

UP eyes boost in forex with focus on export of millets

State Biggest Producer Of Millets In India

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: UP stands to gain the most following Union food processing ministry's announcement of spending Rs 800 crore on promotion of millets in 2026-27. These products will be in both ready-to-eat and ready-to-serve forms.

A state government spokesperson said that being the biggest producer of millets, UP has been at the forefront in promotion of coarse grain in the international year of millet. He said that the cultivation of millets has been a tradition of this state. The spokesperson said that the government's focus is also on the export of millet and other

coarse grains.

"The Foodgrains Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has identified 30 countries which have good export potential," he said. It is notable that about

20% of the country's bajra production is in UP. However, only 1% of bajra is exported from the state. "Therefore, through processing, the possibilities of its export and the foreign exchange received

from it increase," the spokesperson said. The prospects of UP are also better as production of bajra per hectare is 1,917 kg as compared to the national average (1,195 kg).

The government is also procuring bajra at the minimum support price (MSP) at the rate of Rs 2,350 per quintal in 18 districts. Bajra is the fourth important crop of the state after wheat, paddy, sugarcane. Being used as food and fodder, it has multiple uses. Nutrients wise, it has no comparison with any other cereal, hence it is also called 'Nutrea Millets' and 'Nutrea Cereals'.

After India celebrated Millet Year in 2018, farmers and other people have also become aware of the benefits of millets. As a result, the per hectare yield, total production and area under crop coverage of millet increased steadily.