

# Food processing to get a major push in state

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Lucknow:** The state govt said on Friday that it was actively promoting food processing, positioning Uttar Pradesh, a largely agrarian state, to reap the greatest benefits.

According to a state govt spokesperson, India's agricultural exports are steadily rising. In 2019-20, exports stood at \$35 billion, which surged to \$51 billion by 2024-25,

with fruits and vegetables accounting for the largest share. The Central govt has devised a comprehensive strategy to further boost this growth by identifying approximately two-dozen export-worthy products and their target markets. To reduce logistics costs, sea routes are being prioritized for exports.

UP, the spokesperson said, stands out as the biggest beneficiary of these developments. It leads the country in the production of potatoes, sugarcane, whe-

at, mangoes and a range of vegetables.

The state's agricultural potential continues to grow, supported by a robust combination of resources: over 56% of the population comprises youth, most agricultural land is irrigated and its nine agro-climatic zones enable the cultivation of a diverse range of crops.

The spokesperson said that since 2017, targeted policies have led to consistent growth in agriculture, contributing to the overall

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development of the state.

"A few months ago, NITI Ayog vice-chairman Rajiv Kumar, during his visit to Lucknow, lauded UP's economic progress and remarked that it could become the 'growth engine of Viksit Bharat'. He suggested enhancing the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme by focusing on value-added, market-driven products and turning districts into hubs of economic activity," the spokesperson said.