

Committed to making farmers self-reliant: CM

UP, Netherlands Sign MoU For Agri Innovation

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during the inauguration of Krishi Bharat-2024 event at Vrindavan Yojana in Lucknow on Friday

Exhibition showcasing agri innovations

Lucknow: The Krishi Bharat Exhibition, which is being organized on 20,000 sqm area, is showcasing innovations and sustainable developments in agriculture. Featuring over 250 exhibitors, the event is expected to attract more than one lakh farmers and visitors. The Netherlands is the official country partner, while representatives from Australia, Canada, Uganda, Spain, and the UK, along with agricultural experts and stakeholders, are also participating in the event. TNN

matic zones within the country, each state brings unique experiences, and regions have shown remarkable progress—even under challenging circumstances worldwide. By sharing best practices, we can learn much from one another," Yogi said.

The CM emphasized Uttar Pradesh's vital role in Indian agriculture, noting that while the state accounts for 17% of India's population (25 crore) and only 11% of the country's cultivable land, it contributes 20% of the nation's total agricultural output. "This remarkable achievement reflects the state's abundant water resources and fertile land," he said.

Highlighting the untapped potential, the CM said that with the integration of digital agriculture and advanced technologies, agricultural productivity could in-

crease by 3-4 times.

"There is a need to reduce agricultural costs, adopt modern technology, and minimize reliance on chemical fertilizer by utilising natural resources," he said.

He expressed satisfaction over discussions with the Netherlands Ambassador during her recent visit to Uttar Pradesh.

"The MoUs between Uttar Pradesh and the Netherlands, including govt-to-govt and business-to-business collaborations, mark a significant step forward in agricultural innovation and cooperation. The Netherlands, with its expertise in affordable, sustainable technology, provides valuable insights," the CM added.

Netherlands vice-minister for agriculture Jan-Kees Goet said, "The Netherlands is known for its agricultural

ability and use of technology in agricultural sector. All challenges can be dealt with through partnership and co-ordination between India and the Netherlands."

He said India's agriculture sector was full of achievements and immense possibilities. "There are many challenges, including climate change, all over the world that need solutions. Along with sharing our expertise, we are learning a lot from India's experience," he said.

Earlier, in a meeting with the delegation, the CM highlighted UP's vast potential, and said that collaborating with countries like the Netherlands would help propel these initiatives forward.

State minister of agriculture, agricultural education, and agricultural research, Surya Pratap Shahi said, "A great effort was made in the form of Krishi Bharat 2024 to promote sustainable agriculture. It will be a milestone in increasing agricultural pro-

duction in the state and taking the country and taking the state to the target of a one trillion dollar economy."

"For the first time, Agrotech is being organised in Lucknow. UP is the new powerhouse of agriculture. There has been a lot of progress in agricultural sector in India. Focus on modern technology is proving to be helpful in this direction," said CII president and chairman and managing director of ITC Ltd, Sanjeev Puri.

Lucknow: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday said that Uttar Pradesh plays a vital role in the field of agriculture as it contributes 20% of total agricultural output despite having only 11% of country's cultivable land.

Inaugurating a four-day event, Krishi Bharat-2024, in Vrindavan Yojana, the CM said that efforts were being made to ensure that farmers became self-reliant.

Yogi also attended a bilateral meeting with the partner country, the Netherlands, and met a delegation led by the country's Vice-Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security, and Nature, Jan-Kees Goet, and Ambassador to India, Marisa Gerards. The CM also inaugurated the exhibition at the Netherlands pavilion and visited exhibition stalls.

A memorandum of understanding was signed between the UP govt and the Netherlands as a step to strengthen agricultural innovation and cooperation.

"In the past decade, significant efforts were made across the country to free farmers from the burden of high-interest loans and guide them towards self-reliance. However, there is still room for improvement," the CM said.

"Our focus should be on advancing agricultural sector with enhanced technology. Given the diverse agro-climatic