

UP govt to establish agricultural export hub near Jewar airport

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The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to establish an export hub near the Jewar airport to boost agricultural exports. It will be developed under UP AGREES project, facilitating large-scale export of two to three key crops. The project, with the objective of boosting income of farmers, agricultural productivity and related industries in Uttar Pradesh, will be set near Jewar international airport under the UP AGREES (Uttar Pradesh Agriculture Growth and Rural Enterprises Ecosystem Strengthening) project. The initiative will be implemented with support from the World Bank.

In addition, agricultural special economic zones (SEZ) will be established to facilitate large-scale global export of two to three selected crops. Moreover, plans are in place to set up two to three world-class hatcheries. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has instructed officials to make comprehensive arrangements for promoting loans to farmers under the UP AGREES scheme. This initiative by the Yogi government marks a significant stride toward transforming the state's agriculture sector into a powerhouse for the entire nation.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has recently approved the UP AGREES project, aiming to transform the state's agriculture sector and achieve global recognition for its agricultural products. As part of this initiative, an export hub will be set up near Jewar airport to facilitate the promotion and export of high-value agricultural products such

as peanuts, vegetables, Kala Namak rice and sesame. Uttar Pradesh already has a significant export portfolio, including meat, basmati rice, fruits, vegetables and various food processing products. With this new initiative, the state aims to enhance its agricultural exports further. To support this effort, 30,750 cluster farmer groups will be developed, and a common facility centre for exporters will also be established.

Under the UP AGREES project, agriculture SEZs will be established to facilitate the large-scale export of two to three key agricultural products from the state, focusing on forward linkages to capture a significant share of the export markets. These SEZs will be developed in 11 districts across Uttar Pradesh.

Specifically, SEZs will be set up in Siddharthnagar and Gorakhpur for Kala Namak rice, while Jhansi will have SEZs for peanuts. Additionally, districts like Lalitpur will focus on urad, and Jaunpur, Bhadohi, Varanasi, Ghazipur and Ballia will concentrate on vegetables. The project aims to implement comprehensive measures to increase the productivity of major crops by 30 per cent to 50 per cent over the next five years, resulting in at least a 25 per cent increase in the incomes of farmers. Furthermore, a world-class carbon credit market will be established to promote organic farming practices.

Local weather stations will be set up to provide accurate weather information to food producers, and two to three world-class hatcheries will be created to enhance fisheries.