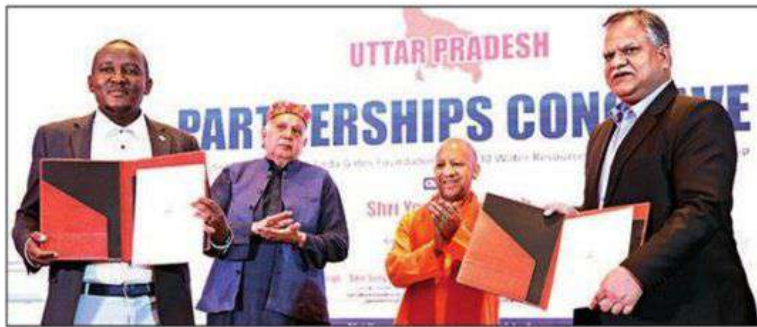


Tech, pvt sector tie-up key to boosting agri sector: CM

‘Now, UP A Robust Energy Hub’

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



CM Yogi Adityanath, agriculture minister Surya Pratap Shahi and chief secretary Manoj Kumar Singh during Partnership Conclave in Lucknow on Thursday

Lucknow: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday stressed the role of technology, govt schemes and private sector collaboration in driving sustainable development and advancing the agriculture sector.

He was speaking during Partnership Conclave held in Lucknow to discuss collaboration between the World Bank and the Gates Foundation in various state projects.

Yogi underlined the work being done to integrate farmers and the agriculture sector with cutting-edge technologies and modern resources.

He said UP's farmers are now empowered through initiatives like solar panel installations, which have also positioned the state as a robust energy hub.

"A major achievement of the state in recent years was

the eradication of encephalitis, which used to cause hundreds of deaths in the state at one time. Before 2017, the disease claimed the lives of 1,500 to 2,000 children annually. However, through the combined efforts of the state govt and organisations like WHO, the Gates Foundation, and UNICEF, encephalitis was completely eradicated within three years," he said.

He attributed the achievement to effective governance, use of technology and public participation.

Highlighting UP's natural resources, he said the state possessed the most fertile land and abundant water resources that offered immense

potential for growth in the agricultural sector.

"The state is home to 89 Krishi Vigyan Kendras and six agricultural universities, which play a pivotal role in empowering farmers and introducing them to advanced technologies," he said.

The CM said solar panels have been provided to about 1 lakh farmers, effectively addressing both irrigation and electricity challenges. In addition to this, the govt has also implemented significant measures to ensure affordable electricity for farmers.

Speaking about the need for collaboration between the govt and private sector to drive advancements in agricul-

ture, Yogi said it was only through such measures that agri productivity can be enhanced by three to four times.

To this end, he said, the private sector is being actively encouraged to contribute to the state's development.

Discussing the govt's priorities, including the timely provision of quality seeds to farmers, efficient utilisation of water resources, and the promotion of agriculture-focused startups, Yogi said well-crafted schemes, coupled with their effective implementation, have the potential to bring transformative changes to the agricultural landscape.

He also expressed gratitude to the Gates Foundation, World Bank, and other international organisations and acknowledged their expertise and support in accelerating UP's progress.

"Such partnerships form the cornerstone of the state's development efforts," he said and urged stakeholders to focus on fostering technology, awareness, and innovation across agriculture and other sectors to ensure sustainable growth and prosperity.