

Walmart Foundation announces \$1.2-m grant to empower 15,000 women farmers in UP

Our Bureau

Mangaluru

Walmart Foundation has announced a grant of \$1.2 million to the Transform Rural India Foundation (TRIF). The grant is aimed at improving the rural livelihoods of 15,000 women farmers in Uttar Pradesh to increase their average base income.

The two-year project will primarily focus on creating 10 self-sustainable women-led FPOs (Farmer Producer Organisations) and a platform for women farmers to strengthen and diversify their livelihoods.

As part of this project, the FPOs will receive assistance to develop business plans, and post-harvest infrastructure, and to build necessary systems and processes, including institutional operat-



GAME-CHANGING DEAL. The two-year project will focus on creating 10 self-sustainable women-led FPOs

ing spine (digital book-keeping, management control systems, standard operating procedures).

MARKET LINKAGE

A media statement said the Walmart Foundation grant will support training and capacity-building sessions for the women farmers along with the adoption of climate-resilient practices.

Leveraging self-help groups (SHGs) promoted by the Deendayal Antodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM), a government programme, TRIF will support 15,000 women in productive roles within the FPOs, offering robust institutional aggregation to enhance market connections and boost earnings. The statement

said the project will also work with community representatives on building soil organic carbon through various methods of composting, ensuring soil vitality through precise testing and nutrient recommendations.

The interventions will include value chains such as pulses, cereals, and horticulture crops, apart from poultry, fisheries, and goat rearing.

BROAD OUTREACH

Quoting Julie Gehrki, Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer, Walmart Foundation, the statement said: "This investment will broaden our outreach to more women in rural areas and solidify our impact by promoting sustainable increases and unlocking additional sources of income."