



Uttar Pradesh Government Highlights Growing Shift Towards Maize Cultivation

Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government has highlighted the **growing shift towards [maize cultivation](#)** among progressive farmers, attributing this trend to the **crop's economic benefits, minimal water requirements**, and high nutritional value.

Key Points:

▪ Key Facts About Maize:

- It requires **less water** and offers significant nutritional benefits, making it a sustainable option for many.
- The ideal sowing window for maize is from 15 June to 15 July. If irrigation is available, **sowing can begin in late May**, allowing for early growth before the onset of heavy rains.
- With the **adoption of [modern farming techniques](#)**, maize yields can potentially reach up to 100 quintals per hectare.
- **Currently, Tamil Nadu leads with an average yield** of 59.39 quintals per hectare, while **Uttar Pradesh has a lower average** of 21.63 quintals per hectare, indicating ample room for growth.
 - A significant shift towards maize farming is being observed in **Barabanki**, traditionally known for **mentha cultivation**.
- Maize is considered the "**Queen of Grains**" due to its rich nutritional content, including **[carbohydrates](#), [proteins](#), [vitamins](#)**, and minerals.
 - Maize is gaining attention for its multiple uses, such as in the production of sweet corn, baby corn, **[biofuels](#)**, and **[bioplastics](#)**.

- **Government Support for Farmers:** The state government has introduced initiatives like the **[Quick Maize Development Programme](#)** and assured **[Minimum Support Prices \(MSP\)](#)**.
 - For the 2024-25 season, the MSP for maize is set at Rs 2,225 per quintal.
 - Procurement began on 15 June and will continue until 31 July across several districts.
- **Target for Maize Production by 2027:** The state government has set an ambitious target to **double maize production** by 2027.