

Agri has become axis of devpt: Govt

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Lucknow: The state govt on Thursday said that agriculture is no longer just a means of livelihood, but has become the axis of development.

A govt spokesperson said that by prioritising agriculture and ensuring transparent systems, the face of UP changed within nine years. “Farmers who once struggled with debt, irrigation and delayed payments were brought to the centre of govt priorities,” the spokesperson said. He said that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath made it clear that farmers were not merely a vote bank, but the backbone of the state’s economy.

With this approach, several reforms were initiated in the agricultural sector and the crop procurement at minimum support price became transparent. “Payment systems were made time-bound. Farmers began receiving fair prices for their produce. Expansion of irrigation facilities made farmers self-reliant,” he said, adding that revival of canals, an increase in the number of tube wells and free or concessional irrigation schemes enhanced production capacity.

“Even in drought-prone and water-stressed regions, agriculture began to breathe again,” the spokesperson said, adding that farmers no longer felt alone because they knew that govt stood with them at every step.

Under the leadership of the CM, the state broke free from the foodgrain crisis, black marketing and chaos that prevailed before 2017. “In nine years, farmers moved decisively on the path of prosperity,” he said, adding that the impact of the CM model was evident in the fact that UP, which has only 10% of the country’s total agricultural land, now contributes 21% to national foodgrain production.

“Before 2017, the growth rate of the agricultural sector was stuck in single digits, but under the Yogi govt, the growth rate of agriculture and allied sectors exceeded 14% over the last 3 years,” he said.