



CIP-South Asia Regional Centre (CSARC), Agra

Why in News?

The government has approved the establishment of the **South Asia regional center** of the **Peru-based International Potato Center (CIP)** in **Singna, Agra** district, Uttar Pradesh.

- The CIP regional centre in India will **cater to both domestic farmers** and those in other [South Asian countries](#).

Key Points

- **Objective:** The primary objective of the project is to **enhance [food and nutrition security](#)**, increase farmers' income, and generate employment by **improving potato and sweet potato productivity**, post-harvest management, and value addition.
- **Project Cost:** The Uttar Pradesh government has allocated 10 hectares of land for the proposed centre.
 - The **total cost of the project is ₹171 crore**, with India contributing ₹111 crore and the CIP (International Potato Center) providing ₹60 crore.
 - **Impact on Employment:** India's potato sector holds significant potential for job creation in areas such as **production, processing, packaging, transportation**, marketing, and the broader value chain.
- **Innovation:** The **CSARC (Central Potato and Sweet Potato Research Centre)** will develop high-yielding, nutrient-rich, and [climate-resilient varieties](#) of potatoes and sweet potatoes, which will accelerate sustainable development not only in India but also across South Asia through world-class scientific research and innovation.
- **India's Potato Production:** India is the **second-largest producer** and **consumer** of potatoes globally, with a production of 51.30 million tonnes in 2020.
 - Together, India and China account for more than one-third of the global potato production, which totaled 359.07 million tonnes in 2020.
- **Key Producing States in India:** **Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal lead potato production**, each contributing 15 million tonnes in 2020-21.
 - Bihar produces 9 million tonnes, with Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Punjab also being significant contributors.

Related Institutions

- **International Potato Center (CIP):** It was **founded in 1971**, is headquartered in Lima, Peru, and focuses on potato, sweet potato, and Andean roots and tubers.
 - **China** established the **China Center for Asia Pacific (CCCAP)** in Yanqing, Beijing, in 2017 to serve the **East Asia and Pacific region**.
- **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR):** The [Indian Council of Agricultural Research \(ICAR\)](#) operates two institutions **focusing on tuber crops**: ICAR-CPRI (Central Potato Research Institute) in **Shimla**, which works on potatoes, and ICAR-CTCRI (Central Tuber Crops Research Institute) in **Thiruvananthapuram**, which focuses on sweet potatoes.
- **Other Agricultural Centre Establishment:** In 2017, the Ministry of Agriculture supported the establishment of a regional centre for the **Philippines-based International Rice Research**

Institute (IRRI) in Varanasi, India.

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