

CM announces 250-acre seed park in Lucknow

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The CM said if quality seeds and technology are provided on time, the state can produce three times more than its current output. He added that centres of excellence will be established in collaboration with international institutions like IRRI and the International Potato Centre (CIP) to promote research-based agricultural growth.

Yogi said that Kala Namak rice, which was offered by Lord Buddha 2600 years ago, is being promoted globally as Lord Buddha's Prasad. He added that rice cultivation in the state has an 8,000-year-old history, with ancient inscriptions from Thanjavur and Ramanathapuram highlighting India's advanced agricultural tradition. After independence, UP's food grain production increased from 11.77 million tonnes to 60 million tonnes, while the cultivated area expanded from 17 million hectares to 24 million hectares.

The CM also announced the establishment of a 250-acre seed park in Lucknow, to be named after former PM Chaudhary Charan Singh, for producing improved seeds. He also expressed hope for the early establishment of an International Potato Centre in Agra. A battery-operated e-seeder and a precision hill seeder developed by IRRI and JNVV were unveiled, along with publications on direct seeding of rice, zero-tillage wheat, and the Samriddhi Rice Network.

Yogi urged scientists to take research "from labs to land," ensuring that new technologies directly benefit farmers. UP currently cultivates 7 million hectares of rice, 10 million hectares of wheat, and 2.9 million hectares of sugarcane, along with extensive pulses and oilseed crops.