

AGRA TO BECOME GLOBAL INNOVATION HUB FOR TUBER CROPS

LUCKNOW : Uttar Pradesh is set to emerge as a global centre for innovation in tuber crops with the establishment of the South Asia Regional Centre (CSARC) of the International Potato Centre (CIP), Peru, a government spokesman said here

According to him, a CIP delegation led by director general Simon Heck met chief minister Yogi Adityanath here on Tuesday and discussed the progress of the upcoming centre in Agra's Singna village.

"CM Yogi emphasised expanding research beyond potatoes to include other tuber crops and suggested using agricultural universities for training farmers until the centre is built" the spokesman said. Approved with Rs 111.50 crore by the Union Cabinet, the centre will focus on seed innovation, germplasm conservation and value chain development. Dr Heck said CSARC will boost farmers' income and make UP the potato innovation hub of South Asia. Uttar Pradesh contributes 35% of India's potato output, with Agra being a major producer. CSARC aims to address seed quality.