

UP rolls out PM scheme for food processing units

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Lucknow: The UP government has started the roll out of the Prime Minister Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PMFME), a centrally sponsored programme to promote private micro food processing units.

The government has started the process to identify the state project management unit to implement the scheme, form district level committees, empanel district resource persons, enrol state level technical institutes, approve the list of food items according to their districts and draw up the project implementation plan for the current financial year.

The Centre launched the scheme in June this year under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan with an outlay of Rs 10,000 crore for five years. It has been proposed to

assist two lakh enterprises across India, while 37,826 entrepreneurs from UP have been identified for formalization. The expenditure under the scheme will be shared between the Centre and state governments in the ratio of 60:40.

"We will be taking up food industries on lines of 'one district-one product' and are in the process of identifying

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district wise food processing activities. Once that is done, we will work towards improving the value chain by providing infrastructure, backward linkages support, brand promotion and marketing support to these enterprises," said an official.

Among food products already identified are mango for Amroha, Lucknow, Sitapur, Unnao, Varanasi and

Mau, banana for Lakhimpur Kheri, Gorakhpur, Shravasti and Gonda, guava for Banda, Prayagraj and Kausambi, amla for Rai Bareilly, Fatehpur, Pratapgarh and Amethi, jaggery for Meerut, Bagpat, Muzaffarnagar, Shamli, Bijnor, Pilibhit and Shahjahanpur, bakery goods for Ghaziabad, Gautam Budh Nagar, Kanpur and Sant Kabir Nagar, onion for Ghazipur, Bhadohi and Ballia, tomato for Etawah, Chandauli, Mirzapur and Sonbhadra, and milk products for Mathura, Aligarh, Bulandshahr, Bareilly, Kanpur Dehat, Auraiya. These were selected as per regional specialization and skills available in various districts.

The horticulture and food processing department has been designated as the state nodal department while directorate of horticulture and food processing, Lucknow will be the nodal agency for implementation.