



भारतीय कृषि एवं खाद्य परिषद्
INDIAN CHAMBER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

**Reconstitution of
ICFA Uttar Pradesh State Agriculture Council**
and
Round Table Conference on

Investments and Agro Exports Opportunities in Uttar Pradesh

Tuesday, 2nd September, 2025

Hotel Renaissance by Marriott, Lucknow

SOUVENIR

Overview and Objective

The Roundtable Conference on Investments and Agro Export Opportunities in Uttar Pradesh was convened to formally reconstitute the Uttar Pradesh State Agriculture Council (UPSAC) and to expand its operational scope and strategic direction under the aegis of the Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture (ICFA). The conference aimed to reaffirm the Council's mission of serving as a collaborative platform to strengthen agricultural policy, promote agri-exports, and enhance farmer-market linkages in Uttar Pradesh.

This landmark event brought together prominent policymakers, industry stalwarts, agribusiness leaders, researchers, and representatives from government institutions to deliberate on actionable strategies for transforming Uttar Pradesh into a dynamic hub for agri-exports and innovation.

Institutional Overview

The Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture (ICFA), recognized by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, is India's apex body for the food and agriculture sectors. It plays a central role in policy advocacy, trade facilitation, technology promotion, and global partnerships. With more than 20 sector-specific Working Groups, ICFA represents stakeholders across the agri-food value chain and actively works to boost farmers' incomes, foster innovation, and position India as a global leader in agriculture and food processing.

The Uttar Pradesh State Agriculture Council (UPSAC), established in 2017 under ICFA, has been instrumental in facilitating stakeholder dialogue, fostering export commitments, and advocating progressive agricultural policies. With its reconstitution, the Council has been empowered with an expanded mandate to bridge the gap between policy and practice, strengthen farmer-market linkages, and elevate Uttar Pradesh as a national leader in agribusiness and innovation.

The newly constituted Council includes:

- **Mr. Ghanshyam Khandelwal**, Chairman, BLAGRO Industries Ltd. – Chairman, UPSAC
- **Mr. Roshan Lal Tamak**, Executive Director & CEO, DCM Shriram Ltd. – Vice-Chairman
- **Dr. Sanjay Singh**, Director General, UPICAR – Co-Chairman
- **Mr. Mukesh Bahadur Singh**, Executive Member, ICFA National Policy Council
- **Mr. Tushar Sharma**, Director, ICFA – Member Secretary



Proceedings and Key Highlights

Mr. Tushar Sharma, Director, ICFA, formally welcomed the dignitaries, including Hon'ble Minister Shri Dinesh Pratap Singh, and other industry leaders. He highlighted the significance of the Council's reconstitution as a major step toward aligning Uttar Pradesh's agricultural strategy with national and global priorities.

Dr. Sanjay Singh, Director General, UPCAR, was introduced as Co-Chairman of the Council. His involvement was noted as pivotal in bridging research with on-ground application, ensuring that innovation and scientific advancements reach farmers efficiently.



Mr. Vivek Mathur, Director, ICFA, underscored ICFA's vision of empowering farmers through effective linkages between policy and practice. He described ICFA as India's apex body advancing agriculture through policy reform, trade facilitation, and inclusive growth. Mr. Mathur highlighted that state-level councils, such as UPSAC, play a crucial role in addressing local challenges, promoting agri-business development, and catalyzing technology adoption. He emphasized that the reconstituted Council would focus on strengthening farmer-market access, fostering entrepreneurship, and positioning Uttar Pradesh as a global agricultural hub.

Mr. Mukesh Bahadur Singh, former Chairman of UPSAC and now Executive Member of the ICFA National

Policy Council, commended the Uttar Pradesh government's efforts in enhancing agri-export frameworks and facilitating industry collaboration. He noted that insights gathered from this roundtable would be compiled into a formal set of recommendations for government consideration. Expressing confidence in the new leadership, he stated that under Mr. Khandelwal's guidance, the Council would drive forward its vision with renewed vigor.

Delivering his keynote address, **Mr. Ghanshyam Khandelwal, Chairman, UPSAC and BL Agro Industries**, described the reconstitution as a historic milestone. He emphasized the need to translate scientific research into on-ground adoption, improve productivity, and connect farmers with global markets. He highlighted Uttar Pradesh's leading contribution to national sugarcane production, reflecting the state's potential for diversification and export-oriented growth. He stressed that agricultural progress is inseparable from farmer prosperity and urged collective efforts toward integrating technology, reducing food wastage, and building value chains that ensure fair returns to farmers. Announcing that AgroWorld 2025 will now be hosted in Lucknow, he called it a testament to the state's growing prominence in India's agri-economy.



Mr. Roshan Lal Tamak, Executive Director & CEO, DCM Shriram Ltd., and Vice-Chairman, UPSAC, delivered an insightful address outlining three strategic pillars for the state's agricultural growth—policy enablement, technology adoption, and corporate collaboration. He emphasized the need for structured interaction between industry and research institutions to ensure innovations are market-driven and consumer-responsive. Mr. Tamak identified key areas of opportunity including bioenergy, food processing, digital commerce, and agri-exports, stressing that Uttar Pradesh has all the fundamentals—resources, infrastructure, and human capital—to become a model for agri-business innovation and sustainability.

In his remarks, **Mr. Amit Ghosh** highlighted agriculture's pivotal role in India's economy, contributing approximately 34% to the GDP. He emphasized that Uttar Pradesh holds immense potential across sub-sectors such as animal husbandry, aquaculture, poultry, and horticulture. He discussed the need for investments in value addition, cold chain infrastructure, and policy-driven incentives to attract agribusiness investments. Citing Rampur's emergence as a hub for cold storage, he encouraged increased private participation to unlock the state's full potential in processing and exports.



Curtain Raiser for AgroWorld 2025

The curtain raiser for AgroWorld 2025 was formally inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister Shri Dinesh Pratap Singh, marking the event's relocation to Lucknow from New Delhi for the first time. Dr. M.J. Khan, Chairman, ICFA, elaborated on the evolution of AgroWorld as a premier international platform bringing together global stakeholders. He underscored the importance of diversifying Uttar Pradesh's export base beyond meat products to include horticulture, fisheries, and processed foods. Dr. Khan also announced the upcoming India-Africa Seed Trade Summit and proposed the development of a Vision Document for Uttar Pradesh Agriculture, highlighting long-term policy goals, trade strategies, and innovation priorities.

Address by Hon'ble Minister Shri Dinesh Pratap Singh



In his visionary address, Hon'ble Minister Dinesh Pratap Singh, Minister of State for Horticulture, Agriculture Marketing, and Agriculture Exports, Government of Uttar Pradesh, emphasized the importance of farmer empowerment, agricultural diversification, and export-led growth. He called for

country-wise export mapping to guide farmers toward high-demand global markets and cited the upcoming Jewar Airport as a major opportunity to boost agri-logistics and exports.

The Minister highlighted that while horticulture occupies only 10% of the cultivated area, it contributes nearly 58% of total agricultural production, underscoring its productivity and potential. He advocated for diversification into high-value crops such as medicinal plants, vegetables, spices, and flowers, and encouraged polyhouse cultivation to increase export readiness. He further announced the establishment of a Potato Research Centre in Agra, inspired by international best practices, to enhance productivity and research-driven agricultural progress.

Shri Singh emphasized quality over quantity, calling for a shift from volume-based to value-driven agriculture. He suggested organizing district-level stakeholder meetings to strengthen local exporters' confidence and ensure grassroots-level engagement.

Unveiling of the AgroWorld 2025 Magazine

The AgroWorld 2025 Magazine was unveiled by Hon'ble Minister Dinesh Pratap Singh. The publication encapsulates the event's vision, thematic focus, and strategic priorities while featuring insights from leading policymakers, industry experts, researchers, and global delegates.



Strategic Outlook by Dr. M.J. Khan

In his concluding remarks, Dr. M.J. Khan outlined the strategic priorities for Uttar Pradesh's agricultural transformation. He emphasized the need for sector-wise prioritization and urged the creation of a Vision Document for Uttar Pradesh Agriculture to guide long-term planning. He identified four key focus areas: technological advancement, evolving trade dynamics, streamlining of regulatory frameworks, and mobilizing investments in export-oriented infrastructure. Dr. Khan emphasized expanding Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), launching state-level summits and awards, and promoting international collaborations to position Uttar Pradesh as a global leader in sustainable agriculture.



Cultivating Growth: The Roadmap for UP Agriculture State Council

Challenges Highlighted

- Fragmented export strategy and lack of commodity-specific planning.
- Limited farmer awareness about international market demands and export procedures.
- Inadequate cold chain, processing, and digital infrastructure.
- Over-regulation slowing private sector participation.
- Low horticulture land utilization despite high productivity.
- Weak integration between research institutions and industry.
- Underdeveloped allied sectors like fisheries, poultry, and goat farming.

Mapping of Opportunities

- Expanded Council mandate to bridge farmers, markets, and policymakers.
- Formation of commodity-specific export boards.
- Adoption of AI, robotics, and precision farming for productivity and sustainability.
- Leveraging Jewar Airport and logistics to boost agri-exports.
- Diversification into high-value horticultural crops.
- Global collaborations through AgroWorld 2025 and foreign delegations.
- Scaling up Farmer Producer Organizations for market strength.

Recommendations

- ✓ Develop a Vision Document for UP Agriculture with long-term goals and sectoral priorities.
- ✓ Establish commodity-specific export boards for major crops.
- ✓ Create institutional interfaces linking research and industry.
- ✓ Promote technological innovation in gene editing, AI, and robotics.
- ✓ Strengthen farmer education and awareness on export markets.
- ✓ Invest in infrastructure like cold storage, food processing, and digital commerce.
- ✓ Launch state-level summits and awards for agricultural innovation.
- ✓ Facilitate joint government-industry initiatives for faster implementation

Conclusion

The reconstitution of the Uttar Pradesh State Agriculture Council and the accompanying Roundtable Conference marked a decisive step toward reshaping the state's agricultural trajectory. With renewed leadership, strategic vision, and a strong commitment to innovation, Uttar Pradesh is poised to emerge as a national and global leader in sustainable, export-oriented, and technology-driven agriculture.

Glimpses of the Conference





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