



National Cooperative Union of India New Delhi

Report & Recommendation of Two-day Workshop on "Promotion and Development of Cooperatives in Ladakh" 30 – 31 August 2024, Leh

Pioneering Initiative in Ladakh's Cooperative Landscape by NCUI in collaboration with the Cooperation Department of UT of Ladakh

The National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI), in collaboration with the Department of Cooperatives, UT of Ladakh, successfully organized a transformative two-day workshop on the "Promotion and Development of Cooperatives in Ladakh" from **August 30th to 31st, 2024** at The Defence Institute of High-Altitude Research (DIHAR), Leh.

Marking a significant milestone, this workshop is the first of its kind in the Union Territory of Ladakh since its formation as a separate UT. Under the visionary leadership of the Shri. Dileep Sanghani, President, National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI), this pioneering initiative underscores NCUI's commitment to enhancing and expanding the cooperative movement across the nation, especially in regions with unique socio-economic landscapes like Ladakh. This endeavor not only aims to strengthen existing cooperatives but also to catalyze the formation of new ones, empowering local communities and leveraging Ladakh's distinct strengths, such as its natural biodiversity and organic produce. By bringing together key stakeholders, including cooperators, government officials, and experts, this initiative sets the stage for a transformative cooperative movement in Ladakh, ensuring sustainable development and prosperity for the region.



Chief Guest Dr. Pawan Kotwal, IAS, Advisor to the Hon. Lt. Governor, UT of Ladakh, President of NCUI Shri Dileep Sanghani, and GC Member, NCUI Shri Pradeep Kumar lit the lamp.



A glimpse of dignitaries on the occasion of Two-day workshop

The event's inauguration was graced by the esteemed presence of Chief Guest Dr. Pawan Kotwal, IAS, Advisor to the Hon'ble Lt. Governor, UT of Ladakh, and was presided over by Shri Dileep Sanghani, President of NCUI. The event saw distinguished

participation from key figures including Shri Pradeep Kumar, Governing Council Member, NCUI; Dr. Sudhir Mahajan, Chief Executive, NCUI; and Shri Sajjad Quadri, JKAS, Additional Registrar, Cooperative Societies, UT of Ladakh.



With over 250 cooperators from the Leh and Kargil districts actively participating, the workshop was a vibrant hub of ideas and innovation. Representatives from cooperatives across Jammu and Kashmir, along with officials from National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), and NABARD, also enriched the discussions.





Dr. Sudhir Mahajan (IAS, Retd.), Chief Executive, NCUI delivering the welcome address

Dr. Sudhir Mahajan (IAS, Retd.), Chief Executive of NCUI, delivered the welcome address, highlighting key initiatives of the Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India, and how NCUI is working in close coordination with the Ministry. He emphasized NCUI's pivotal projects like the NCUI Haat, Cooperative Fair, E-commerce platform, cross-sectoral collaborations, and the significant efforts of the National Cooperative Resource Centre in revolutionizing cooperative education and training with standardized modules. He also touched on the role of CEAS LMS Portal < <https://ncuicoop.education/>>, and more.

Shri Dileep Sanghani, President of NCUI, who presided over the workshop, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Ministry of Home Affairs for the formation of the five new districts in Ladakh, which will help extend the benefits of the Central and State Govts. Schemes and programmes to the grassroots. He highlighted the immense biodiversity potential of Ladakh and the remarkable initiatives by NDDDB in dairy cooperatives, showcasing the success of projects like Looms of Ladakh. Shri Sanghani urged officials from the Department of Cooperation and leaders of cooperatives in Leh and Kargil to capitalize on Ladakh's potential by forming Ladakh's Cooperative Union and establishing cooperative training centers in the UT of Ladakh.



The NCUI President, Shri Dileep Sanghani, giving the presidential address

In his address, he also underscored the Government of India's holistic approach to uplifting farmers, artisans, women, and marginalized communities, referencing key provisions in Budget 2024. Additionally, he discussed innovative cooperative solutions like Nano Urea and Nano DAP, which are poised to benefit the entire country and World. He highlighted the upcoming New Cooperation Policy, the International Year of Cooperatives 2025, and the much-anticipated ICA Global Assembly in November 2024.

Shri Sanghani concluded by calling on all stakeholders to unite and work towards realizing the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of "Sahakar se Samruddhi" (Prosperity through Cooperation). Together, let's build a stronger, more prosperous cooperative movement in Ladakh and beyond!





The Chief Guest Dr. Pawan Kotal, IAS, Advisor to the Hon'ble Lt. Governor, UT of Lakakh speaking on the occasion

Dr. Pawan Kotwal, IAS, Advisor to the Hon'ble Lt. Governor, UT of Ladakh, delivered an inspiring inaugural address at the workshop on the "Promotion and Development of Cooperatives in Ladakh." He expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the President of NCUI and his dedicated team for traveling all the way from Delhi to Leh to spearhead structured interventions aimed at building a robust cooperative ecosystem in Ladakh. He emphasized that these efforts are vital for strengthening the cooperative movement in the region, highlighting the significance of their presence and commitment in laying the foundation for sustainable development through cooperation. Their initiative is not just a gesture of support but a crucial step towards empowering local communities and fostering economic growth in Ladakh.





In his address, Dr. Kotwal provided an insightful comparison of various development models, including the capitalist model, open market free economy, socialism, communism, and the cooperative model. He emphasized that while the Cooperative Movement began with the noble intention of fostering socio-economic development, its success hinges on the "Niyat" (intent) and "Niti" (strategy) of the people involved. He pointed out that cooperation is deeply ingrained in our culture, akin to the philosophy of Advaita, yet the movement has seen declines due to a lack of strong cultural and strategic leadership. He urged leaders to focus on culture building and crafting effective strategies to guide their communities toward progress.

Dr. Kotwal also highlighted the unique characteristics of the Ladakh region, noting the high quality of produce due to its pollution-free environment, rich natural biodiversity, and the inherently organic nature of its products. Under his leadership, the Cooperation Department has successfully established 108 primary cooperatives between 2019 and 2024, showcasing the potential for cooperative growth in Ladakh.

In a significant development, Dr. Pawan Kotwal appreciated and agreed to the proposal for the establishment of a Cooperative Union in the Union Territory of Ladakh. This initiative will be complemented by the creation of cooperative training centers dedicated to the skill development and capacity building of cooperative members, leaders, employees as well as cooperation department's personnel. These centers will focus on key areas such as business diversification, accounting, financial management, compliance,

marketing, and establishing strong linkages between Ladakh's cooperatives and other parts of the country.

Dr. Kotwal emphasized the importance of these initiatives in empowering the cooperative sector in Ladakh, ensuring that local cooperatives are equipped with the knowledge and resources needed to thrive in a competitive market. Through this collaboration and the proposed training centers, the initiatives of the Ministry of Cooperation will be effectively implemented, further strengthening the cooperative movement in the region.

He called upon NCUI to draft a comprehensive plan outlining strategic interventions necessary for the successful implementation of these initiatives. Dr. Kotwal assured that the Cooperation Department would provide full support in bringing this vision to fruition, marking a new chapter in Ladakh's cooperative movement.



Shri Sajjad Qadiri, JKAS, Additional Registrar of Cooperative Societies, UT of Ladakh, addressing the delegates

In the inaugural session of the Ladakh Cooperative Workshop, Shri Sajjad Qadiri, JKAS, Additional Registrar of Cooperative Societies, UT of Ladakh, delivered a heartfelt vote of thanks. He expressed deep appreciation for the invaluable contributions of all dignitaries, participants, and organizers who made this event a success. Shri Qadiri extended his sincere gratitude to the Chief Guest, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, IAS, Advisor to the Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Ladakh, for his inspiring address and continued support for the cooperative movement in the region. He also thanked Shri Dileep Sanghani, President of NCUI, for his leadership and vision in driving cooperative initiatives that are crucial for

the development of Ladakh. Acknowledging the efforts of the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) in organizing the workshop, Shri Quadri praised the structured interventions aimed at establishing a thriving cooperative ecosystem in Ladakh. He highlighted the collaborative spirit and commitment of all stakeholders involved, ensuring the success of the workshop and paving the way for sustainable cooperative growth in the UT of Ladakh. Shri Quadri concluded by expressing his appreciation for the active participation of cooperators from Leh and Kargil districts, representatives from Jammu and Kashmir, and officials from NCDC, NDDDB, NABARD and other civil society organisations. He emphasized that the collective efforts and insights shared during this workshop will significantly contribute to the region's socio-economic development through cooperation.

Technical Session – I



Shri Ved Prakash Setia, Executive Director, NCUI conducting the Technical Sessions

Shri Ved Prakash Setia, Executive Director of NCUI, commenced the proceedings of Technical Session I by formally introducing all the esteemed speakers. He provided a brief overview of their expertise and contributions in their respective fields, setting the tone for an engaging and insightful discussion. Shri Setia also moderated the session, ensuring a smooth flow of presentations and facilitating a productive exchange of ideas among the speakers and participants. His effective moderation contributed to the session's success, fostering an environment conducive to knowledge sharing and active participation.



Mr. Rohit Kumar Gupta, Deputy Managing Director, National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), speaking in the Technical Session-I

Mr. Rohit Kumar Gupta, Deputy Managing Director of the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), provided an insightful overview of the 54 key initiatives undertaken by the Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India. These initiatives are designed to strengthen the cooperative sector across various dimensions, ensuring that cooperatives play a pivotal role in the nation's economic and social development. The key areas of focus are outlined as follows:

Economic Strengthening of Primary Cooperative Societies (16 Initiatives): The Ministry has introduced 16 initiatives aimed at the economic empowerment of primary agricultural cooperative credit societies. These initiatives focus on improving the financial stability and operational efficiency of these societies, which are the backbone of India's cooperative movement.

Formation of Three New Multi-State Cooperative Societies at the National Level (3 Initiatives): To bolster the cooperative sector's capacity and reach, three new Multi-State Cooperative Societies have been established. These entities aim to serve as national-level cooperatives in seed, organic farming and export sector, contributing to the growth of the cooperative ecosystem across India.

Relief in Income Tax Law for Cooperative Societies (6 Initiatives): The Ministry has worked towards providing significant relief to cooperative societies under the Income

Tax Law. This includes changes in taxation policies that benefit the financial health of cooperatives, thereby enhancing their competitiveness and sustainability.

Strengthening of the Office of the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies, CRCS (2 Initiatives): Efforts have been made to strengthen the Office of the CRCS, ensuring better regulatory oversight and governance in the cooperative sector. These initiatives aim to improve transparency, compliance, and accountability.

Revival of Cooperative Sugar Mills (5 Initiatives): The Ministry has undertaken five critical initiatives to revive cooperative sugar mills, which have been facing challenges related to financial viability and operational inefficiencies. These efforts are aimed at modernizing and revitalizing the cooperative sugar sector, which plays a significant role in rural economies.

Redressal of Difficulties Faced by Cooperative Banks (12 Initiatives): In recognition of the challenges faced by cooperative banks, 12 initiatives have been introduced to address issues such as liquidity, governance, and regulatory compliance. These steps are intended to restore the confidence of stakeholders and ensure the long-term stability of cooperative banks.

Expansion of the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) (2 Initiatives): The NCDC, a key player in the cooperative sector's development, is being further expanded through two initiatives. These initiatives aim to widen the scope of NCDC's activities, enabling it to support more cooperatives and diverse sectors.

Inclusion of Cooperative Societies as Buyers on the GeM Portal: Cooperative societies have now been included as buyers as well as seller on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal, facilitating their participation in government procurement processes. This initiative provides cooperatives with greater access to markets and opportunities for growth.

New National Cooperation Policy & National Cooperative Database (2 Initiatives): The Ministry has introduced a new National Cooperation Policy alongside the development of a National Cooperative Database. These initiatives aim to streamline policy frameworks and provide comprehensive data on cooperative societies, enhancing decision-making and resource allocation.

Education and Training in the Cooperative Sector (2 Initiatives): Recognizing the importance of capacity building, it is proposed to establish a national cooperative university to promote education and training in the cooperative sector. These initiatives aim to equip cooperative leaders and members with the necessary skills and knowledge to manage and grow their enterprises effectively.

Other Key Initiatives (3 Initiatives): These include Computerization of Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (ARDBs), focuses on modernizing the operations of ARDBs through digitalization, enhancing their efficiency and service delivery. Scheme for the Computerization of the Office of the Registrar of Cooperative Societies in States/Union Territories, aimed at improving administrative efficiency, this initiative ensures that cooperative governance is more transparent and accountable and refund to investors of Sahara Group of Societies.



These 54 initiatives reflect the Ministry of Cooperation’s commitment to strengthening and modernizing India’s cooperative movement. Through a comprehensive approach addressing governance, finance, education, and digital transformation, the Ministry aims to build a robust cooperative sector that can thrive in today’s dynamic economic environment.

Mr. Sajjad Qadiri, Additional Registrar of Cooperative Societies, UT of Ladakh, highlighted the region's transformation since becoming a Union Territory in 2019. To further development in line with Prime Minister Modi's vision, five new districts—Zaskar, Drass, Sham, Nubra, and Changthang—are being established to improve access to government schemes and services, promoting equitable growth. Despite Ladakh's challenging terrain and slower development, the need for a more adaptable legal framework has been emphasized to address its unique conditions and foster effective governance.



The cooperative movement in Ladakh has played a crucial role in socio-economic development, with 150 cooperative societies active across the region, including 116 Primary Agricultural Service Societies and other specialized cooperatives in consumer goods, marketing, dairy, and fisheries. These cooperatives have significantly improved livelihoods, addressing local challenges and contributing to the region's overall growth.





Shri Bhupendra Mandavi, Regional Director of NCDC for Himachal Pradesh and the Leh-Ladakh Region, discussed the functioning, organization, and management of the NCDC, including its regional offices and the LINAC initiative. He announced that NCDC will soon establish a satellite office in the Ladakh region. Shri Mandavi also highlighted that 28 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) under the Cooperative Societies Act are set to be promoted in various commodities and potential areas within the region, with support from three empanelled Capacity Building and Business Organizations (CBBOs) and the Cooperation Department.

He explained the various products and services offered by NCDC, including Yuva Sahakar, Ayushman Sahakar, Nandini Sahakar, Dairy Sahakar, Digital Sahakar, Swayam Shakti Sahakar Yojana, and Deerghavadhi Krishak Punji Sahakar Yojana. Additionally, he outlined the schemes from other ministries and departments being implemented by NCDC, such as the Agricultural Infrastructure Fund (AIF), PM Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME), and Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojna (PMKSY).



Shri Sumit Singh, Adviser, NCUI speaking in the Technical Session – I

Mr. Sumit Singh, Adviser at the Centre for Entrepreneurship Development and Cooperation (CEDC), NCUI, highlighted the ongoing initiatives aimed at nurturing entrepreneurial skills among women and marginalized communities. These efforts are being carried out in collaboration with over 16 partner institutions through the NCUI Incubation Centre and Skill Development Centre, located in Noida. The primary goal is to create an inclusive ecosystem that equips these communities with essential skills and opportunities to drive economic empowerment and self-reliance. Key partners in this initiative include prominent organizations such as Art of Living, HCL Foundation, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, RuTAG IIT Delhi, Alliance India, HVT Foundation, Ethics Groups, and several others. Mr. Singh also discussed NCUI's e-commerce platform, NCUI Haat, which serves as an avenue for cooperatives and entrepreneurs to market their products online, providing them with greater market access and visibility, thereby strengthening the economic participation of women and marginalized groups in the cooperative sector.

Following the presentation by the speaker, an open session was held, during which numerous cooperators raised pertinent questions. These queries focused on several key issues, including the need for targeted interventions by the central government for the Ladakh region, challenges faced by consumer cooperative societies in marketing of various products to the army, and specific provisions related to NCDC schemes. The experts leading the session addressed these questions comprehensively, providing detailed and insightful answers that clarified the concerns and offered practical solutions.

Technical Session – II

Technical Session II was managed by the NCUI team, who oriented the participants on the primary objectives of the workshop. They provided a detailed overview of NCUI's role in facilitating developmental initiatives in Ladakh, outlining how the organization supports and advances cooperative development in the region.



Shri Ritesh Dey, Executive Director, NCUI speaking in the Technical Session-II

Shri Ritesh Dey, Executive Director of NCUI, provided an overview of the role and functions of the NCUI. He detailed the initiatives aimed at empowering cooperatives and highlighted that NCUI is organizing this pioneering program with the clear objective of establishing a robust institutional ecosystem in the Ladakh region. He emphasized how NCUI, in collaboration with the Ministry of Cooperation, is committed to supporting and advancing the cooperative movement in the Country.

In his presentation, Shri Dey outlined several key events organized by NCUI, including the 17th Indian Cooperative Congress and the International Day of Cooperatives. He also discussed NCUI's involvement in the development of the National Cooperation Policy and the establishment of the National Cooperative Database.

Shri Dey further elaborated on the various programs spearheaded by the NCUI's NCCE (National Centre for Cooperative Education) and CEAS (Cooperative Extension and Advisory Services) divisions. He provided insights into the modules developed by the NCRC (National Cooperative Resource Centre), the CEAS LMS (Learning Management

System) Portal, and the social media platforms managed by NCUI and the Ministry of Cooperation. He urged all stakeholders to take full advantage of NCUI's e-commerce platform and LMS portal, and encouraged them to actively follow and engage with the NCUI's social media handles to stay informed about the latest updates and opportunities.



Smt. Sandhya Kapoor, Director, NCUI speaking in the Technical Session-II

Smt. Sandhya Kapoor, Director at NCUI, provided an in-depth explanation of the formation, administration, and operations of State Cooperative Unions (SCUs). She emphasized that while the Cooperation Department is responsible for the regulation and monitoring of cooperatives, the SCUs play a crucial role in implementing government initiatives and promoting the cooperative movement across various geographies and sectors.



CA Anurag, Deputy Director, NCUI speaking in the Technical Session-II

CA Anurag, Deputy Director of NCUI, highlighted the importance of establishing Junior Cooperative Training Centres (JCTCs) under the SCUs. These centers are envisioned to conduct a range of educational and leadership development programs for cooperative members, board directors, and employees. Additionally, the JCTCs will be instrumental in capacity-building programs for departmental personnel. In his address, CA Anurag outlined the requirements for establishing JCTCs, including necessary funding sources, physical infrastructure, and operational needs.





Dr. Sagar Kisan Wadkar, Adviser, NCUI speaking in the Technical Session-II

Dr. Sagar Kisan Wadkar, Adviser at NCUI, discussed insights gained from a comparative analysis of cooperative laws implemented across various States and Union Territories. He highlighted both the best practices and areas that require improvement within these laws. Dr. Wadkar placed particular emphasis on the provisions of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, noting its relevance and application. He suggested to the Cooperative Department officials that a separate cooperative law tailored specifically for the Union Territory of Ladakh could be beneficial in addressing the unique needs of the region.

The session concluded with several thought-provoking questions from departmental officers regarding cooperative law, the role of the Cooperation Department, and issues related to tax and preferential treatment for cooperatives. The officers also expressed encouragement for participants to take the initiative in establishing a district union and a federation at the Union Territory level. The NCUI team assured that NCUI would provide comprehensive academic support for establishing a cooperative union, setting up a cooperative training center, and developing a separate cooperative law for Ladakh. This support is intended to enhance the effectiveness of the cooperative framework and ensure it addresses the specific needs of the region.

Day 2: 31st August 2024

Technical Session – III



Mr. Vikrant Dogra, Chairman, Jammu & Kashmir Dairy Cooperative Federation and Unati Multi-State Cooperative Society, speaking in the Technical Session-III

Mr. Vikrant Dogra, Chairman of the Jammu & Kashmir Dairy Cooperative Federation and Unati Multi-State Cooperative Society, shared his extensive experience working with the farming community in the northern region. He stressed the need to link Ladakh's naturally grown organic products with larger national cooperatives and platforms such as Unati MSCS. He highlighted that such integration would not only expand market access for Ladakh's farmers but also promote the region's unique organic produce at a national level, contributing to sustainable agricultural practices. Mr. Dogra outlined the diverse range of activities and initiatives undertaken by Unati MSCS to support the farming community, especially in rural and remote areas. These activities include: (a) Unati Behan – Mass Livelihood Generation for Women. (b) Unati places a strong emphasis on the production of organic and natural products that promote the health and wellbeing of consumers, ensuring that sustainable practices benefit both farmers and the end-users of their products. (c) Marketing Platforms for Farmers, the society provides marketing platforms to farmers, enabling them to reach wider markets, improve their earnings, and create sustainable business models through cooperative marketing channels. (d) Capacity Building of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) by offering training, resources, and technical support to enhance their operational efficiency and expand their services to

local farmers and (e) Unati Poshan Hub, focuses on improving nutritional outcomes through the promotion of organic and health-oriented food products, reinforcing the value of cooperative-led agricultural production for public health. Mr. Dongra's address underscored the potential of cooperatives to transform the agricultural landscape in Ladakh and beyond.



Mr. Vikas Mittal, General Manager, NABARD RO Jammu and Kashmir, speaking in the Technical Session-III

Mr. Vikas Mittal, General Manager at NABARD RO Jammu and Kashmir, detailed the origins of NABARD, its primary objectives, and its operational functions, emphasizing its role in fostering development in rural areas through financial support and capacity-building. Shri Tsewang Dorjey, District Development Manager (DDM) at Leh, elaborated on the Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) promoted by NABARD in the region. These include: Sham Valley Apricot Producer Cooperative Ltd., Ladakh Vegetable Producer Cooperative Ltd., Ladakh Farmers and Producers Cooperative Ltd., and Support provided to Looms of Ladakh Women Cooperative. Mr. Dorjey also outlined NABARD's future plans, which include: Constant engagement with Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) in Ladakh to enhance their business diversification and vibrancy, Geographical Indication (GI) tagging of products and development of their value chains through cooperatives, Developing the seabuckthorn value chain and Replicating the Aryan Valley Yak Cooperative Society model in other clusters such as Changthang, Zaskar, and Nubra. The discussion underscored NABARD's commitment to advancing cooperative development in Ladakh through strategic initiatives and future-oriented plans.

After these two organizations' presentations, a comprehensive discussion was held to highlight the contributions of various organizations and individuals towards cooperative development in Ladakh. The session featured insights from key representatives of several prominent organizations working on transformative projects in the region as follows:



Ms. Mahima Mehra, Co-Founder, Himalayan Volunteer Tourism (HVT) Foundation, speaking in the Technical Session-III

Ms. Mahima Mehra, Co-Founder of the Himalayan Volunteer Tourism (HVT) Foundation, provided an overview of the organization's significant involvement in cooperative development in Ladakh. HVT Foundation is associated with approximately 23,700 volunteer members and has been instrumental in driving various initiatives in the region. Their collaborative efforts with key resource organizations have made a considerable impact on local communities.

The Himalay Unnati Mission (HUM) Foundation has been at the forefront of numerous development projects in Ladakh. Their initiatives include: Electrification of remote border villages, Digital literacy programs, Tree plantation drives, Establishment of skilling centers, Reforms for prison inmates, etc. The HUM Foundation's continued support and active engagement in these areas have significantly contributed to the region's development and are expected to be a substantial asset in advancing cooperative efforts.

Represented by Kunzes Dolma, the Samaarambh Foundation, founded by Mayank Khantwal, has been making notable strides in transforming nearly 15 border villages. Their projects include: Establishment of schools and skilling centers, Creation of homestays to

boost local tourism, and Installation of solar panels for sustainable energy. These initiatives reflect the foundation’s commitment to improving education, skill development, and energy access in remote areas of Ladakh.



The Drass sector’s cooperative development efforts are represented by the Humas Upliftment Organisation. Founded by Altaf Kashif, with Mr. Bilal Ahmad Lone serving as General Secretary, the organization has been involved in various projects aimed at enhancing the quality of life in the Drass region. Details about their specific projects were shared, showcasing their dedication to community upliftment.

The Women’s Alliance of Sasoma Gya, led by President Tsewang Lamo and Tsering Dolma, is notable for establishing the first community museum in their village. This initiative not only preserves local heritage but also serves as a cultural and educational resource for both residents and visitors.

The session highlighted the impactful work of these organizations and individuals in the cooperative development landscape of Ladakh. Their collective efforts in areas such as education, infrastructure, digital literacy, and cultural preservation are crucial for the sustainable development of the region. The collaboration among these entities underscores a shared commitment to enhancing the well-being of Ladakh’s communities and supporting cooperative growth.



Shri Manoj Kumar B. Solanki, Managing Director, Ladakh Milk Federation (LUTDCF), speaking in the Technical Session-III

Shri Manoj Kumar B. Solanki, Managing Director of the Ladakh Milk Federation (LUTDCF), provided an update on the progress and future plans for dairy development in Ladakh, focusing on initiatives undertaken in collaboration with the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), Ladakh Union Territory, and Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC). In August 2022, NDDB signed a tripartite MoU with the Union Territory of Ladakh and LAHDC to develop the dairy sector. A grant of ₹40 lakh was sanctioned for Skimmed Milk Powder, White Butter, milk cans, and other essential equipment to initiate LUTDCF's operations. A Mobile Milk Collection and Cooling System was developed in collaboration with NDDB, IDMC, and SRDI to improve milk collection and transportation in Leh. IDMC Ltd. conducted a capacity assessment of the existing plant and started expansion work, scheduled for completion by October 2024. M/s Mother Dairy Fruits and Vegetables Pvt Ltd, a subsidiary of NDDB, partnered with fruit growers' cooperatives in Kargil to provide market access for apricots and other local produce.

Dr Solanki informed that LUTDCF began operations in October 2023, procuring 400 liters of milk daily from 94 farmers in one village, supplying it to local hotels and shops. In February 2024, LUTDCF secured a contract to supply 2,610 liters of toned milk daily to the Indian Army, expanding procurement to 10 villages and 318 farmers. Daily sales grew to 2,700 liters.

LUTDCF's efforts, supported by NDDB and other stakeholders, are steadily transforming the dairy industry in Ladakh. With a focus on expansion, product diversification, and strengthening farmer relations, LUTDCF aims to create a sustainable and efficient dairy ecosystem in the region.



Ms Amina Bano, Head, Accounts and General Administration, Looms of Ladakh, speaking in the Technical Session-III

Ms Amina Bano, Head, Accounts and General Administration, Looms of Ladakh, on behalf of Smt. Abhilasha Bahuguna, the visionary behind Looms of Ladakh, addressed the participants of the workshop, shedding light on the journey and challenges faced by the cooperative. She highlighted that Looms of Ladakh empowers over 400 women from diverse regions, spanning from the border area of Chushul in Changthang to the remote Tai Suru area in Kargil. She highlighted the Challenges in the Handloom Sector like High pricing and lower skill levels among local artisans, A lack of innovative technologies and R&D for adding value to handloom products, and Poor coordination among stakeholders, exacerbated by the economic hardships of wool growers, many of whom are illiterate and lack awareness about traditional management practices.

She offered a historical overview of the handloom practices in Ladakh, rooted in traditional sheep wool production and barter-based economies. By the early 2000s, organizations like LEHO and KVIC began formal training in frame loom weaving across the region, laying the foundation for modern initiatives.

Despite these obstacles, Looms of Ladakh stands as a testament to the resilience of the women involved. Ms. Amina emphasized the need to shift attitudes from "what we get" to "what we can do" during every skill development training. Looms of Ladakh's commitment to skill-building and economic empowerment continues to inspire many in the region, and her address underscored the importance of collective effort in overcoming the barriers that persist in the handloom sector of Ladakh.

Closing Ceremony:



Shri Pradeep Kumar GC Member, NCUI Facilitating the Chief Guest Shri Stanzin Chospheh, Executive Councillor, LAHDC, Leh

The closing ceremony of the workshop was graced by Shri Stanzin Chospheh, Executive Councillor, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Leh, UT Ladakh, as the Chief Guest. The event also featured the esteemed presence of Shri Pradeep Kumar, Governing Council Member of NCUI, Dr. Jhakir Hussain, Dy. Registrar of Cooperative Societies Kargil, and Dr. M. Abbas, Dy. Registrar of Cooperative Societies Leh. Shri Ved Prakash Setia, Executive Director of NCUI, skillfully moderated the session, ensuring a smooth and engaging flow of discussions.



Shri Pradeep Kumar, Governing Council Member, NCUI, addressing the workshop

Shri Pradeep Kumar, Governing Council Member of NCUI expressed his gratitude to the officials of the Cooperative Department for their proactive support in organizing the programme. Drawing from his extensive experience as a leader in the management of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), dairy cooperatives, and cooperative banks, he emphasized the untapped potential of Ladakh in expanding its cooperative network across various sectors, including agriculture, fruits and vegetables, consumer societies, dairy, and handloom. He suggested the establishment of a Livestock Development Board in Ladakh to facilitate semen production and research & development in the dairy sector, which is crucial for harnessing the region's full potential in dairying.

Shri Pradeep Kumar also encouraged participants to develop strong leadership skills and to make decisions that prioritize the well-being of cooperative members, free from external influences. He urged everyone to leverage NCUI's e-commerce platform and the CEAS LMS portal for enhancing their operations. Additionally, he recommended that NCUI document the inspiring stories of Ladakh's cooperatives, showcasing how people are making significant efforts under challenging conditions, which could serve as a model for other regions.



Dr. M. Abhas, Deputy Registrar of Cooperative Societies, District Leh, speaking on the occasion

Dr. M. Abhas, Dy. Registrar of Cooperative Societies Leh, commended NCUI for its strategic interventions in the UT of Ladakh. He highlighted the vast potential for cooperatives in sectors such as sea buckthorn, dairy, animal husbandry, and handloom, noting that all concerned departments are working in close coordination to promote cooperative development in the region. He also requested NCUI to organize study tours and exposure visits for local cooperators, enabling them to replicate successful business models from other regions.





Dr. Zakir Hussain, Deputy Registrar of Cooperative Societies, District Kargil, speaking on the occasion

Dr. Zakir Hussain, Dy. Registrar of Cooperative Societies Kargil, echoed these sentiments, praising NCUI's efforts in Ladakh. He shared that since the formation of the UT in 2019, 43 primary dairy cooperative societies have been established. Dr. Hussain emphasized the importance of organic farming, noting that Ladakh's natural environment is inherently organic, and the UT administration is actively promoting and incentivizing organic agriculture. He suggested that NCUI organize a similar programme specifically for the Kargil district to address its unique needs and challenges.





The chief guest, Shri Stanzin Chospheh, Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh, UT Ladakh, delivering the valedictory speech

Shri Stanzin Chospheh, Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh, UT Ladakh, delivered the valedictory address, where he praised the NCUI for their commitment and efforts in traveling from Delhi to Leh to spearhead strategic interventions aimed at developing a robust cooperative institutional ecosystem in Ladakh. He acknowledged the importance of addressing the challenges faced by existing cooperatives and emphasized the need for promoting and forming new cooperatives in the region.

In his address, Shri Chospheh highlighted the creation of the separate Ministry of Cooperation at the central level, underscoring its proactive role in strengthening the cooperative movement across the country. He encouraged all cooperators to capitalize on the untapped potential in Ladakh, particularly in sectors such as dairy, fruits and vegetables, handloom, and organic farming, which hold significant promise for the region's economic growth.

Shri Chospheh also informed the participants about the ongoing developmental activities undertaken by the UT of Ladakh and LAHDC, aimed at benefiting the people of Ladakh. He expressed his strong support for the establishment of a Cooperative Union and cooperative training centers in the UT, recognizing their importance for skill development and capacity building. He requested NCUI to provide all necessary academic and technical

support to facilitate these initiatives, suggesting that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) be established to prioritize and execute the key activities required to strengthen the cooperative sector in Ladakh.



Shri Ritesh Dey, Executive Director, NCUI, delivering the vote of thanks

Shri Ritesh Dey, Executive Director of NCUI, delivered the formal vote of thanks. He expressed heartfelt gratitude to all the distinguished delegates, experts who contributed to the three technical sessions, and the participants who actively engaged in the discussions. Shri Dey highlighted the collaborative spirit that made the event a success and acknowledged the invaluable contributions of everyone involved in making this initiative impactful for the cooperative movement in Ladakh.



During the workshop, an exhibition of local products crafted by the Ladakh Cooperative Societies was organized. The exhibition showcased a variety of indigenous goods, highlighting the craftsmanship and entrepreneurial spirit of the local cooperatives, while also promoting sustainable and community-driven economic development in the region. Some glimpses:





Recommendations

1. Promotion and formation of UT level – Cooperative Union for promotion and strengthening of Cooperative Movement in the Ladakh Region
2. Establishment of Junior Cooperative Training Centres (JCTCs), minimum two for training and capacity building of the cooperative members, leaders and employees.
3. Undertaking training of trainers programmes for developing and nurturing master trainers.
4. Undertaking Study tours/ exposure visits and capacity building programmes for cooperative members, board of directors, employees and cooperation department officials at NCUI Delhi and in the selected states in collaboration with NCUI's Member Institutions.
5. Awareness and capacity-building programs for the implementation of key initiatives of the Ministry of Cooperation to strengthen the cooperative movement in the Union Territory of Ladakh.
6. Organization of focused workshops in the Kargil district as well as in the newly formed districts.
7. Formulation of a separate Cooperative Societies Act, considering the unique requirements of the region and insights from NCUI's Cooperative Law Study and the recently amended Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act.
8. In line with the New National Cooperation Policy of the Ministry of Cooperation, developing operational guidelines for its implementation in Ladakh UT.

To achieve this, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) may be signed between the NCUI, the Cooperation Department, and the Ladakh Administration (LAHDC) to facilitate these initiatives.
