

**DRAFT**

# **NATIONAL COOPERATIVE UNION OF INDIA**

Zonal Conference for Cooperative Development in Central States  
(Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh)

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 at**

Rendezvous Hotel, Madhuban Sarovar Portico, Brightland Estate Road,  
Near Library Chowk, Charleville Road, Mussoorie, Uttarakhand

## **REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

NCUI organised a Zonal Conference for Cooperative Development in Central States on 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 at Hotel Madhuban Sarovar Portico, Brightland Estate Road, Near Library Chowk, Charleville Road, Mussoorie, Uttarakhand to review the growth, achievements, issues and problems before the cooperative movement in the central states as well as to chalk out the strategies to overcome these issues and challenges. The objective of the zonal conferences is to take stock of the problems and issues faced by the cooperatives and thereafter formulate effective action-plans for the overall development of the cooperative in respective zone.

Shri Ganesh Joshi, Hon'ble Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister, Uttarakhand Govt. was the Chief Guest of the programme. Shri Dileep Sanghani, President NCUI presided over the Conference. Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, President ICA-AP and Chairman KRIBHCO, Dr. Bijender Singh, Ex. MLA, Chairman NAFED, Shri K. Sivadasan Nair, Vice President, NCUI, members of Governing Council of NCUI Shri B.L. Meena, Principal Secretary, Cooperative Department, Uttar Pradesh, Sh. Masoon Ali Sarwar, Managing Director, PCF U.P., Smt. Ira Upreti, IAS Joint Registrar, Cooperative Department, Uttarakhand and other senior officials of Cooperative Department, office bearers and members of various cooperative societies from the states of Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand have attended the conference. In all about 127 delegates participated in the event. List of delegates annexed-I.

In the beginning of the conference, Dr. Sudhir Mahajan, IAS (Retd.), Chief Executive formally welcomed all dignitaries and participants. He expressed his views on the occasion that NCUI is an apex organisation of cooperative movement in India. NCUI regularly organises such zonal conferences to discuss the problems/challenges and issues of the states and chalkout strategies through brain storming ideas view/suggestions for onwards submission to right platform with legislative manner. He highlighted the new initiatives of NCUI — NCUI Haat, NCUI Incubation Centre, starting of Cooperative

Entrepreneurship Development Cell, soon-to-start e-commerce platform and Cooperative Resource Centre with focus on cooperative training modules of each sector etc.



*Distinguished Guests Lightening the lamp on the occasion*



### *Distinguished Guests on the dais*



*Shri Dileep Sanghani, President NCUI, speaking on the occasion*

Shri Dileep Sanghani, President, NCUI has given presidential speech on this occasion, he stated that the Central Zone have rich natural resources and the cooperatives in this area are doing good work for the development of cooperatives. The main objective of NCUI's to organizing the zonal-wise conference, is to discuss and review the zonal-wise achievements, problems and challenges of cooperatives at one place and outline future action plans for the development of cooperatives. India has the largest youth population in the world and there is a need of hour to connect youth and women in the cooperatives. To attract this category in the cooperative movement, it is required to organise more and more programmes specially designed for them. It is our responsibility to make aware them the success stories of cooperatives and skilled employment opportunities through cooperatives.

He remarked that Govt. of India has been declared 2023 as the "International Year of Millets", and the cooperatives can play an important lead role in increasing the production of millets. NCUI President further stated that the benefits of the government schemes can easily reach to the masses with the help of the cooperatives.

While addressing to the co-operators, Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, President ICA-AP & President KRIBHCO requested to the Agriculture Minister, Uttarakhand, to give due recognition to the cooperatives by placing a dedicated chapter on the cooperatives subject in the school educational syllabus. He further emphasized on the education and training of Chief Executives/Board of Directors of the cooperatives. With the formation of Multi State Cooperative Societies of Exports, the cooperatives, more particularly, PACS should manufacture quality products. In his speech, he has stressed to enhance the income of farmers and provide them good quality seeds, to acquaint knowledge for adopting new technology for production, to make available market and all these possible with Cooperatives. The objective of NCUI to promote cooperatives through solving the difficulties of the members and put the issues on the right platform for redressal.



*Shri Ganesh Joshi, Hon'ble Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister, Uttarakhand speaking on the occasion*

The Conference was inaugurated by Shri Ganesh Joshi, Hon'ble Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister, Uttarakhand. In his inaugural address the Hon'ble Minister said that Agriculture and Cooperative are related to each other and the interest of cooperative is paramount instead of private and government sector.

Cooperatives is a people-oriented enterprise who uplift the socio-economic condition of the members. He emphasized that agriculture cannot be imagined without cooperatives. He said that there are more than 60,000 SHGs running in which 6 lakhs women are working. The year 2023 has been declared by the Central Government as the 'International Millet Year' and the Government of India has played an important role. He further said that 'Millet' is produced in large quantities in Uttarakhand. He informed that Uttarakhand is the First State which has fixed the minimum support price of 'Madua Millet' at Rs. 3500 per quintal which will be directly purchased from the 6 lakh women farmers associated with SHGs. He added that they would be provided an additional incentive amount of Rs.1.50 per kg. In this, the role of cooperatives will be crucial in all activities i.e. purchasing, storage, marketing, and processing etc. This will help in doubling the income of the farmers. Top cooperative unions can play an active role in achieving this target. He further said that there is an urgent need to associate more and more women with cooperatives.



*Shri B.L. Meena, IAS, Principal Secretary, Cooperative Department, Uttar Pradesh speaking on the occasion*

Shri B.L. Meena, IAS, Principal Secretary, Cooperative Department, Uttar Pradesh stated that Uttar Pradesh has adopted Modal byelaws of PACS, which will enable these societies to undertake many functional activities. He further said that cooperatives have set up a number of godowns in the state. He

further added that, cooperatives have played an important role in employment generation in Uttar Pradesh.

The vote of thanks was given by Dr. Bijender Singh.

After the inaugural function, the technical session started in which following made their presentations:

**Shri Ritesh Dey, Director NCUI**

Shri Ritesh Dey, Director NCUI make a presentation on “Role and Achievements of NCUI”. The main objective of NCUI is to promote and develop the cooperative movement in India, to educate and assist the people in their efforts, to build up and expand the cooperative sector and to serve as an exponent of cooperative opinion in accordance with basic cooperative principles. NCUI is regularly organizing education and training programme in different states with the help of state cooperative unions. Since 2018, NCUI has started Coop Connect Division for sensitize the youth about “Cooperative as a Business Model” and as of now, cooperative education has been provided to around 20,000 students of various School and Universities of Delhi and NCR. The students also getting the information, how they will make small cooperative society model by using IT Enterprise for employment generation. A Youth Committee has also been constituted by NCUI management in the recent past with the motto “to connect the Youth with Cooperatives. NCCE Calendar of Education and Training Programme also shared with the delegates and requesting for sending nominations for the participation in the different training programmes to be organised by NCCE, NCUI. An Institutional Development Fund has also been created for providing infrastructure and financial assistance to the 117 Junior Training Centre.

NCUI started a platform for showcasing and selling of local artisans’ handmade product, for this NCUI HAAT is started in its campus. A Incubention Centre has also been started by NCUI, where 20 SHGs associated and makes their product and sell it through Cooperatives. He elaborated the recent activity of NCUI like GeM, Research Study and formation and promotion of Cooperative Education Field Project and its expansion etc.



*A view of distinguished participants who joined the Conference*

**Sh. Masoom Ali Sarwar, Managing Director, PCF (UP), Uttar Pradesh**

Shri Masoom Ali Sarkar, Managing Director PDF U.P. said on the occasion that the UP Government has given special importance to the cooperative sector, there are 2.40 lakhs farmers are in the state, in which 2 lakhs farmers are associated with cooperative sector. He informed that a number of PACS have been registered in the state and working properly. The government provides necessary help to those PACS, which are finding difficulties to register themselves. He stated that UP is the first state who adopted Model Bye Laws and most of the FPOs are converted into PACS. The computerisation work of the PACS is going on in full swing in the state and 1539 PACS are already onboarded for computerisation. The Central and State Govt. online schemes are being provided to the members organisation through 325 Common Service Centre which are running by the members. The PACS are developed as the Common Service Centre, in which 4349 PACS are onboard in CSC as on date. PACS are also being used as godowns and marketing of products. In U.P., the construction cooperatives are working successfully like PWD and other agencies. The state government has been made adequate budgetary provision for cooperatives sector. Recently, state government has released Rs.7500 crores to the state cooperative department, in which schemes of Rs.7000 crore is already implemented. He further submitted that the state government approved Rs.900 Crore for the cooperatives in the financial year 2022-2023 which has been increased to Rs. 1335 Crore for the current financial year i.e. 2023-2024.

### **Smt. Ira Upreti, IAS Joint Registrar, Uttarakhand Department**

Smt. Ira Upreti, IAS Joint Registrar, Uttarakhand Department stated that the Uttarakhand has a rich resourceful state. NCDC has provided subsidized loan for poultry, dairy, sheep and goat rearing sector and cooperative schemes etc. Value chain has not developed so the cooperative work is segregated, there is a need to work on cluster basis. Milk product are marketing through the name of Anchal Cooperative. The Himalayan goats rearing in cluster basis and marketed with the name of 'meat on wheels'. "Mukhyamantari Ghaysari Kalyan Yojana" has been established for Women in which they are farming fodder crop and marketing through PACS. A total of 11044 m.t. of silage/cattle fodder has been given to 11146 people at subsidized rates till March, 2023 through 152 distributors centres in all the hilly areas of the State. On the "International Year of Millets", State Govt. is encouraging to grow and purchase soyabean, Millet, jhangura and maduaa for income generation of farmers or local artisans. MPACS are allowed to do any work for cooperative in the state and allowed to recruit officials for cooperative banks through IBPS. Apart from that the Uttarakhand states have some problems/issues i.e.

### **Problems and issues**

- migration/unemployment in hilly areas
- poor eco condition
- Lack of strong value chains
- Absence of digital platform at Gram Panchayat Level/ Committee level.
- Lack of transparency in the transaction at the Committee level.
- Absence of electronic database of farmers and marketing forums
- Usage of the crop for residual waste

However, the government has initiated various schemes to address these challenges such as "Deen Dayal Upadhyay Sahakarita Kisan Kalyan Yojna" run by the state government for doubling the farmers income. Presently, interest free loan of Rs. 1.00 lakh is being provided to the small, marginal and below poverty line farmers in rural areas for agricultural work and agricultural activities. Rs. 3.00 lakhs are being provided for herbal, medicinal plants, milk business, fishery, poultry, mushroom, flower production, horticulture, agricultural processing, agricultural farming, off- season vegetable production, poly- house work etc.

### **Shri Santosh Yade, State Coordinator, Madhya Pradesh State Cooperative Union**

Shri Yede speaking on the occasion and informed that the main objective of the Union is to provide cooperative education, training and its extension to the members of cooperative societies and research in cooperatives. The Union has four cooperative training Institute in Indore, Bhopal, Jabalpur and Naugaon. He said that since 2014 the Union Board has been superseded. The Union has 166

members from district, state and national level cooperatives. They are conducting LDP/Seminar/workshop etc. for the development of cooperative education and training.

The Union is being providing Higher Diploma in Cooperative Management, PGDC, PGDBM in Cooperative through online and regularly conducting workshop and seminar for benefits of its members. Union is also publishing a monthly newspaper, which covers the success stories, booklets, rules, regulations, circular manuals etc. of the state. For employment generation activities in cooperative, the Union have provided 800 (officials) Human Resource Management to PACS, LAMPS and District Cooperative Banks etc. through outsourcing. The Union has also have trained around 3000 thousand members of different PACS through '**Prandhan Mantri Koushal Vikas Yojna**'

The conference was moderated by Sh. Ved Prakash Setia, Executive Director, NCUI. At the end Shri Manvendra Singh, Member Governing Council and Managing Director, Farmer's Agri Business Coop. Society Ltd. has given vote of thanks and extended a sincere gratitude to NCUI for organizing such an important event in his home state Uttarakhand. He also conveyed his heartfelt gratitude to all the participants of the event.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1	There should be maximum IT intervention in particular computerisation and networking of all the PACS spread all over the country.
2	There should be complete digitalisation of PACS and LAMPS, as this shall help in monitoring the services and record keeping at the basic level.
3	Cooperative Banks and Financial Institution be well versed with new technology and work in digitalise manner.
4	Digital platform should be provided at Gram Panchayat Level/ Committee level.
5	Govt. interference should be less for running of Cooperative Society.
6	The infrastructure, financial assistance and manpower should be provided in hilly areas, as per their eco condition.
7	Cooperative should make tie-ups with the sales and marketing companies to market their produce/products on online platform,
8	Cooperative organisations must recruit IT professionals/employees to help in monitoring of the production, marketing, accounting and value addition of the produce at various stages.
9	To encourage resource mobilisation from members and their active participation.
10	Need of authenticated data generation for strategic planning, policy framework so as to measure progress and success.