

THE WAY I WORK | Karan Chanana, Amira Foods

“Meetings are dynamic and they should stay that way.”

Running a 95-year-old company, whose supply chain straddles five continents, requires an appetite for innovation and growth. Karan A Chanana, group managing director for Amira Foods, India's largest rice exporter, has displayed that he has a stomach for much of this. Since he took over the reins of The Amira Group, which also has interests in infrastructure, energy and special economic zones, the company has morphed from a family-run business to a professionally-managed unit. A believer in structured approaches and smart people, he has steered the company from a turnover of ₹367 crore in 2007 to ₹1,040 crore in 2009 (both calendar years). Along the way, the company has picked up prestigious tags—like 'Global Growth Company'—and he a handful of accolades for his contributions to business in India. Amira now sells its own label of basmati and non-basmati rice, which sits on shelves of retail chains across the US, New Zealand and Canada. Here's a peek at his typical workday.

AS TOLD TO SHREYASI SINGH | PHOTOGRAPH BY SUBHOJIT PAUL

I am always eager to start a new day. Morning means a fresh start, that's why I look forward to it. My body clock is pretty much set. I wake up by 7am, without alarm clocks and beeps. I sleep for six hours. More than that, I feel I am wasting time.

The Taste of Success
Karan Chanana enjoys establishing systems and processes, and watching them hit milestones.

