

From Farm Gate to Global Plate: UP and Japan Explore New Food Processing Opportunities

LUCKNOW, Aug 21: Uttar Pradesh and Japan explored new avenues for collaboration in food processing, value addition and global market access at the **Japan-India Business Networking Event** held at **Indira Gandhi Pratishthan, Lucknow**, in partnership with **Yamanashi Prefecture**.

The session, titled **“From Farm Gate to Global Plate: Unlocking UP’s Food Processing Revolution – Leveraging State’s Agricultural Strength for Global Food Markets,”** brought together government and industry leaders to discuss how Uttar Pradesh’s vast agricultural base can be integrated with modern processing, Japanese technology, efficient supply chains and international markets.

Deputy Chief Minister **Keshav Prasad Maurya** delivered the special address, while **Ono Keiichi, Ambassador of Japan to India**, delivered the keynote. The session featured **Harry Hakuei Kosato, Director, Kikkoman India; Sudeep Goenka, Director, Goldiee Group; and Dinesh Kumar Chaudhary, Head of UP Operations, Amul (Banas Dairy)**.

Keshav Prasad Maurya, Deputy Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh: *“Our vision is clear: food products from Uttar Pradesh should reach dining tables across the world. With fertile land, abundant water, hardworking farmers and a young workforce, the state has the scale to become a global food-processing hub. Japan’s advanced technology, quality standards and expertise can help us add value to our agricultural produce, strengthen supply chains and open new international markets. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Ji, Uttar Pradesh has built a strong ecosystem of investor-friendly policies, incentives and modern logistics. We invite Japanese companies to invest, innovate and grow with Uttar Pradesh.”*

Japan sees UP as a long-term food and manufacturing partner

Ambassador **Ono Keiichi** highlighted the scope for deeper Japan-UP cooperation in food processing, technology and human-resource development.

Ono Keiichi, Ambassador of Japan to India: *“Uttar Pradesh offers significant opportunities for Japanese companies through its agricultural strength, industrial base and talent pool. We should build practical partnerships that connect technology, investment and skills with local opportunities and create long-term value for both sides.”*

Kikkoman India Director **Harry Hakuei Kosato** underlined Japan’s long-term commitment to India and said Japanese companies need to understand and adapt to Indian consumer preferences. He noted the growing acceptance of Japanese and Pan-Asian cuisine in India and pointed to opportunities for expanding from B2B to B2C markets.

Kosato also highlighted the potential for **local manufacturing in Uttar Pradesh**, with India serving as a possible export base for neighbouring and international markets. The discussion identified food processing, localisation, technology, supply chains and market access as key areas for future Japan–UP collaboration.

The session reinforced Uttar Pradesh’s ambition to convert its agricultural strength into higher-value production, stronger rural economies and globally competitive food businesses while creating new pathways for Japanese investment and technology partnerships.
