutional performance evaluation. Strengthening agricultural education and research in India's education.

Keywords: GDP (Gross Domestic Product), National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC), IARI (Indian Agricultural Research Institute), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE)

Introduction

Agricultural education innovation in India discovers a vital role in firming food safety and rural growth. Research institutes as well as Agricultural universities have expressively to scientific research. It also has technology transfer, and capacity building for sustainable agricultural practices (Food and Agriculture Organization [FAO], 2021; Kumar & Singh, 2020) ^[4]. The NIRF stayed introduced through the Ministry of Education, Government of India, recognizing an importance of quality assessment in higher education, in 2015. It will have to estimate besides rank advanced educational institutes all over the nation (Ministry of Education, 2025). The framework aims to promote transparency, accountability, and competitiveness. Among higher education institutions by providing a standardized ranking system (Agarwal, 2022) ^[1].

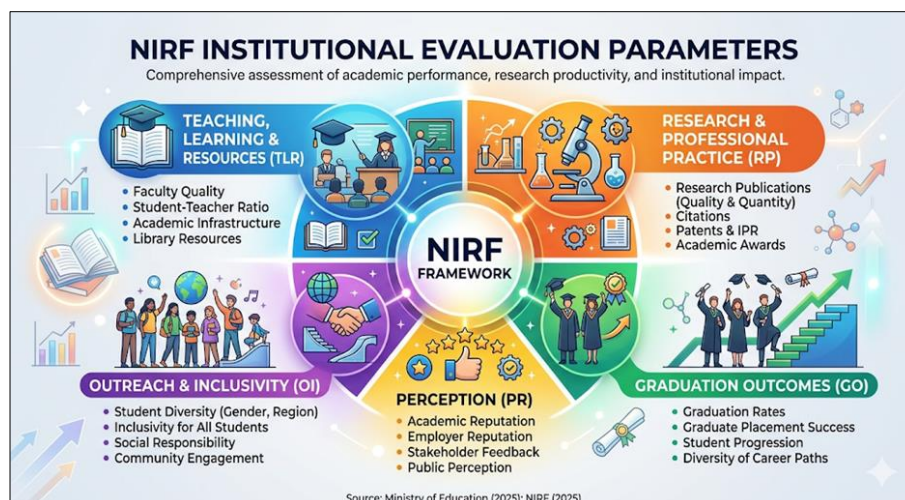


Diagram1: NIRF evaluates institutions based on five major parameters

Institutions specializing in agricultural sciences, veterinary sciences, fisheries, dairy technology, and allied disciplines. The present study aims to analyse the top 10 institutes ranked at NIRF Indian Positions 2025 under an Agriculture then Allied Sector category. The study highlights institutional distribution as well as ranking scores, and geographical representation. These are providing current state of agricultural higher education in India. Its contributing to the agricultural sector for research and innovation.

Review of Literature

Agricultural universities and research institutions trainings specify higher education institutions specializing in agriculture contribute substantially. Research outputs, extension services, and the development of sustainable agricultural practices (Kumar & Singh, 2020) [4]. Agricultural universities emphasized that ranking systems have a dynamic role in benchmarking institutional performance and guiding policy decisions in higher education (Agarwal 2022) [1]. These institutions support agricultural innovation. They have rising improved crop varieties, innovative farming technologies, and extension services. It's help for farmers and rural communities (Sharma & Gupta, 2019). Agricultural universities research studies also highlight the role of advancing scientific research and agricultural innovation (Singh and Patel 2021) [8]. Institutional positions deliver valued visions interested in a comparative performance of universities across different parameters. These parameters enable a complete assessment of institutional performance. It is also helping investors identify leading institutions in exact disciplines. These institutions performance a main part in developing modern agricultural technologies, improving crop productivity, and supporting national agricultural policies. Aimed of these institutions are achieving sustainable agricultural

development (Indian Council of Agricultural Research [ICAR], 2023; Singh & Patel, 2021) [8].

Purposes of the Study

The current study aims towards examine a performance and distribution by leading agricultural institutions in India. It's totally built arranged by NIRF National Positions 2025 popular the Farming Sector category. Specific objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To identify the highest ten institutes ranked under NIRF India Rankings 2025 under Agriculture besides Allied Sector category.
2. To analyse the ranking scores and comparative performance of the selected institutions in order to understand their relative standing and academic excellence in agricultural education and research.
3. To examine the geographical distribution of leading agricultural institutions in India, highlighting the regional representation of top-ranked universities and research institutes.
4. To highlight the role of agricultural universities and research institutions in advancing agricultural education and research, particularly in terms of innovation, scientific research, and contribution to national agricultural development.

Methodology

This paper approves a graphic and systematic investigate project. The data were collected from the NIRF National Positions 2025 for the *Farming Allied Sector* category. Top ten ranked institutions were selected for analysis. The collected data consist of the Institute ID, institution name, city, state, NIRF score, and rank. The data were organized and analysed using simple descriptive and statistical methods to examine institutional presentation and geographical circulation.

Table 1: Top Ten Institutions in Agriculture Sectors (NIRF 2025)

Rank	Institution	City, State	Score
1	Indian Agricultural Research Institute	New Delhi, Delhi	89.23
2	ICAR – National Dairy Research Institute	Karnal, Haryana	75.87
3	Punjab Agricultural University	Ludhiana, Punjab	75.83
4	Banaras Hindu University	Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh	68.95
5	Indian Veterinary Research Institute	Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh	67.66
6	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University	Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu	67.06
7	Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Tech.	Srinagar, J&K	65.81

8	Central Institute of Fisheries Education	Mumbai, Maharashtra	63.92
9	G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology	Pantnagar, Uttarakhand	61.56
10	Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University	Hisar, Haryana	61.47

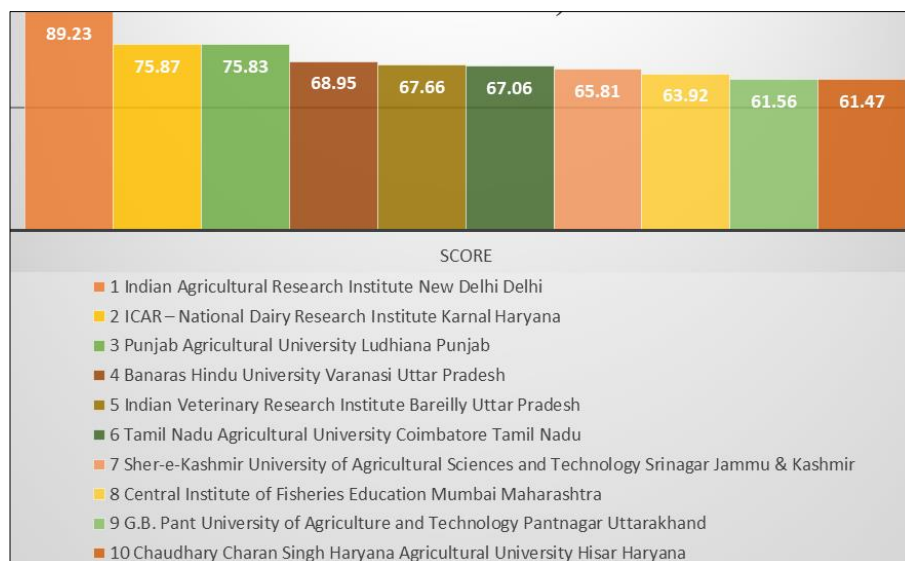


Diagram 2: State-wise Distribution of Top Agricultural Institutions (NIRF 2025)

This shows a wide geographical illustration of farming teaching and study institutions in nation. Among a state, Haryana then Uttar Pradesh has the highest representation with two institutions each. Accounting for 20% of the total institutions per state and 40% combined representation in the top ten rankings. Haryana hosts the ICAR: NDRI (National Dairy Research Institute: Rank 2 for Scoring 75.87) and Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University: Rank 10 by Scoring 61.47). Uttar Pradesh includes Banaras Hindu University: Rank 4 by Scoring 68.95) and the Indian Veterinary Research Institute: Rank 5 by Scoring 67.66). Remaining six states: Delhi, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Jammu & Kashmir, Maharashtra, and Uttarakhand each contribute one institution, representing 10% institutional share per state. From a performance perspective, Delhi records the highest score of 89.23, achieved by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute.

which the first rank nationally. Punjab follows with Punjab Agricultural University scoring 75.83, while Tamil Nadu Agricultural University records a score of 67.06. The lowest scores among the top ten institutions are 61.56 (Uttarakhand) and 61.47 (Haryana). The overall average score across the institutions is approximately 69.84, indicating a strong performance level among the selected institutions. Overall, the numerical distribution highlights that Northern India dominates the ranking with 7 out of 10 institutions (70%), while Southern and Western regions together account for 30% of the institutions, demonstrating regional concentration in agricultural research and education infrastructure. You can present the five digital service aspects separately for each institution by assigning 1 point for each available service (Digital Library, E-Resources, Institutional Repository, Remote Access, OPAC). The total score is calculated out of 5 points.

Table 2: Comparative Analysis of Digital Library Service Aspects

S. No.	Institution	Digital Library	E-Resources	Institutional Repository	Remote Access	OPAC	Total Score
1	Indian Agricultural Research Institute	1	1	1	1	1	5
2	ICAR – National Dairy Research Institute	1	1	1	1	1	5
3	Punjab Agricultural University	1	1	1	1	1	5
4	Banaras Hindu University	1	1	1	1	1	5
5	Indian Veterinary Research Institute	1	1	1	1	1	5
6	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University	1	1	1	1	1	5
7	SKUAST Kashmir	1	1	1	0	1	4
8	Central Institute of Fisheries Education	1	1	1	0	1	4
9	G.B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology	1	1	1	1	1	5
10	CCS Haryana Agricultural University	1	1	1	0	1	4

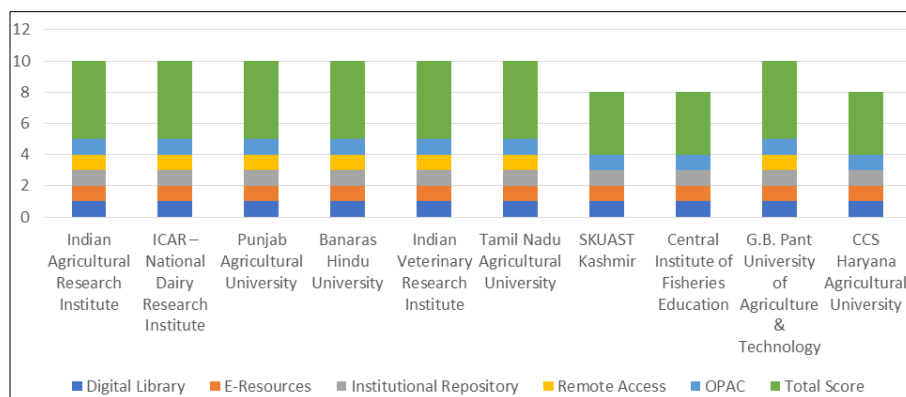


Diagram 3: Comparative Analysis of Digital Library Service Aspects

Scoring Criteria:

- 1 = Service Available
- 0 = Service Not Available

Digital Service Aspects Considered:

1. Digital Library
2. E-Resources
3. Institutional Repository

4. Remote Access

5. Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC)

Total Score = Sum of the five services (Maximum = 5).

This format clearly shows which specific service contributes to the total score, making it suitable for research papers, thesis chapters, or comparative institutional analysis.

Table 3: Percentage Availability of Digital Services

Digital Service	Institutions Providing	Percentage
Digital Library	10	100%
E-Resources Access	10	100%
Institutional Repository	10	100%
Remote Access	7	70%
OPAC	10	100%

The percentage analysis of digital library services shows that the majority of digital services are widely available across the selected agricultural institutions. Out of the five digital services analysed, four services: Digital Library, E-Resources Access, Institutional Repository, and OPAC are

available in all 10 institutions, representing 100% availability. This indicates that agricultural university libraries have strongly adopted digital infrastructure to support academic and research activities.

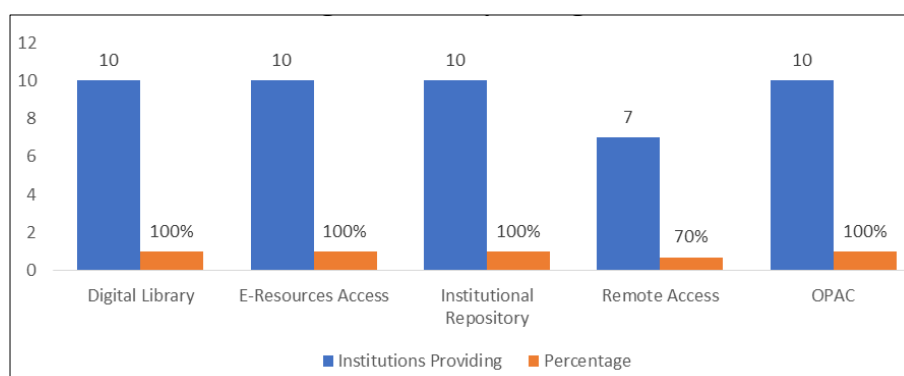


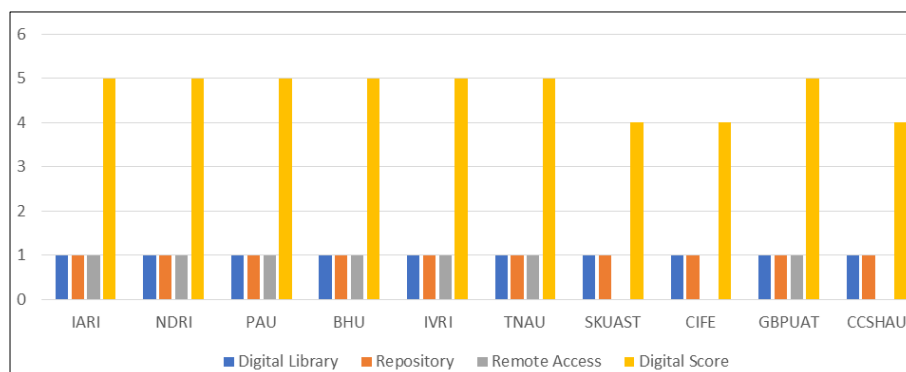
Diagram 4: Percentage Availability of Digital Services

The institutional repository services are fully applied in all over institutions. These are allowing universities to store and distribute research outputs. Some of the outputs are thesis, dissertations, and scholarly publications. OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue) is available in all institutions. OPAC is certifying well-organized search and retrieval tool of library materials. Remote access services are available in only 7 out of the 10 institutions. So, it is representing 70% availability. This shows that 3 institutions

(30%) still lack off-campus access to digital resources. These distribution shows that 40 out of the total 50 possible digital service examples are fully implemented. Digital service implementation rate of 94%. 10 out of 10 institutions provide digital libraries, enabling users to access electronic collections and online resources. In the same way, e-resources access is also available in 100% of the institutions. Representing the general use of digital journals, databases, and e-books in agricultural research.

Table 4: Institutional Digital Infrastructure Comparison

Institution	Digital Library	Repository	Remote Access	Digital Score
IARI	1	1	1	5
NDRI	1	1	1	5
PAU	1	1	1	5
BHU	1	1	1	5
IVRI	1	1	1	5
TNAU	1	1	1	5
SKUAST	1	1	0	4
CIFE	1	1	0	4
GBPUAT	1	1	1	5
CCSHAU	1	1	0	4

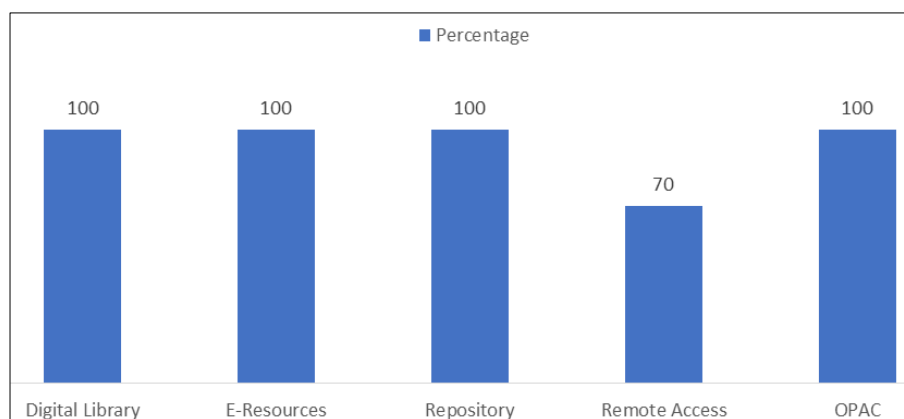
**Diagram 5:** Institutional Digital Infrastructure Comparison

The analysis of institutional digital infrastructure highlights the availability of key digital library services. The services are across the selected agricultural institutions. The data specify that all ten institutions provide Digital Library and Institutional Repository services. So, the resulting in 100% availability for these two digital components. Digital library services are providing by 10 out of 10 institutions (100%). Digital services are permitting users to access electronic collections such as e-journals, e-books, and databases. The analysis shows that remote access services are available in only 7 institutions, representing 70% availability. The institutions providing remote access include IARI, NDRI, PAU, BHU, IVRI, TNAU, and GBPUAT. In contrast, three

institutions are: SKUAST, CIFE, and CCSHAU not provide remote access facilities. The digital service score ranges from 4 to 5, where 7 institutions achieved the maximum score of 5, indicating full availability of all selected services. The remaining 3 institutions scored 4, reflecting the absence of remote access services. The average digital infrastructure score is approximately 4.7 out of 5. Indicating a high level of digital service implementation among agricultural university libraries. The findings suggest that developments in remote access set-up are necessary. Remote access services are ensuring broader off-campus accessibility for students, faculty members, and researchers.

Table 5: Graph for Digital Service Availability

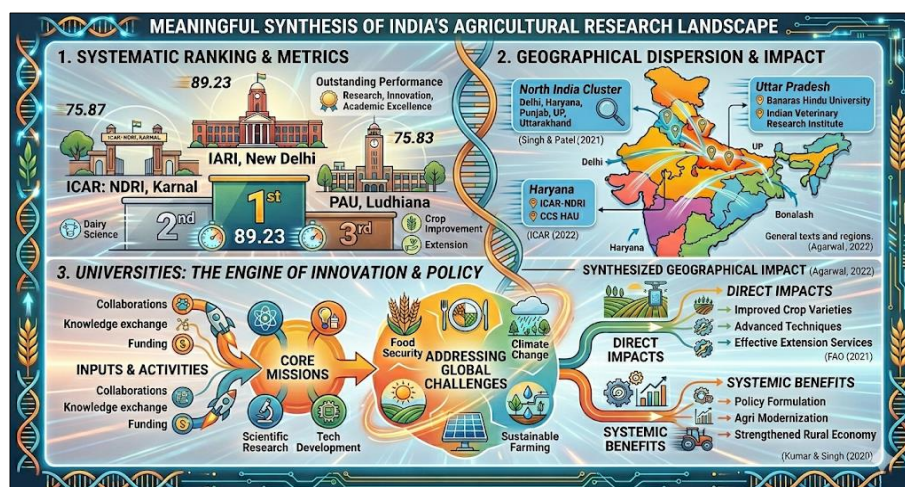
Service	Percentage
Digital Library	100
E-Resources	100
Repository	100
Remote Access	70
OPAC	100

**Diagram 6:** Graph for Digital Service Availability

The analysis of digital service availability across the selected agricultural institutions. These institutions indicate a high level of digital infrastructure implementation in university libraries. The five digital services analysed, four services: Digital Library, E-Resources Access, Institutional Repository, and OPAC are available in 100% of the institutions. Indicating full acceptance of these essential

digital services. The analysis shows that Remote Access services are available in only 70% of the institutions, meaning 7 out of 10 institutions provide off-campus access to digital resources, while 3 institutions (30%) do not offer this facility.

Results and Discussion



Institutional Ranking Performance

The analysis of the NIRF India Rankings 2025 in the Farming as well as Allied Sector class shows that the IARI (Indian Agricultural Research Institute), New Delhi, secured the first position. IARI scored 89.23 for its outstanding performance in agricultural research, innovation, and academic excellence. The institute takes an important part at advancing agricultural technology and supporting national agricultural development initiatives. The ICAR: NDRI (National Dairy Research Institute), Karnal, ranked second by a number of 75.87, ICAR: NDRI demonstrating its strong contribution to dairy science research and education. Equally, Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana, ranked third with a score of 75.83. PAU highlighting its significant achievements in agricultural research, crop improvement, and extension services.

Geographical Distribution of Institutions

The analysis indicates that the top agricultural institutions are distributed across different regions of India. This paper reflecting the national importance of agricultural education and research. An important awareness of institutions is observed in Northern India. It including institutions located in Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand (Ministry of Education, 2025; NIRF, 2025). These regions have historically played an important role by popular at growth of farming education besides study infrastructure in nation. The state at Uttar Pradesh hosts two institutions among the top ten, namely Banaras Hindu University and the Indian Veterinary Research Institute. These highlighting the state's contribution to agricultural and veterinary research (Singh & Patel, 2021) [8]. Similarly, Haryana also has two institutions, including the ICAR: National Dairy Study Institution and Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University. It is reflecting the state's strong focus on dairy science and agricultural education (Indian Council of Agricultural Research [ICAR], 2023). Geographical distribution from these institutions indicates that farming instruction besides study in India are supported

by a network of universities and specialized institutes located in different regions, contributing to the advancement of agricultural science and rural development nationwide (Agarwal, 2022) [1].

Role of Agricultural Universities in Research and Innovation

Agricultural universities have an active part in addressing main worldwide and national challenges. The challenges are food safety, weather transformation, and supportable farming growth. These institutions contribute significantly to scientific research, technology development, and knowledge dissemination. They aimed at improving agricultural productivity and rural livelihoods (Food and Agriculture Organization [FAO], 2021; Kumar & Singh, 2020) [4]. Universities such as the IARI, PAU, and G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology have played a vital role in developing improved crop varieties, advanced farming techniques, and effective agricultural. The extension services that support farmers and agricultural communities (Indian Council of Agricultural Research [ICAR], 2023). Farming academies collaborate with national and international research organizations. In the promote innovation, capacity building, and technological advancement in the agricultural sector are the result of collaboration. These collaborations facilitate the exchange of knowledge, research funding, and the implementation. The modern agricultural practices of research outcomes generated by these institutions' contributions. Significantly to policy formulation, sustainable farming practices, and agricultural modernization. Ultimately benefiting farmers and strengthening the agricultural economy (Singh & Patel, 2021; Agarwal, 2022) [1, 8].

Conclusion

The analysis of the NIRF India Rankings 2025 in the Agriculture and Allied Sector category highlights a strong presence. Especially agricultural universities and research institutions contributing to agricultural development in

India. The Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) developed as the leading institution. Its outstanding research output, academic excellence, and contribution to agricultural innovation (Ministry of Education, 2025). The findings also disclose that Northern India hosts an important number of top agricultural institutions. While southern and western regions are also represented by prominent universities. Specializing in agricultural and fisheries sciences. This regional distribution reflects the nationwide development of agricultural education and research infrastructure (NIRF, 2025). Continuous investment in research infrastructure, faculty development, digital resources, and technological innovation. It will further strengthen these institutions and enhance India's global standing in agricultural education and research (FAO, 2021; ICAR, 2023).

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