

# UP tops India in mushroom output

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**Lucknow:** UP has secured the top spot in the country for mushroom production. The state set a new national record by producing 51,000 metric tonnes of mushrooms in the 2024-25 fiscal year, which was approximately 13% of the country's total mushroom production of 4.3 lakh metric tonnes.

It is the result of the farmers' hard work, adoption of modern techniques, and state govt's farmer-friendly policies, said Dinesh Pratap Singh, state minister (independent charge) for horticulture, agricultural marketing, agricultural foreign trade, and agricultural export.

To promote mushroom cultivation, the horticulture department is providing subsidies ranging from 40% to 50% under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture. Requiring minimal land and low investment, and ready for harvest in just three to four weeks, this crop is pro-

ving to be highly profitable for farmers.

The minister said that for the year 2025-26, approximately 30 units for mushroom production, compost making, and spawn making have been approved with a 40% subsidy.

Meanwhile, a 50% subsidy (up to a maximum of Rs 1 lakh) is being provided for mushroom units based on the 200-square-foot 'thatch-roof' (chhappar) method; under this initiative, around 80 units have already been established. The department allows a single beneficiary to avail of the subsidy benefit for up to five units.

Mushroom cultivation is giving a new direction to the rural economy. It has emerged as a powerful medium for self-employment and entrepreneurship for farmers and women. Mushroom cultivation is gaining popularity in several districts, including Lucknow, Prayagraj, Saharanpur, Mirzapur, Jaunpur, Hardoi, Basti, Meerut, Pratapgarh, Rae Bareilly, and Sonbhadra.