

U.P. govt aims to double maize production by 2027 with new initiative

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LUCKNOW: In a significant move to bolster agricultural productivity, chief minister Yogi Adityanath has set an ambitious target to double maize production by 2027 during his second term. The goal is to elevate maize output to 27.30 lakh metric tonnes within the specified period. To achieve this, the Yogi government planned to enhance both the cultivation area and the yield per hectare, said a government spokesperson on Thursday.

To spearhead this initiative, the state has started the "Quick Maize Development Scheme," with a substantial financial backing of Rs 27.68 crore allocated for the fiscal year 2023/2024. This scheme was designed to drive advancements in maize farming techniques and boost production efficiency across the state, said the spokesperson.

Maize production in the state has currently reached 21.16 lakh metric tonnes, with cultivation spread across approximately

8.30 lakh hectares. The Indian Maize Institute, affiliated with the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, is actively supporting state government efforts to enhance maize farming, added the spokesperson.

As the third major food crop after paddy and wheat, maize's versatility is central to the ambitious goal of doubling its production by 2027.

This target will be achieved through increased yield per hectare and expanded cultivation area. The future of maize production is further bolstered by its potential in ethanol production.

Maize, often hailed as the "queen of grains," is packed with essential nutrients, including carbohydrates, sugar, fat, protein, fibre, vitamins and minerals. Its rich nutritional profile positions maize cultivation as a strategic approach to combat malnutrition, as per the spokesperson.

Experts suggest that advanced farming methods could boost maize yields to as high as 100 quintals per hectare.