

UTTAR PRADESH

75,000 food processing units to come up

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In a major push to link its vast farm economy directly with domestic and global markets, the Uttar Pradesh government is looking to establish 75,000 new food processing units across the state.

The expansion is aimed at promoting modern processing of fruits, vegetables, and high-value cash crops so that farmers can tap into lucrative global markets and export-

oriented industries. UP currently hosts about 65,000 food processing units spread across its 75 districts.

With global demand for Indian processed food rising — particularly from the US, Bangladesh, the UAE, and Vietnam — the state government is looking to position UP as a major sourcing hub. To achieve this, it plans to add 1,000 new processing units in each district, effectively doubling the state's food processing capacity to nearly 140,000

units, a senior official said.

This scale-up comes at a time when UP's agricultural economy has expanded rapidly. The state's agricultural gross state value added has grown three-fold in the past eight years, rising from ₹2 trillion in 2016-17 to about ₹7 trillion in 2024-25.

Building on this momentum, the Yogi Adityanath government has set an ambitious target — by 2047, agriculture and allied activities should contribute \$1 trillion to UP's

gross state domestic product. Officials acknowledge that achieving this milestone will require strong alignment between agriculture, food processing, and farm exports.

To support this vision, UP is developing new food processing and cold storage facilities in Agra and Farrukhabad, and integrating contract farming into the broader ecosystem. The state has already established 15 agro and food processing parks across key districts.