

# INDIA TO GIVE LAND FOR I2U2-BACKED FOOD PARKS

Relevant for: International Relations | Topic: Effect of policies and politics of developed & developing countries on India's interests

Common concerns: Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing the I2U2 virtual summit from New Delhi on Thursday. PTI-

India will provide “appropriate land” for “food parks” across the country that will be built in collaboration with Israel, the United States and the United Arab Emirates. The plan for the “integrated food parks” was announced in a joint statement after the leaders of the I2U2 grouping — India, Israel, the UAE and the U.S. — held a summit on Thursday. The leaders said they would bring in private capital for specific projects in the fields of water, energy, transportation, health, space and food security.

“U.S. and Israeli private sectors will be invited to lend their expertise and offer innovative solutions that contribute to the overall sustainability of the project. These investments will help maximise crop yields which, in turn, will help tackle food insecurity in South Asia and the Middle East,” said the joint statement, adding that India will “facilitate farmers’ integration into the food parks. In his comments at the event, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, “Right from the first summit held today, I2U2 has established a positive agenda.”

The food parks aimed at cutting down “food waste and spoilage” are a few of the collaborations that the four countries declared after Thursday’s summit that was hosted by Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid and included UAE’s President Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, U.S. President Joe Biden and Mr. Modi.

The UAE will invest \$2 billion in India to create the food parks, the joint statement announced.

To a question from *The Hindu* on whether farmers were consulted before the declaration of the “integrated food park” project, Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra said: “When the specific food corridor project is implemented and the manner of its implementation (is on the table), we will naturally ensure that all the stakeholders involved in this process are taken on board and consulted before this project is implemented.”

Asked how India would provide land for such a project, an official who has been part of the consultation process said that as of now, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat had come forward to participate in the project and that other States were also expected to join in.

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Joint Statement, I2U2

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