

UP identified as India's 'food processing powerhouse' by Global Trade Research

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Uttar Pradesh is scripting a new chapter of industrial growth rooted in agriculture with the state now rapidly transforming into India's leading food processing hub.

A recent Global Trade Research report identifies Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat as the nation's "food processing powerhouses."

While Gujarat has advanced dehydration plants in Mehsana and Banaskantha, Uttar Pradesh is building state-of-the-art processing facilities in Agra and

Farrukhabad, ensuring double benefits for farmers through contract farming and robust cold storage networks, officials said here on Saturday.

Today, over 65,000 food processing units in the state employ around 2.55 lakh youth. The UP government aims to establish 1,000 new units in every district, enhancing both value addition and job creation.

Officials said UP has already developed 15 agro- and food-processing parks, including those in Bareilly, Barabanki, Varanasi, and Gorakhpur. Notably, BL Agro plans to set up an integrated agro-processing

hub in Bareilly worth 1,660 crore, featuring facilities for rice milling, oil extraction, and packaging.

The state government is now emphasizing fruit and vegetable processing, high-value crops, and export-oriented industries to connect farmers directly with global markets. A key initiative is the upcoming South Asia Regional Centre of the International Potato Centre (CIP) in Agra, which will drive advanced research on potatoes and other tuber crops, benefiting major producing districts such as Kanpur, Agra, Lucknow, and Farrukhabad.