



International Buyer-Seller Meet 2025

Why in News?

Bihar highlighted its **agri-food potential at the International Buyer-Seller Meet (IBSM) 2025** in Patna, an event jointly organised by the state government, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, [Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority \(APEDA\)](#), and [Trade Promotion Council of India \(TPCI\)](#).

Key Points

- **Significance of the Meet:**
 - The International Buyer-Seller Meet 2025 is a **pivotal platform to boost the state's role in India's agri-exports**, featuring **Business-to-Business meetings**, technical sessions, and exhibitions to foster partnerships, attract investments, and drive economic growth.
 - The Meet attracted strong interest from global players, including those from the **UAE, Japan, and Germany**, seeking large-scale procurement of Bihar's rice, spices, makhana, and fruits.
 - The **event aims to create new market linkages**, enhance procurement for local [Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises \(MSMEs\)](#) and [Farmers Producer Organisations \(FPOs\)](#), and **convert Bihar's agricultural strengths into export growth**.
 - The event is considered a milestone for rural economic growth and reaffirmed the government's vision of **'Viksit Bharat @2047'**.
- **PMFME Scheme & Future Prospects:**
 - In FY 2024-25, 10,270 loans worth Rs 624.42 crore were sanctioned under the [PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme \(PMFME\) Scheme](#) —the highest among Indian states.
 - The upcoming [NIFTEM \(National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management\) institute](#) in Bihar is a future hub of innovation in food technology.
- **Focus on Makhana Exports:**
 - The event saw the release of a strategic report titled **"Strategies to Boost India's Makhana Exports"**, underscoring Bihar's leadership in its unique [GI-tagged product](#).
 - As of 2024, there are 15 products with the GI tag in Bihar. These include [Shahi Litchi](#), [Bhagalpuri Zardalu mango](#), Katarni rice, Magahi Paan, [Makhana \(fox nut\)](#), Madhubani paintings, Sikki Grass Products, and Sujini Embroidery, etc.

PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PMFME)

- **About:**
 - The Ministry of Food Processing Industry (MoFPI) has launched the PMFME **scheme** under the [Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan](#).
 - The PMFME scheme aims to **enhance the competitiveness of new and existing individual micro-enterprises in the unorganized segment** of the food processing industry and promote formalization of the sector.
 - The PMFME scheme is operational for a period of five years from **2020-21 to 2024-25** with an outlay of Rs. 10,000 Crore.

- **Focus Areas:**

- The scheme adopts the **One District One Product (ODOP)** approach to reap the benefit of scale in terms of procurement of inputs, availing common services and marketing of products.
- Other Focus areas include **Waste to wealth products, minor forest products and Aspirational Districts**.

Makhana

- Mithila Makhana or Makhan (botanical name: Euryale ferox Salisb.) is a special variety of **aquatic fox nut** cultivated in **Mithila region of Bihar** and Nepal.
 - Makhana is **one of the three prestigious cultural identities of Mithila**, along with Pan and fish.
 - **Mithila Makhana** received a **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** in 2022, with Bihar contributing 80% of **India's total makhana production**.
- Makhana contains **protein and fiber**, along with **micronutrients like calcium, magnesium, iron, and phosphorus**.
- In **May 2023**, the Central government upgraded the Research Centre for Makhana, Darbhanga to **"National Research Centre for Makhana, Darbhanga"** and expanded its mandate to include other aquatic crops such as fish.
- Announced in the **Union Budget 2025-26**, the proposed **Makhana Board** in Bihar seeks to streamline cultivation practices, offer technical assistance, ensure price stability, strengthen marketing infrastructure, and boost export potential.

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