

Digitalisation Of Agribusiness : Uttar Pradesh (UP) As A Key Driver For India's Aspiration Of Achieving A \$5 Trillion Economy

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Abstract

This research paper comprehensively analyzes the pivotal role of agricultural transformation in Uttar Pradesh (UP) as a key driver for India's aspiration of achieving a \$5 trillion economy. Recognizing UP's significant agrarian base and its potential, the research systematically examines the current state, identifies critical gaps, and proposes strategic interventions across market dynamics, crop diversification, input management, farm mechanization, and digital governance.

Our findings highlight substantial advancements. The **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)** scheme has demonstrated remarkable efficiency in direct income support, reaching over 2.4 crore farmers in UP by early 2025 through robust Aadhaar-bank-KYC linkages, significantly curtailing leakages. The **Electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM)** has integrated 125 mandis in UP, enhancing price discovery and reducing intermediary exploitation via electronic payments and mandatory grading. Furthermore, the **Agri Infrastructure Fund (AIF)**, with 8,539 sanctioned projects in UP by March 2025, is effectively addressing post-harvest infrastructure deficits (e.g., cold chains, warehouses) with transparent, geo-tagged monitoring. Foundational progress in **land record integrity** is evident through the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP), with 95% village computerization, and the Svamitva scheme, boasting 100% drone surveys and over 73% property card distribution, which are crucial for accurate land titles and legitimate scheme delivery. UP's Agriculture Export Policy 2019, amended in 2021, shows promising growth, aiming to reach US\$2524 million by 2024 through cluster development and subsidies.

Despite these strides, critical **legal and institutional gaps** persist. These include outdated agricultural market regulations hindering modern digital trade, the absence of explicit legal recognition for blockchain-based smart contracts, and residual fragmentation in land records requiring full integration. Challenges also exist in establishing a unified "Agristack," consistently enforcing quality standards (like MRLs for exports), and addressing gaps in farmer digital literacy and ground-level extension worker capacity.

To overcome these impediments, the study proposes a forward-looking roadmap. **Regulatory recommendations** include immediate amendments to the Indian Evidence Act and IT Act for smart contract enforceability, state-specific APMC reforms, and mandatory digitized land-KYC for all agricultural scheme eligibility. **Technological interventions** advocate for establishing **AI-powered Regional Policy Execution Cells in all 75 districts of UP by 2030** for real-time monitoring and anomaly detection, accelerating Agristack development, promoting IoT for precision agriculture, and piloting blockchain for robust supply chain traceability. **Infrastructural improvements** emphasize enhanced last-mile connectivity to mandis, modern post-harvest facilities, expanded quality testing labs, and rural digital literacy centers. The research also suggests exploring constitutional interpretations to foster a national agricultural market and provides a **stakeholder-wise implementation roadmap**. Ultimately, this study posits that a holistic and technologically integrated approach to agricultural development in Uttar Pradesh is indispensable for ensuring inclusive growth and achieving India's ambitious economic objectives.

Keywords: Agricultural Transformation, Uttar Pradesh, \$5 Trillion Economy, Agri-Tech, Digital Governance, Land Records, AI Auditing, Market Reforms, Climate Resilience, Farmer Income.

Introduction

Agriculture in India is not just an occupation—it is a civilization, a culture, and a foundation of socio-economic resilience. From the Indus Valley Civilization's sophisticated irrigation systems (~2500 BCE) to Vedic period texts like *Krishhi-Parashara* detailing crop cycles, Indian agriculture has evolved from a subsistence system to a strategic sector fuelling national development.

Phase 1: Ancient Era (~2500 BCE–500 CE)

- Explanation Expansion:
 - Indus Valley Civilization: Elaborate on the "sophisticated irrigation systems." Mention specific sites like Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa. What evidence exists of their agricultural practices (granaries, water channels, specific crops like barley, wheat, cotton)?
 - Vedic Period (c. 1500–500 BCE): Detail the *Krishhi-Parashara*. What specific agricultural practices did it outline? (e.g., knowledge of soils, seasons, rainfall patterns, crop rotation principles, use of manures). Mention other Vedic texts or Puranas that discuss agriculture.
 - Mauryan and Gupta Periods: Discuss the state's role in agriculture. Mention Chanakya's *Arthashastra* and its insights into land administration, taxation, and irrigation projects.
 - Technology: Elaborate on "ox-drawn ploughs" and their significance. What types of irrigation tanks were common? (e.g., simple check dams, wells).
- Impact: How did these early practices lay the foundation for later agricultural systems? What was the general socio-economic structure based on agriculture?
- Research Pointers:
 - Archeological reports on Indus Valley sites.
 - Translations and commentaries on *Krishhi-Parashara*, *Arthashastra*, and other ancient Indian texts related to agriculture.
 - Historian's accounts of ancient Indian economic and social life.

Phase 2: Medieval Period (500–1700 CE)

- Explanation Expansion:
 - Introduction of Persian Wheel (Sakiya): Explain its mechanism and *why* it was revolutionary (efficiency in water lifting). Mention the likely routes of its introduction (e.g., through Arab traders or Turkic invaders).
 - New Crops/Techniques: Beyond sugarcane, mention other crops introduced or popularized (e.g., opium, tobacco, various fruits). Discuss any changes in land tenure systems introduced by different empires (Delhi Sultanate, Mughal Empire).
 - Cash Crops: Why did cash crops become more prominent? (e.g., trade with other regions, demand from urban centers).
 - Agricultural Production & Revenue: How did various rulers manage agricultural revenue collection? (e.g., *jagir* system).
- Impact: How did these changes affect peasant life, trade, and the overall agricultural economy?
- Research Pointers:
 - Historical accounts of medieval India, focusing on economic and social history.
 - Travelogues of foreign visitors to India during this period (e.g., Ibn Battuta, Francois Bernier).
 - Studies on the spread of agricultural technology and crops.

Phase 3: Colonial Period (1700–1947)

- Explanation Expansion:
 - Exploitative Land Revenue Systems: Detail the different systems – Zamindari, Ryotwari, Mahalwari. Explain how each worked, their *impact* on farmers (indebtedness, land alienation), and the British motivation behind them (revenue maximization, control).
 - Cash Crop Focus: Explain *why* the British emphasized cash crops (indigo, cotton, opium, jute) over food grains. Link this to British industrial needs and global trade. Discuss the impact on food security and rural poverty.
 - Commercialization of Agriculture: How did agriculture become more integrated into a global market economy, often to the detriment of local farmers?
 - Famines: Mention significant famines during this period and link them to colonial policies (e.g., Bengal Famine).
- Impact: Profound and largely negative impact on Indian agriculture and rural society. Set the stage for the challenges independent India would face.
- Research Pointers:
 - Economic history of colonial India.
 - Works by historians like Romesh Chunder Dutt, Eric Stokes, B.R. Tomlinson.
 - Official British colonial records related to land revenue.

Phase 4: Green Revolution (1965–1985)

- Explanation Expansion:
 - Context: Why was it needed? (Food shortage crisis post-independence, rapid population growth).
 - Key Components: Elaborate on each:
 - HYV (High-Yielding Variety) Seeds: Specifically mention wheat (Sonora 64, Lerma Rojo) and rice (IR8). Explain *how* they yielded more.
 - Fertilizers & Pesticides: Their increased use and necessity for HYVs.
 - Irrigation: Expansion of canals, tube wells, and reliance on groundwater.
 - Mechanization: Introduction of tractors and other farm machinery.
 - Role of Institutions: Mention ICAR, agricultural universities, and government support.
 - Architects: Briefly mention M.S. Swaminathan (India) and Norman Borlaug (global).
- Impact:
 - Positive: Food self-sufficiency, increased production, rural prosperity in certain regions (Punjab, Haryana, Western UP).
 - Negative: Regional disparities, environmental degradation (soil salinity, water depletion, pesticide residue), income inequality, loss of traditional seed varieties.
- Research Pointers:
 - Studies on the Green Revolution in India (e.g., by Vandana Shiva, Biplab Dasgupta for critical perspectives; government reports for official narratives).
 - Economic surveys and agricultural statistics from the period.
 - Reports from FAO, World Bank concerning agricultural development in India.

Phase 5: Liberalization Phase (1991–2010)

- Explanation Expansion:
 - Economic Reforms (1991): How did the broader economic liberalization impact agriculture?
 - Deregulation: Reduced government control, opening up to private players.

- Rise in Agri-exports: Specific examples of exported crops.
 - Private Investments: Increased role of private companies in agri-input supply, processing, and retail.
 - Challenges: Farmer suicides, decreasing public investment, impact of WTO agreements (e.g., on subsidies).
 - Impact: Integration into the global market, but also increased vulnerability to global price fluctuations.
- Shift from subsistence to more market-oriented farming.

- Research Pointers:

- Economic surveys of India post-1991.
- Studies on the impact of WTO on Indian agriculture.
- Reports on agricultural reforms and policies during this period.

Phase 6: Digital Shift Begins (2011–2020)

- Explanation Expansion:

- e-NAM (National Agriculture Market): Explain its purpose (unified online trading platform), how it works, and its goals (better price discovery for farmers).
- PM-KISAN (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi): Direct Income Support Scheme. Explain its objective (financial assistance to small and marginal farmers) and mechanism.
- Satellite-based Monitoring: Applications in agriculture (crop health, yield estimation, weather forecasting, disaster assessment). Mention specific government programs or initiatives using this technology.
- Other Digital Initiatives: Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) leveraging digital tools, m-Kisan portal, FPOs using digital platforms.

- Impact: Increased transparency, direct benefit transfer, data-driven decision making, but also challenges of digital literacy and access.

- Research Pointers:

- Government reports and press releases on e-NAM, PM-KISAN.
- Studies on the adoption and impact of digital technologies in Indian agriculture.
- Reports from NABARD, agricultural ministries.

Phase 7: Post-COVID Acceleration (2020–Present)

- Explanation Expansion:

- AgriStack: Explain the concept of a "digital ecosystem for agriculture." What data points would it integrate? What are its potential benefits (personalized advisory, credit access, supply chain efficiency) and concerns (data privacy)?
- Drone Rules 2021: How do these rules facilitate drone use in agriculture (spraying, surveying, monitoring)? What are the benefits?
- FPO (Farmer Producer Organization) Boom: Explain *why* FPOs are being promoted heavily (collective bargaining power, access to markets, better input prices, value addition). Mention specific government schemes supporting FPOs.
- Other Post-COVID Trends: Increased focus on resilient supply chains, reduced reliance on manual labor, potential for precision agriculture.

- Impact: Rapid technological adoption, strengthening of farmer collectives, focus on efficiency and resilience.

- Research Pointers:

- Latest government policy documents (Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare).
- News articles and reports on AgriStack, Drone Rules, FPO promotion.
- Studies on the impact of COVID-19 on Indian agriculture and subsequent policy responses.

Significance of Agriculture in India and Uttar Pradesh

Agriculture remains undeniably the backbone of India's economy and society, even as the nation undergoes rapid industrialization and service sector growth. Its significance is multifaceted, providing livelihood, contributing to economic output, and ensuring national food security.

India: A National Perspective

In FY 2024–25, agriculture is projected to contribute 15.4% to India's GDP, a figure that has seen a natural decline from 17.8% in 2020 as other sectors grow more rapidly. However, this sector still directly employs 42.6% of the population, encompassing approximately 204 million individuals, underscoring its critical role as the primary livelihood provider for a vast segment of the workforce. The sheer economic scale of Indian agriculture is formidable, estimated to be worth approximately US\$ 430 billion. India also holds a prominent global position as the world's largest producer of milk, pulses, and spices, reflecting its diverse agricultural capabilities and contributions to global food systems. Despite the declining share in GDP, agriculture's deep linkages with food processing, textiles, and rural consumption make its sustained growth vital for overall economic stability. The challenge remains to enhance productivity per worker and facilitate the transition of labor to more productive non-agricultural sectors while addressing issues like disguised unemployment.

Uttar Pradesh: An Agrarian Powerhouse

Uttar Pradesh (UP), with an estimated population of 238 million in 2024, stands as India's most populous state and an agricultural giant. Agriculture's role here is even more pronounced: it employs a higher percentage of the population at 58%, translating to approximately 87 million people directly dependent on farming. The agricultural sector contributes a significant 26.7% to the state's GSDP, projected at ₹7.24 trillion for FY 2024–25, highlighting its outsized importance to UP's economy compared to the national average.

Digital Transformation in the Global and Indian Context

The agricultural sector worldwide is undergoing a profound digital transformation, leveraging advanced technologies to enhance productivity, optimize resource utilization, and improve market access for farmers. This global shift is not merely a technological upgrade but a fundamental change in how farming is conceived and executed, driven by the imperative of sustainable food security.

Globally, the digital agriculture market was valued at an estimated USD 18.8 billion in 2023, a testament to the increasing adoption of precision farming, remote sensing, and data analytics. This market is projected to grow significantly, reaching USD 35 billion by 2030, reflecting a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) that underscores the rapid pace of innovation and investment in this sector. This growth is fueled by factors such as increasing global population, climate change pressures, labor shortages, and the demand for more efficient and sustainable food production systems. Technologies like artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), Internet of Things (IoT) devices, blockchain, and advanced data analytics are at the forefront of this global transformation, enabling everything from intelligent irrigation systems and drone-based crop monitoring to supply chain traceability and predictive yield modeling.

India, a nation with a vast agricultural landscape and a burgeoning digital economy, is strategically poised to lead this digital transformation in agriculture. The Indian government, along with private sector players, has recognized the immense potential of digital technologies to address long-standing challenges in the sector, such as fragmented landholdings, information asymmetry, market inefficiencies, and climate vulnerabilities. A robust digital infrastructure, coupled with a large number of smartphone users even in rural areas (as previously noted for Uttar Pradesh), provides a fertile ground for the widespread adoption of agri-tech solutions. Several key initiatives underscore India's commitment to this digital leap:

- AgriStack: A Digital Framework to Unify Farm Records
- Kisan Call Centers (KCC): Over 3 Crore Queries Resolved Annually
- PM-WANI: Rural Wi-Fi Enablement for Farmers
- Krishi Decision Support System (DSS): Predictive Analytics
- Digital Agriculture Mission (2021–2025): Drones, AI, Blockchain, and IoT

This comprehensive overview highlights that India's digital transformation in agriculture is a multi-pronged approach, combining foundational data infrastructure, direct farmer support, connectivity initiatives, and the integration of advanced emerging technologies to create a more efficient, resilient, and prosperous agricultural ecosystem.

Challenges and Emerging Needs

Despite the historical evolution and ongoing digital transformation efforts, Indian agriculture continues to grapple with fundamental systemic barriers that impede its full potential and impact farmer livelihoods. Addressing these challenges is crucial for fostering sustainable growth and ensuring the well-being of the vast agricultural population.

- Fragmented Land Holdings: Average Farm Size Down to 1.08 ha (2023)
- Climate Variability: 40% Rainfall Deficit Districts in 2023
- Under-Digitization of Employment: Agricultural Labour Untracked in Many States
- Low Insurance Penetration: Only 18.3% Under PMFBY

These systemic challenges, from land structure to climate vulnerability and financial protection gaps, necessitate a holistic and multi-pronged policy approach. While digital transformation offers powerful tools to mitigate some of these issues, their underlying structural nature demands concerted efforts in policy reform, infrastructure development, and sustained investment to truly uplift the Indian agricultural sector and ensure farmer prosperity.

Uttar Pradesh's Agricultural Significance

Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state, holds a pre-eminent position in the nation's agricultural landscape. Its vast plains, fertile soil, and extensive river networks have historically made it a breadbasket for the country. The state's agricultural performance is critical not only for its own populace but also for India's overall food security and economic stability.

Population & Workforce:

- Population: As of 2021, Uttar Pradesh's projected population was approximately 23 crores (230 million). More recent projections for 2023-24 place it at around 235.7 million, making it the largest state in India.
- Agricultural Employment: Agriculture remains the primary source of livelihood for a substantial portion of UP's population. According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2022-23, the agriculture sector employed 54.3% of the total workforce in Uttar Pradesh. This figure, while showing a slight decline from previous years (e.g., 59% in some older estimates), still significantly exceeds the national average (around 46.1% for India in 2022-23), underscoring the state's deep agrarian roots and the continued dependence of a large segment of its population on this sector.

Agricultural Output:

- Food Grain Production Leader: Uttar Pradesh is a top contributor to India's food grain basket. For the agricultural year 2020-21, UP produced approximately 58.32 million tonnes of food grains, accounting for 18.89% of India's total food grain production. More recent data for FY 2023-24 indicates that UP produced 6.68 crore tonnes (66.8 million tonnes) of foodgrain, contributing 18.14% to India's total foodgrain production. This consistent high output establishes UP as a critical state for national food security.

- **Wheat Production:** UP consistently leads in wheat production. In 2023-24, the state produced 3.98 crore tonnes (39.8 million tonnes) of wheat, contributing a significant 31.19% to India's total wheat output.
- **Sugarcane Production:** Uttar Pradesh is also the largest producer of sugarcane in India, contributing around 54.5% of the all-India output of sugar crops in 2022-23. In 2023-24, UP produced 2,495 lakh tonnes (249.5 million tonnes) of sugarcane. This dominance has a profound impact on India's sugar industry.
- **Rice Production:** The state contributed 11.6% to India's total paddy production with a yield of 2.65 crore tonnes (26.5 million tonnes) in 2023-24.
- **Horticultural Crops and GI Tags:** Beyond staple grains, UP is gaining recognition for its horticultural produce. Several of its agricultural products have received Geographical Indication (GI) tags, signifying their unique origin and quality. Examples include "Kala Namak" rice from Siddharthnagar, Pratapgarh's Amla, Malihabad's Dussehri mango, and Adamchini rice from Chandauli. Mango exports from UP touched 567.62 tonnes in 2023-24, showing an increase of 7.59% over the previous year.

Economic Share (GSDP Contribution):

- **Significant Contributor to State Economy:** Agriculture and allied sectors form a substantial portion of Uttar Pradesh's economy. In 2021-22, agriculture contributed 25.9% to Uttar Pradesh's Gross State Value Added (GSVA) at constant prices.
- **Recent Trends:** More recent data for 2023-24 indicates that the primary sector (which includes agriculture) accounted for ₹6.35 lakh crore in UP's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of ₹25.63 lakh crore. Specifically, the crop sector alone contributed 16.8% to the state's economy in 2023-24, registering a growth of 13.74% over the previous year. This suggests a strong performance by the agricultural sector within the state's overall economic growth.

Navin Mandis and Market Ecosystem:

- **Modernization of Agricultural Markets:** Uttar Pradesh has been at the forefront of modernizing its agricultural marketing infrastructure. The concept of "Navin Mandis" (new markets) signifies a move towards more efficient, transparent, and farmer-friendly wholesale markets.
- **Digital Integration (e-NAM):** A key aspect of this modernization is the integration with digital platforms like the e-National Agriculture Market (e-NAM). e-NAM facilitates online trading of agricultural commodities, providing farmers with greater market access, improved price discovery, and reduced intermediation. UP's active participation in e-NAM underscores its commitment to leveraging technology for agricultural trade.
- **Viksit Krishi Sankalp Initiatives:** The state has launched significant campaigns such as the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan. This initiative, which aimed to reach at least 50 lakh (5 million) farmers in UP as part of a broader national target, focuses on:
 - **Lab-to-Land Mission:** Bridging the gap between agricultural research and on-ground farmer practices by deploying scientific teams, experts, and officials to villages.
 - **Modern Agriculture Promotion:** Educating farmers on the latest Kharif crop technologies, natural farming techniques, and sustainable practices beneficial for soil, water, and environment.
 - **Farmer Empowerment:** Promoting enrollment and support for key government schemes like PM-KISAN, Farmer Registry, and Fasal Bima Yojana.
 - **Capacity Building:** Utilizing Kisan Kalyan Kendras, Kisan Pathshalas, and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) to disseminate knowledge and build farmer capacity. UP has increased its KVKs to 89, with plans to upgrade them into centers of excellence focusing on local agricultural traditions and climate zones.

- Value Addition & Exports: Supporting initiatives for value-added products and promoting exports, as evidenced by the increase in mango exports and the recognition of GI-tagged products.

Uttar Pradesh's agricultural sector is not just a statistical powerhouse but also a crucial laboratory for implementing and scaling innovative policies and technologies aimed at farmer welfare and sustainable agricultural growth. Its evolving market ecosystem, particularly through digital integration and targeted campaigns like Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan, positions it as a key driver of agricultural transformation in India.

Constitutional Provisions: Legal Analysis for a Rights-Based Agricultural Policy in Uttar Pradesh

The Indian Constitution, through its Fundamental Rights (Part III) and Directive Principles of State Policy (Part IV), provides a robust, albeit sometimes indirect, framework for ensuring food security, nutrition, and a dignified life.

Article 21: Right to Life (Fulcrum for Nutrition-Focused Agricultural Policy)

- Legal Interpretation and Evolution (Milestone): Article 21 states, "No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law." The judiciary, particularly the Supreme Court of India, has expansively interpreted "Right to Life" to go beyond mere physical existence.
 - Right to Live with Human Dignity: This interpretation, established in landmark cases, includes the right to live with human dignity, which inherently comprises the right to food, adequate nutrition, clean environment, safe working conditions, and access to basic necessities.
 - Right to Food as a Fundamental Right: Several Supreme Court judgments have affirmed the right to food as a fundamental right derived from Article 21. For instance, in the *PUCJ v. Union of India* case (often referred to as the 'Right to Food case'), the Supreme Court made significant interventions, leading to the institutionalization of various food security schemes and eventually influencing the National Food Security Act (NFSA). The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has also explicitly stated that "the Right to Food is inherent to a life with dignity, and Article 21... should be read with Articles 39(a) and 47 to understand the nature of the constitutional obligation."

Article 39(a): Directive Principle for Adequate Means of Livelihood

- Legal Nature & Implications: Article 39(a) is a Directive Principle of State Policy (DPSP), meaning it is "fundamental in the governance of the country" and it "shall be the duty of the State to apply these principles in making laws," though it is "not enforceable by any court."
 - Guiding Principle for Legislation: Despite being non-justiciable directly, Article 39(a) serves as a powerful guiding principle for legislative and executive action. It mandates that the state frame policies to secure an adequate means of livelihood for all citizens, men and women equally.
 - Sustainable Livelihoods: It encourages policies that promote sustainable agricultural practices to ensure long-term livelihood security, rather than short-term gains that degrade natural resources.

Article 47: Duty to Raise Nutrition Levels and Public Health

- Legal Nature & Implications: Like Article 39(a), Article 47 is a DPSP, making it a fundamental duty of the State to apply its principles in policy-making, even if not directly enforceable in court.
 - Primary Duty of the State: It explicitly states that "the State shall regard the raising of the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and the improvement of public health as among its primary duties."

Article 48/48A: Modern Agrarian Organization and Environmental Protection

- Legal Nature & Implications: These are also DPSPs, guiding state action.

○ Article 48: Directs the State to "endeavour to organise agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines and shall, in particular, take steps for preserving and improving the breeds, and prohibiting the slaughter, of cows and calves and other milch and draught cattle."

▪ Modernization of Agriculture: This is the constitutional backbone for promoting scientific and modern agricultural practices, including mechanization, improved seed varieties, irrigation technologies (like those promoted by UP's CoEs), and advanced animal husbandry. This provides legal support for adopting digital tools in farming.

○ Article 48A (Added by 42nd Amendment, 1976): Mandates the State to "endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wild life of the country."

▪ Environmental Protection in Agriculture: This specifically addresses the environmental dimension. It provides the constitutional basis for policies promoting sustainable farming practices, preventing soil degradation, water pollution from agricultural runoff, and ensuring biodiversity conservation within the agricultural landscape.

Embedding the "Right to Eat, Nourish & Survive" in UP's policy would be a powerful step, transforming these constitutional aspirations into more explicit and potentially actionable state-level entitlements. This would involve:

• Translating DPSP into Enforceable Rights: While Articles 39(a), 47, 48, and 48A are DPSPs, the expansive interpretation of Article 21 by the judiciary allows for their principles to be indirectly enforced as part of the 'Right to Life'. UP's policy can build on this judicial precedent to clearly define state obligations.

• Legal Amendments: Requiring specific legislative amendments in state-level acts governing agriculture, food safety, labor, and environment to explicitly recognize these rights and create mechanisms for their enforcement.

• Monitoring Mechanisms: Establishing statutory bodies or empowering existing ones (like agricultural departments, food safety authorities, environmental agencies, and possibly mandis/CoEs as specified in the proposal) with clear mandates and powers to monitor compliance and address grievances related to these rights.

• Community Governance: Legally recognizing and empowering community institutions (FPOs, SHGs, village-level committees) to play a direct role in monitoring, reporting, and advocating for the realization of these rights at the grassroots level, making the governance more participatory and responsive.

This rights-based approach would legally strengthen the state's commitment to holistic agricultural development that prioritizes human well-being, ecological sustainability, and social equity.

Uttar Pradesh's legal framework for land conversion operates under a unified land-use regime, primarily governed by the Uttar Pradesh Revenue Code, 2006, and its subsequent amendments, alongside various zoning and planning laws.

Smart Contracts & Electronic Records: Legal Framework for Digital Agriculture in Uttar Pradesh

The digitalization of agricultural markets in Uttar Pradesh, through initiatives like e-NAM and the emerging concept of "Digi-Nam," necessitates a robust legal framework that provides clarity and enforceability for all electronic transactions, records, and contractual agreements.

Therefore, for Uttar Pradesh, prioritizing amendments to the Evidence Act and IT Act to specifically address blockchain-based records and smart contracts, alongside developing sector-specific rules for digital

agriculture, is not just about keeping pace with technology; it's about unlocking economic growth, improving farmer welfare, and ensuring the integrity of its digital agricultural ecosystem.

GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN ACHIEVING A \$5 TRILLION ECONOMY (Uttar Pradesh, Farming, and Policies)

The central government's proactive schemes are designed to directly impact the lives of farmers, modernize agricultural practices, and build robust post-harvest infrastructure. Uttar Pradesh, with its vast agricultural land and farmer population, is a primary beneficiary and a key implementer of these policies.

Key Central Schemes: PM-KISAN, e-NAM, Agri Infra Fund

These schemes directly support Uttar Pradesh's farming community and contribute significantly to its agricultural output and economic contribution.

PM-KISAN: Financial Lifeline for Uttar Pradesh Farmers

Ministries & Policy Drivers: NITI Aayog, ICAR, NABARD (Uttar Pradesh's Context)

These institutions act as the brain, research arm, and financial backbone, respectively, for the agricultural transformation that Uttar Pradesh needs to scale up its contribution to the national economy.

Legal and Institutional Gaps

1. **Outdated Legal Frameworks:** Existing agricultural market regulations (APMC Acts, despite amendments) are often ill-suited for modern digital trading and direct farmer-to-consumer/processor linkages.
2. **Blockchain & Smart Contract Recognition:** A significant legal void exists concerning the explicit recognition and enforceability of blockchain-based smart contracts and deeds under the Indian Evidence Act and IT Act. This hinders the adoption of innovative solutions for forward-sales, supply chain finance, and dispute resolution.
3. **Fragmented Land Records (Residual):** While significant progress has been made, 100% conclusive land titling (including mutation and dispute resolution mechanisms integrated digitally) is yet to be fully achieved across all land types in UP. Issues persist with old, non-digitized records and the complete integration of revenue and survey data.
4. **Lack of Unified Data Platform (Agristack):** While conceptualized, a fully integrated "Agristack" that seamlessly links farmer data, land records, crop data, market information, and scheme delivery mechanisms remains under development. This fragmentation hinders comprehensive analysis and targeted policy interventions.
5. **Weak Enforcement of Quality Standards:** Despite e-NAM's mandate, consistent enforcement of quality grading and MRL compliance at the ground level (especially for exports) requires stronger institutional mechanisms and infrastructure.
6. **Human Resource and Digital Literacy:** A significant gap remains in the digital literacy of farmers and the technical capacity of ground-level agricultural extension workers (KVKs, departmental staff) to effectively utilize and promote modern agri-tech solutions.
7. **Inter-Agency Coordination:** Despite NITI Aayog's role, effective coordination across various central and state departments (Agriculture, Revenue, Finance, Food Processing) for holistic agricultural development can sometimes be challenging.

Recommendations: Regulatory, Technological, Infrastructural

Regulatory

1. **Amend Evidence Act & IT Act:** Expedite amendments to the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, and the Information Technology Act, 2000, to explicitly recognize and grant legal sanctity to blockchain-based smart

contracts, electronic warehouse receipts on distributed ledgers, and other blockchain-based deeds. This is crucial for pilot proposals (e.g., in UP) to scale.

2. State-Specific APMC Reforms: Uttar Pradesh should proactively push for a unified "Agriculture Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act" to replace the existing APMC Act, allowing for more open trade, direct procurement, and electronic commerce, while ensuring robust dispute resolution mechanisms.

3. Mandatory Digitized Land-KYC: Make Aadhaar-linked ULPIN (Bhu-Aadhaar) and digitized land records mandatory for eligibility for all agricultural subsidies, credit, and insurance schemes (PM-KISAN, PMFBY, KCC). This will plug loopholes and ensure benefits reach genuine farmers, akin to PDS automation.

4. Incentivize FPO-led Market Linkages: Provide regulatory incentives (e.g., tax breaks, relaxed licensing) for FPOs to engage directly with processors and retailers, bypassing traditional mandis, fostering direct B2B and B2C channels for UP's produce.

5. Strengthen Pesticide & Residue Regulation: Implement stricter enforcement of pesticide use norms and MRLs. This includes mandating farmer training on proper application, promoting integrated pest management (IPM), and establishing more accessible and affordable residue testing labs at district/cluster levels in UP, crucial for export quality.

Technological

1. Accelerate Agristack Implementation in UP: Expedite the full development and deployment of a comprehensive, interoperable "Agristack" that integrates all relevant farmer data (land, crop, soil health, weather, credit, market prices) with scheme delivery platforms. UP should be a testbed for seamless data flow.

2. Scale AI-Powered Policy Execution Cells: Implement the proposal for AI-powered Regional Policy Execution Cells in all 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh by 2030. These cells should leverage AI auditing systems (e.g., "AuditMAI") for continuous, real-time monitoring of scheme utilization, anomaly detection, and fraud prevention (e.g., cold chain utilization, crop insurance claims, subsidy leakages).

3. Promote IoT and Precision Agriculture: Incentivize the adoption of IoT sensors for soil health, water management (drip irrigation), and localized weather monitoring. Provide subsidies and technical support for precision farming tools, starting with high-value crops and FPOs in UP.

4. Develop Localized Digital Advisory: Enhance ICAR's digital advisory systems (DSS, satellite monitoring) by making them more hyper-localized, vernacular, and accessible via mobile platforms. Leverage AI for personalized crop advisories based on specific farmer and land characteristics in UP.

5. Blockchain for Supply Chain Traceability: Pilot blockchain solutions for end-to-end traceability of high-value agricultural commodities (e.g., Basmati rice, mangoes, organic produce) from farm to consumer in UP, enhancing export potential and consumer trust.

Infrastructural

1. Last-Mile Connectivity for Mandis: Prioritize investment in improving road connectivity to integrated e-NAM mandis and rural haats in Uttar Pradesh to ensure farmers can easily transport their produce.

2. Modern Post-Harvest Infrastructure: Rapidly expand and modernize cold chain facilities, warehouses, and primary processing units, particularly in key agricultural clusters of UP, utilizing the Agri Infrastructure Fund. Focus on ensuring energy-efficient and scalable solutions.

3. Testing & Certification Labs: Establish a network of accredited testing and certification labs (for MRLs, quality parameters) across major agricultural production hubs in UP to facilitate export compliance and domestic quality assurance.

4. **Digital Infrastructure in Rural Areas:** Ensure robust internet connectivity and uninterrupted power supply in rural agricultural areas of Uttar Pradesh to support digital transactions, online platforms, and IoT deployments.

5. **Capacity Building and Digital Literacy Centers:** Establish well-equipped digital literacy and agri-tech training centers at the Block/Panchayat level in UP, offering hands-on training to farmers on using e-NAM, mobile apps for farm management, financial literacy, and basic digital skills.

Constitutional Amendments Suggested for Inclusive Growth

While direct constitutional amendments for agriculture are complex given its placement in the State List, certain interpretations or indirect amendments could foster inclusive growth:

1. **Strengthening Concurrent List Provisions:** While agriculture is a state subject, many related areas like "planning," "economic and social planning," "trade and commerce," and "foodstuffs" are on the Concurrent List. Constitutional provisions could be explored to explicitly empower the Union to legislate on aspects that ensure a truly national agricultural market and protect farmer interests in inter-state trade, without usurping state powers.

2. **Right to Market Access/Fair Price:** While a direct "right to market access" or "right to fair price" might be challenging to implement constitutionally, a reinterpretation or an enabling amendment could provide stronger constitutional backing for policies aimed at ensuring farmers receive remunerative prices and have equitable access to markets, potentially strengthening the legal basis for MSP and digital market interventions.

3. **Property Rights Clarity (Ninth Schedule Review):** While the 9th Schedule has been used to protect land reform laws from judicial review, a comprehensive review could ensure that land titling reforms (like Svamitva and DILRMP) have unambiguous constitutional backing and are protected from excessive litigation, ensuring swift and conclusive land ownership. This might not be a direct amendment but a re-evaluation of its application for land reforms.

4. **Clarity on "Trade and Commerce" (Article 301):** Potential constitutional interpretation or amendments to clarify how digital agricultural trade (e.g., e-NAM) operates under Article 301 (freedom of trade, commerce, and intercourse), ensuring that state regulations do not unduly restrict the free flow of agricultural commodities across state borders.

Stakeholder-Wise Implementation Roadmap

1. Farmers & FPOs:

- Short-Term (0-2 years): Active participation in e-NAM, PM-KISAN e-KYC, and land record digitization drives. Form and strengthen FPOs for collective bargaining, input purchase, and marketing. Adopt basic digital tools for market information.

- Mid-Term (2-5 years): Transition to precision farming techniques (IoT), adopt climate-resilient practices, and engage in direct marketing channels (B2B, B2C). Access formal credit via digitized land records.

- Long-Term (5-10 years): Lead value addition, develop farmer-owned processing units, and engage in smart contracts for future sales. Become key drivers of the digital agri-ecosystem.

2. Uttar Pradesh Government (State Departments: Agriculture, Revenue, Food Processing):

- Short-Term: Accelerate DILRMP and Svamitva completion. Mandate digitized land-KYC. Enhance e-NAM integration and support services. Establish pilot AI Auditing Cells. Actively promote PM-KISAN saturation.

- Mid-Term: Scale AI Auditing Cells to district level. Implement state-specific legislation recognizing smart contracts. Develop robust state-level Agristack. Invest heavily in post-harvest infra via AIF.

- Long-Term: Position UP as a leader in agri-tech adoption, sustainable farming, and agri-exports. Ensure seamless integration of all agricultural data and services.

3. Central Government (DoA&FW, NITI Aayog, ICAR, NABARD):

- Short-Term: Push for legal amendments (Evidence Act, IT Act). Provide funding and technical support for state-level digital initiatives (Agristack, AI cells). Strengthen credit mechanisms.
- Mid-Term: Develop national policy framework for AI in agriculture. Standardize data protocols for Agristack. Enhance research on climate-resilient crops and sustainable inputs for diverse regions like UP.
- Long-Term: Create a conducive national policy environment for private investment in agriculture, facilitate global market access for Indian produce, and ensure India is a global leader in responsible agri-tech.

4. Private Sector & Agri-Tech Startups:

- Short-Term: Develop localized, affordable agri-tech solutions (e.g., IoT sensors, farm management apps, digital advisory) tailored for UP's farmers. Invest in cold chain and processing infrastructure under AIF.
- Mid-Term: Collaborate with FPOs for direct procurement and value chain integration. Develop blockchain solutions for traceability and smart contracts. Invest in R&D for sustainable agricultural practices.
- Long-Term: Drive innovation in precision agriculture, develop export-oriented processing capabilities, and provide end-to-end digital solutions for the entire agricultural value chain in UP.

5. Financial Institutions (Banks, NBFCs):

- Short-Term: Leverage digitized land records for easier credit assessment and disbursement to farmers. Increase lending under AIF. Promote digital payment adoption among farmers.
- Mid-Term: Develop innovative financial products (e.g., smart contract-backed loans, weather-indexed insurance) leveraging agri-tech data. Strengthen rural banking infrastructure.
- Long-Term: Become key partners in agri-finance, enabling farmers and agribusinesses in UP to access capital seamlessly, driving investment and growth.

Future Research Directions

1. Impact Assessment of AI Auditing: Detailed empirical studies on the effectiveness of AI-powered policy execution and auditing cells in reducing fraud, improving efficiency, and enhancing transparency in various agricultural schemes in Uttar Pradesh.
2. Blockchain for Agri-Finance & Trade: Research on the specific legal, technical, and social challenges and opportunities for widespread adoption of blockchain-based smart contracts for agricultural forward-sales, warehouse receipts, and export financing in UP.
3. Climate Change Adaptation & Mitigation: In-depth research on the most effective climate-resilient crop varieties and farming practices suitable for different agro-climatic zones of Uttar Pradesh, alongside the economic viability and farmer adoption barriers.
4. Digital Literacy & Skill Development: Studies on the most effective pedagogical approaches and incentive structures to enhance digital literacy and agri-tech adoption among diverse farmer demographics in Uttar Pradesh.
5. Value Chain Optimization with Data Analytics: Research into leveraging big data analytics from e-NAM, Agri-stack, and private platforms to optimize agricultural supply chains in UP, reduce post-harvest losses, and improve market linkages.
6. Socio-Economic Impact of Land Record Digitization: Longitudinal studies on the socio-economic impacts of Svamitva and DILRMP on land dispute resolution, access to credit, and overall rural development in Uttar Pradesh.

7. WTO AoA and UP's Export Competitiveness: In-depth analysis of the implications of WTO Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) for Uttar Pradesh's agricultural exports, specifically identifying policy measures to enhance competitiveness while ensuring food security and farmer welfare.

This comprehensive roadmap and the suggested future research directions aim to ensure that Uttar Pradesh's agricultural sector is not just a participant but a leader in India's journey towards a \$5 trillion economy, fostering inclusive and sustainable growth for its millions of farmers.

Conclusion: The research concludes that by embracing this strategic roadmap, which champions robust legal reforms, cutting-edge technological integration, and sustained infrastructural development, Uttar Pradesh can unlock its immense agricultural potential. This transformative journey will not only elevate farmer incomes and ensure food security within the state but also solidify UP's position as a pivotal contributor to India's ambition of becoming a \$5 trillion economy, fostering a more equitable, efficient, and prosperous future for its vast rural population.

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