

**G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar
Distt-Udham Singh Nagar (Uttarakhand)**

**Grand Farmers' Conference Organized at the Pantnagar Agriculture University
on the Occasion of Uttarakhand Silver Jubilee 2025**

Pantnagar. November 7, 2025. On the occasion of Uttarakhand Silver Jubilee 2025, a grand 'Farmers' Conference' was organized today at the Stevenson Stadium of Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar by the Department of Agriculture, Farmers Welfare, and Rural Development, Uttarakhand. The conference proved to be an inspiring platform for the state's farmers, women self-help groups, and agri-entrepreneurs. The program began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the Chief Guest and Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami. Thereafter, all those present sang the National Anthem on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of its composition.

On this occasion, the special guest Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Convener of the Farmers' Conference Shri Ganesh Joshi, Mayor of Rudrapur Shri Vikas Sharma, Mayor of Kashipur Shri Deepak Bali, State President of Kisan Morcha Shri Mahendra Singh Negi, District President Shri Kamal Jindal, Shri Uttam Dutta, Shri Khadick Ahmed, Shri Ramesh Joshi, Shri Amit Kumar Pandey, State Minister Shri Gunjan Sukhija, Agriculture Secretary of Uttarakhand Dr. Surendra Narayan Pandey, Kumaon Commissioner and Secretary to the Chief Minister Shri Deepak Rawat, District Magistrate of Udham Singh Nagar Shri Nitin Singh Bhadauria, and other district-level officers were present on the stage. The program was presided over by MLA of Kichha Shri Tilak Raj Behar.

Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami, in his address, said that the farmers of Uttarakhand are the backbone of the state's economy. The government is continuously working to double the income of farmers and to empower them technically. He said that efforts are being made to develop agriculture not just as a livelihood but as a profitable enterprise. He said that the minimum support price of every crop has been increased. Under the Prime Minister Crop Insurance Scheme, farmers are being provided relief from losses caused by diseases, pests, and natural calamities. Under the Soil Health Card Scheme, farmers are being encouraged to use nutrients as per the soil quality. Loans up to three lakh rupees are being provided to farmers without any guarantee, and subsidies up to 80 percent are being given on agricultural machinery. An amount of two hundred crore rupees has been allocated for the construction of polyhouses. A provision of 20 rupees per quintal extra payment has been made for sugarcane and wheat at the support price. To take rainfed farming to new heights, the Uttarakhand Climate-Resilient Rainfed Farming Project is being implemented at a cost of about one thousand crore rupees. Cultivation of apple, kiwi, millets, and dragon fruit is being promoted under the Apple Fund, Kiwi Fund, and Millet Mission, as Uttarakhand has immense potential in these crops. Under new policies, an 80 percent subsidy is being provided on horticulture. More than 50 mushroom units, 30 beekeeping units, 20 goat units, 18 cold storages, 128 food processing units, and 1,030 micro-food enterprises have been established. Under the Horticulture Mission, subsidies of 50 to 55 percent are being given for nursery, processing, and mechanization. Since the formation of the state, fruit production has increased 2.5 times. The average yield of fruits has increased from 1.82 metric tons per hectare to 4.52 metric tons per hectare in the last 25 years. Uttarakhand ranks fifth in the country in mushroom production, which has increased from 500 metric tons to 27,390 metric tons in the last 25 years. In honey production, Uttarakhand ranks eighth in the country with 3,320 metric tons. To promote integrated horticultural development, the Japan-supported Uttarakhand Integrated Horticulture Development Project worth 526 crore rupees is being implemented in Tehri, Uttarkashi, Nainital, and Pithoragarh districts. Through the Centre for Aromatic Plant (CAP), cultivation of aromatic crops such as lemongrass, mint, rose and bay leaf is being promoted on 9,500 hectares, involving more than 2,800 farmers. During the last 25 years, the tea cultivation area has increased from 196 hectares at the time of state formation to 1,585 hectares now, producing 1.5 lakh kg of processed tea from 6 lakh kg of green leaves. To promote tea tourism, tea gardens at Silling Town (Champawat), Semi town & Ghodakhal (Nainital), and Kausani (Bageshwar) are being linked with tourism, to providing new employment opportunities to youth and women. On the auspicious occasion of the Silver Jubilee, many new initiatives are being launched in various sectors, and with our policies and the cooperation of the Centre, Uttarakhand will achieve golden opportunities.

Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shri Ganesh Joshi, in his address, said that after the formation of the state, Uttarakhand has achieved significant growth in agriculture and horticulture. New industries have been established in the state, which has reduced the agricultural area by 2.10 lakh hectares, but despite this, agricultural production has increased by 3 lakh tons, indicating

that our farmers are performing remarkably well. In fruit crops, Uttarakhand ranks third in apple production after Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh, and by 2030 we will be at par with these states. Our government has introduced policies for dragon fruit, apple, kiwi, and millets. He said that if farmers are strong, the country will be strong, as farmers are our food providers. He appreciated the work done by women engaged in self-help groups, stating that 4.75 lakh women are contributing in various enterprises, and 1.65 lakh have already become 'Lakhpati Didis,' nearing the target of two lakh.

Shri Tilak Raj Behar said that this conference is not just an event but a celebration of Uttarakhand's agricultural journey. He also drew the Chief Minister's attention to some of the key issues faced by farmers and said that it is necessary to work beyond party politics in the interest of farmers. He appreciated the organization of the Farmers' Conference on the auspicious occasion of the state's Silver Jubilee.

Progressive farmers, women self-help groups, agricultural scientists, and university students from all over the state participated enthusiastically in the conference. On this occasion, Chief Minister Shri Dharam Singh and Minister Shri Ganesh Joshi felicitated progressive farmers Shri Charanjeet Singh, Shri Sukhdev Singh, Shri Suresh Singh Rana, Shri Man Singh, Shri Nitin Rastogi, Shri Gurjeet Singh, Shri Yatin Singhal, Shri Sanjay Lakhota, Shri Yogendra Singh Rawat, Shri Kapil Talwar, Shri Malkhan Singh, Shri Navneet Singh Chauhan, and Shri Jarnail Singh for their outstanding contributions in their respective fields. Among the Lakhpati Didis, Smt. Rita Devi, Smt. Babbli Koranga, Smt. Satvinder Kaur, Priya Karki, and Smt. Anita Devi were honoured for their exceptional contributions. Two students of Pantnagar University, Ms. Pallavi Sharma and Mr. Anurag Saini were honoured for having highest CGPA in the B.Sc. Agriculture and B.V.Sc. degree programmes, respectively were also felicitated.

The program was conducted by Shri Vinay Kumar, Managing Director, Organic Board, and the vote of thanks was proposed by Ms. Jharna Kamthan, Additional Secretary, Rural Development, Uttarakhand.

After the program, the Chief Minister, Agriculture Minister, and other dignitaries visited the exhibition organized by the Agriculture Department, Rural Development Department, Pantnagar University, private sector entrepreneurs, self-help groups, and FPOs. Approximately 20,000 farmers, women self-help group members, and agri-entrepreneurs from various districts of the state participated enthusiastically in the event, making it a memorable occasion in the agricultural history of Uttarakhand.



