

# Women manning milk producer cos in state

## NDDB's Tech Aid To UP's All-Women Projects

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Lucknow:** After the success of the Balinee milk producer company in Bundelkhand, where women involved in the project posted profits of about Rs 10-15 crore per annum, the state government launched the Mahila Samarth Yojna in 2022 with a budget of Rs 200 crore to promote involvement of women in milk production.

Under the Mahila Samarth Yojna, government has operationalised the Saamarthya Milk producer company in Rae Bareilly and is set to begin two more milk producing companies, the Sri Baba Gorakhnath Milk Producer Company in Gorakhpur and Srijanee Milk Producer Company Bareilly. Subsequently, MPCs will also be launched in Varanasi and Sultanpur.

"The Saamarthya Milk producer company in Rae Bareilly is operating with around 32,000 women members. Close to 1 lakh litre of milk is being procured from 350 villages and plan is to cover 1,200 villages within this year. Spade work has been initi-

**Close to 1 lakh litre of milk is being procured from 350 villages and plan is to cover 1,200 villages within this year**

ated to operationalise the Sri Baba Gorakhnath Milk Producer Company in Gorakhpur and Srijanee Milk Producer Company in Bareilly within a month," said an official. Even though it has the maximum number of cattle in the country, UP is second largest producer of milk, after Rajasthan. The Mahila Samarth Yojna aims to increase milk production and collection in the state, while simultaneously empowering women, said a senior official.

He said the Rae Bareilly company members will be women dairy farmers from Rae Bareilly, Sultanpur, Amethi, Ayodhya, Fatehpur, Kanpur Nagar and Pratapgarh districts; the one in Gorakhpur will open membership to women from Deoria, Gorakhpur, Kushinagar and

Maharajganj. The Bareilly unit will comprise women from Rampur, Pilibhit, Kheri, Sitapur and Shahjahanpur districts.

The NDDB Dairy Services, a subsidiary of the National Dairy Development Board, is providing technical support to UP government for establishment of milk producer companies with exclusively women members.

The first milk producer company in UP, Balinee was set up in Bundelkhand in 2019 with headquarters in Jhansi. From five districts where it initially began work, it has now expanded to seven and has around 63,000 members.

The total share of money deposited by women dairy farmers in Balinee is roughly Rs 6.46 crore, while its cumulative business volume is 12.08 crore litres of milk and cumulative business is Rs 692 crore. The average annual milk payment in 2022-23 was Rs 51,631 per member. The average milk collection per day is 2.15 lakh litre and dividend paid to members was around Rs 41 lakh.