

'Till '19, there was nil export of agri cargo from Varanasi airport'

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He said, "With flagging off by the CM, the IPH Varanasi packed first consignments of mango and green chilli will leave for markets of Gulf, including Dubai and Doha via air and sea routes, respectively."

Recalling the journey of making East UP region a hub of agri export, Singh said, "Till 2019, there was nil export of agri cargo from Varanasi airport and negligible export from Lucknow airport. Now, flights are fully loaded with agri air cargo at Varanasi and Lucknow."

Highlighting the trend of growth in export of agri products from international airports of UP, he said, "In 2019-20 Lucknow had exported 99 MT of green vegetables and mangos while export from Varanasi was nil. In 2020-21 Lucknow exported 111.47 MT while only four MT vegetables were exported

from Varanasi. In 2021-22 export of these agri and horticulture produces from Lucknow was 661.50 MT and Varanasi exported 157 MT. In 2022-23 Lucknow's export was recorded as 703.30 MT while Varanasi's export figures jumped to 561 MT."

"The growth percentage of agri export from Varanasi airport in 2022-23 was 420% compared to 2021-22 figures while this growth at Lucknow airport was 6%", said Singh adding that between April and Jun this year Varanasi's export figure was 120.5 MT while Lucknow has exported 169.9 MT of agri products. He also referred the measures initiated to achieve the goal of developing East UP as an export hub by making Varanasi its centre. The IPH established here fulfils requirements of international standard, which is a must, especially for exporting agri products to European Union, Japan and Korea.