



VAIKUNTH MEHTA NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT



REPORT

Upscaling the Cooperatives in India

*A report on Awareness Programmes on
initiatives of Ministry of Cooperation
in different States of India*

Year 2023-24

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The cooperative principles and values have been a part of the Indian social landscape for more than 100 years. These principles were institutionalized through enacting the Cooperative Credit Societies Act, 1904. This Act provided for organization of societies to provide credit to farmers for agricultural production. Gradually, the cooperative ecosystem began to get more institutionalized with regulatory norms in place and establishment of cooperative training institutions for capacity building. Over the years, cooperatives began to get formed in various sectors such as housing, dairy, credit and banking, labour cooperatives, fishery, consumer, women welfare, livestock & poultry, handicraft cooperatives, *etc.* There are presently about 7.83 lakh cooperatives in India with huge potential to expand and touch every sector.

Realizing the importance of cooperatives in promoting a welfare state, a separate Ministry of Cooperation (MOC) was created by the Government of India on 6th July 2021 towards realizing the dream of *Sahakar se Samriddhi* (Prosperity through cooperation) by creating an exclusive administrative legal and policy framework for strengthening the cooperative movement in the country. The Ministry of Cooperation aims to deepen cooperatives as a true people based economic model where members work with the spirit of responsibility.

Since inception 54 new initiatives have been undertaken by Ministry of Cooperation to leverage the benefits of cooperation in every sector of the economy. The major initiatives are categorized under (1) enabling PACS to become economically viable through digitisation of their records and diversifying their activities into dairy/fisheries, operating as Common Service Centres, eligibility for LPG Distributorship, obtain license for sale of generic medicines, *etc.* (2) relief to cooperative societies in income tax and revival of cooperative sugar mills (3) establishment of new National level Multi State Cooperative Societies established for Export, Organic and Seeds, new National Cooperative Database prepared with the support of State RCSs, new National Cooperative Policy under formulation, new National Cooperative University being established and other initiatives. Through these key initiatives Ministry of Cooperation aims at transforming rural livelihoods and promoting growth with social justice.

1.1 Approach

A systematic approach was required to disseminate the initiatives of the Ministry of Cooperation to the members of the cooperative societies across the country, so that they could leverage on the potential of cooperatives to achieve socio-economic development. Accordingly, in line with the initiatives of Ministry of Cooperation, VAMNICOM, Pune, undertook a major

outreach programme covering the length and breadth of the country, involving major stakeholders of various cooperatives and covering all segments of society including women, and weaker sections.

VAMNICOM, Pune, a National Institute for training, education and capacity building with a view to empower cooperatives, thus devised an outreach plan for creating awareness about the initiatives of Ministry of Cooperation (MoC) by adopting the following approach:

1. Identifying the states where the primary cooperative societies have adopted Bye-laws and are in the process of computerization.
2. Identifying PACS which aim at diversifying their activities and also reach out to the youth so that cooperation can become a suitable employment pathway.
3. Reaching out to PACS which aim at diversifying to dairy and fishery activities
4. Tapping cooperative societies with membership of women who can avail of schemes which will enable them to become entrepreneurs.
5. Cooperatives which will participate in the World's Largest Decentralized Grain storage Program and thus construct warehouses, processing units, etc.



1.2 Objectives

1. To impart awareness to the stakeholders of cooperatives about new initiatives of Ministry of Cooperation.
2. To sensitize and revive the cooperatives through extension services
3. To encourage weaker sections to form cooperatives in various sector
4. To encourage communities in geographically remote areas, to participate in the transformation of the cooperative movement in India.

1.3 Purpose of the Report

The present report on “Upscaling the Cooperatives in India” provides an overview of awareness and outreach to the cooperative societies about MoC initiatives. It also presents the feedback

received from stakeholders during the training and awareness programme. Finally the report aims at identifying the opportunities and challenges for the cooperative sector through the new legal framework, and presents how cooperatives can be a major institutional machinery for generating employment which will bring about economic growth and uplift the vulnerable sections of society through social inclusion.

1.4 Methodology

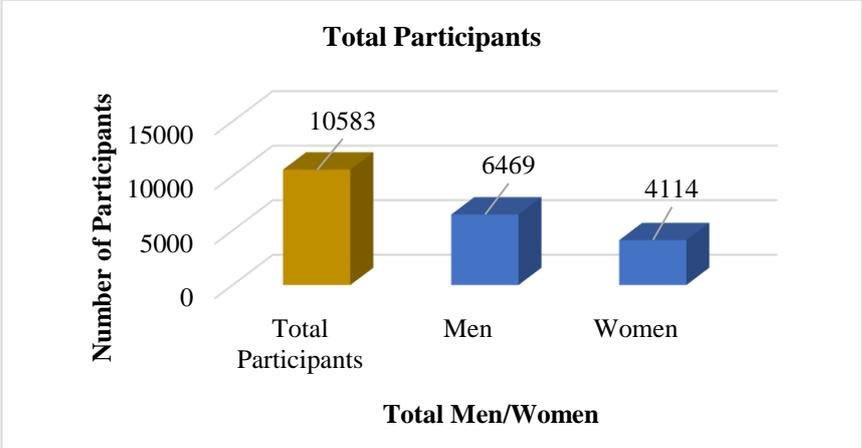
The report is based on both qualitative and quantitative data. Both primary and secondary data was used for report writing. Primary data such as number of participants, number of men and women, number of states covered, sectors covered, *etc.* was collected in each programme. Qualitative information like training need analysis of the stakeholders, various business activities, various constraints, *etc.* was collected on the basis of Focus Group Discussions with the stakeholders. Secondary data was also collected from the National Cooperative Data base, website of Ministry of Cooperation, *etc.*

1.5 Awareness Programme Outreached by VAMNICOM



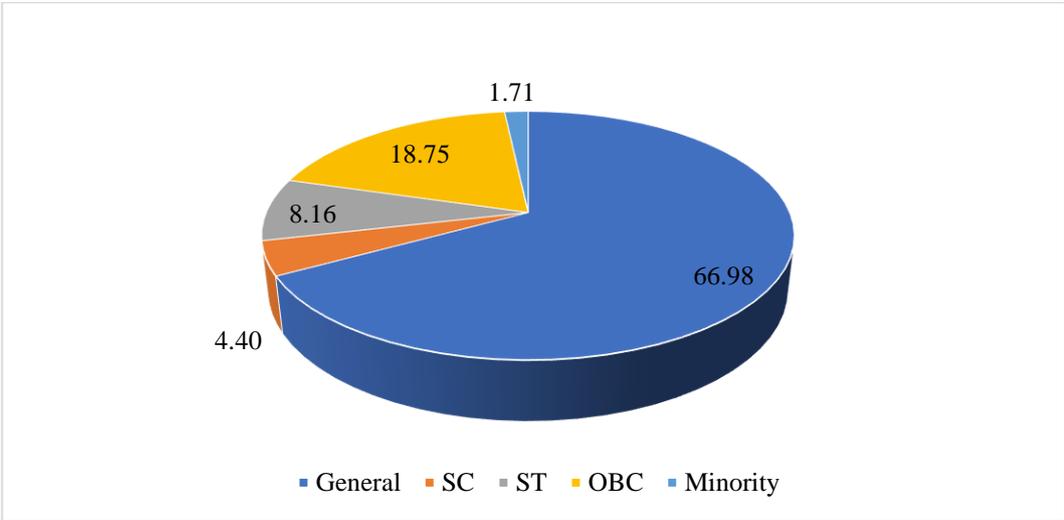
Through this movement 15 states of India covered like Jammu & Kashmir, Rajasthan, Haryana, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal and Assam.

Figure 1. Total Number of Participants Trained



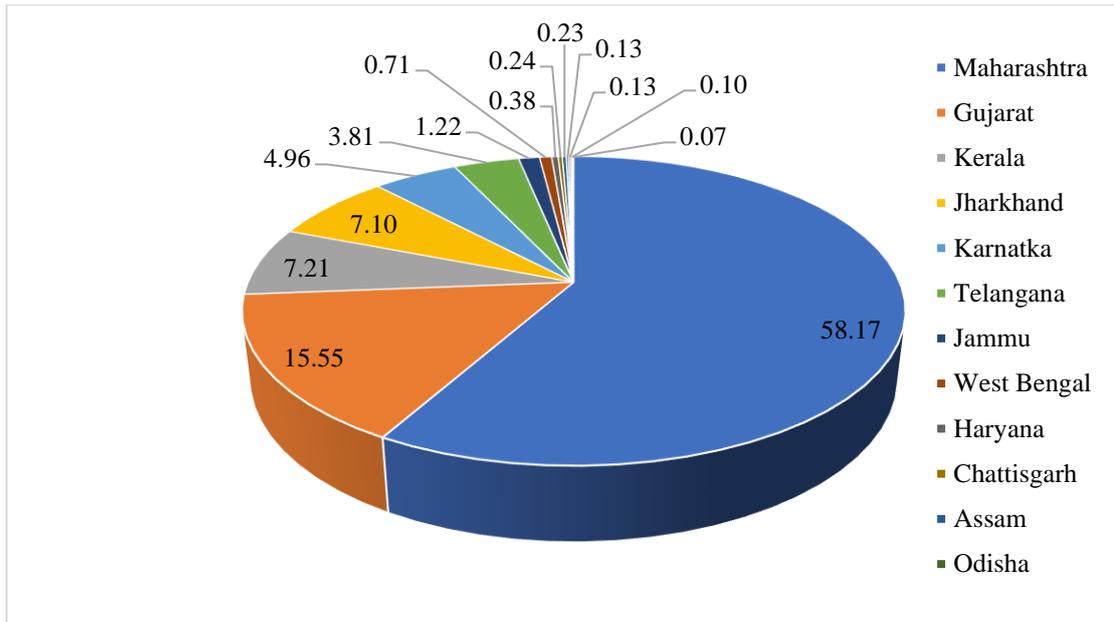
Through various awareness programmes conducted in different states of India, total of 10,583 participants trained among this around 60 per cent were men and about 40 per cent were women.

Figure 2. Category-wise Participants Trained (%)



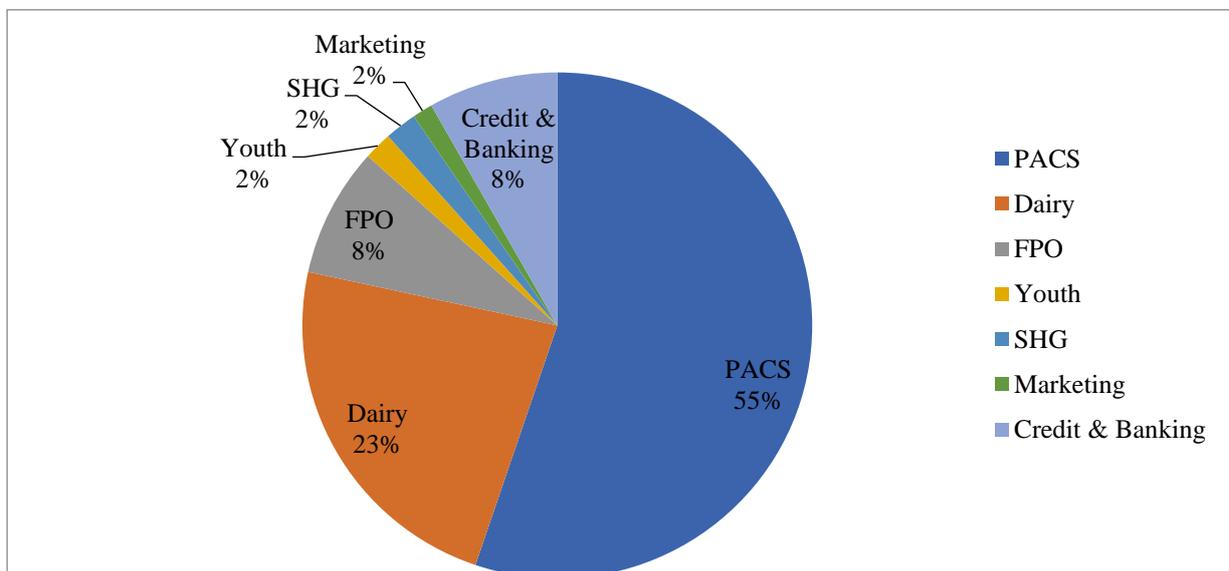
Among the total participants trained around 67 per cent belongs to general category followed by OBC (19 %) and minority 14 per cent.

Figure 3. State-wise Percentage of Participants Trained



Maximum number of participants trained in the state of Maharashtra followed by Gujarat, Kerala, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Telangana, Jammu & Kashmir, West Bengal, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Odisha, Rajasthan, Bihar and Tamil Nadu.

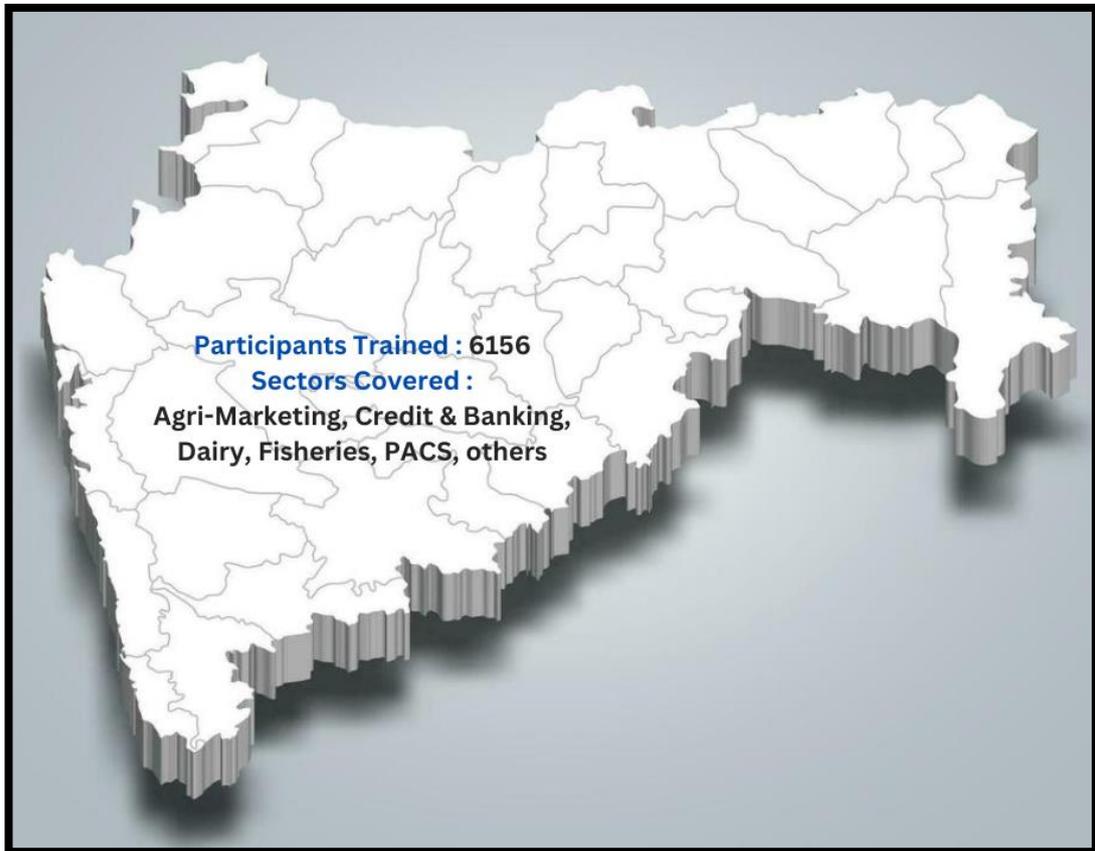
Figure 4. Sector-wise Participants Trained



Maximum number of members trained belongs to PACS followed by dairy, FPO, credit & banking, youth, marketing and SHGs.

CHAPTER II STATES COVERED

MAHARASHTRA



Demonstration of Drone Technology during Upscaling Programme at Satara, Maharashtra



A. Initiatives Covered during the Programme are as follows:

1. PACS as Common Service Centers (CSC) for Better Access To E-Services:

Under this initiative, the focus was given on information and knowledge of Common Service Centre (CS) network as an integrated service delivery channel for transmission of public and private services. It was emphasized that, implementation of this scheme would enable the PACS to provide 300 e-services related to Government to Citizen (G2C), Business to Citizen (B2C), Business to Business (B2B), Education, Skill etc. to rural citizens.

2. Formation of New Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs) by PACS:

It was highlighted that, to strengthen existing PACS, Ministry of Cooperation allotted 1100 additional FPOs to National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC). It was further conveyed that, PACS would be able to do other economic activities related to agriculture as FPOs and this initiative will also be helpful in providing the members of the cooperative societies with the necessary market linkage to get fair and remunerative prices for their produces.



3. PACS as Jan Aushadhi Kendra for access to Generic Medicine to Rural Level:

Under this initiative, participants were sensitized with the information and knowledge pertaining to benefits of opening Jan Aushadhi Kendra by PACS. These Jan Aushadhi Kendra were supposed to provide additional income source to the PACS and provide easy access of generic medicines to rural population.

4. Establishment of New National Level Multi-State Society for Export, Certified Seeds and Organic Farming:

Participants were briefed with the information about umbrella organizations:

- National Cooperative Export Limited (NCEL)
- National Cooperative Organics Limited (NCOL)
- Bhartiya Beej Sahakari Samiti Limited (BBSSL)



The National Cooperatives Export Limited (NCEL) was set up by the government in 2023 with the goal of promoting exports, particularly agricultural exports, and raising farmer incomes by taking advantage of far-off export markets. This move was made in an effort to further solidify the position of cooperatives. With the primary goals of boosting exports, fostering farmer prosperity, encouraging crop diversification, exporting organic products, raising India's profile in the global

biofuel market, and generally bolstering the cooperative sector, the NCEL was established in the cooperative sector. Additionally, it was informed that, in the beginning, the NCEL will serve as a conduit between farmers and foreign markets for a range of niche products. In addition, NCEL will impose a minor fee in order to create guidelines for infrastructure requirements, brand awareness, quality awareness, and product standards. Small farmers will be able to benefit from better pricing and participate in the whole supply chain as an outcome.



With the establishment of National Cooperative Organics Limited (NCOL), India hopes to become a global leader in organic products. The aggregation, branding, and marketing of organic products will be carried out by NCOL, together with the certification, production, testing, procurement, storage, processing, labeling, packaging, logistical support, and other related activities. In addition, it will serve as a knowledge repository and will focus on research and development in the field of organic farming with the

support of relevant ministries. In addition, it shall take all reasonable measures to help organic cooperatives and allied enterprises financially and through training and capacity development initiatives. While disseminating the information, example of Sikkim was given. Sikkim has set an example by going entirely organic. It was further added that, Sikkim State Cooperative Supply and Marketing Federation Ltd. (SIMFED) is a top marketing organization in the state and handles

the bulk marketing of agricultural and horticultural products via a network of 40,000 farmers from different cooperative societies.



Quality seeds can increase productivity by 15 to 20 per cent. Poor quality seeds lead to crop failure, losses, and lower yields. To improve this seed distribution channel and seed management system for sustainable seed production, Ministry of Cooperation came up with an initiative *i.e.*, Bhartiya Beej Sahakari Samiti Ltd. (BBSSL). BBSSL came into existence as a Multi-State Cooperative Society on national level in early 2023, with an aim to strengthen the seed management system in India through cooperatives. BBSSL is supposed to play an important role in India’s seed production, preservation, promotion, and research as well as in developing infrastructure and production, procurement, processing, branding, labelling, packaging, storage, marketing, distribution, *etc.* through various cooperative societies, FPOs and others with support

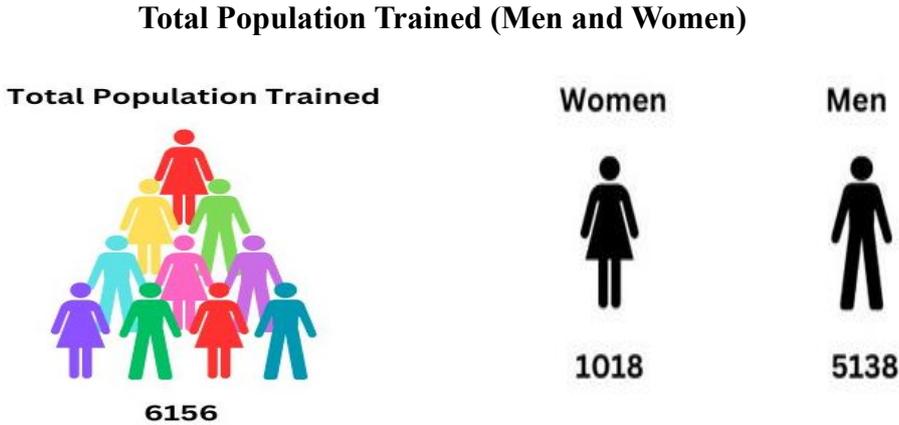
from ICAR, NSC through their schemes and agencies. BBSSL targets every PACS at grassroots level seed production. Additionally, it will help the cooperative societies to preserve and multiply traditional seeds. Quality seeds will be distributed to the grassroots level through BBSSL seed management, increasing the nation's capacity for sustainable agricultural production.

5. Promotion of Training and Awareness through NCCT:

The Board of Directors, Chairman, and farmer members were sensitized about the role of VAMNICOM in strengthening the cooperative sector. They were informed about the capacity building opportunity from VAMNICOM/ IRICMs/ ICSMs.

6. New Schemes for Cooperative Societies Started by NCDC:

In the process of the awareness training program, the 'Swayamshakti Sahakar' scheme of National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) was emphasized. This program encourages self-help and cooperative efforts among communities, in a number of sectors. For this initiatives youth were targeted. During this interactive session of the programme, youth came up with various ideas for the startups.



During this programme, we could reach to total 6,156 people in Maharashtra. This number comprised of 1,018 women and 5,138 men.

Figure 5. Categories of Men Trained in Maharashtra (2023-24)

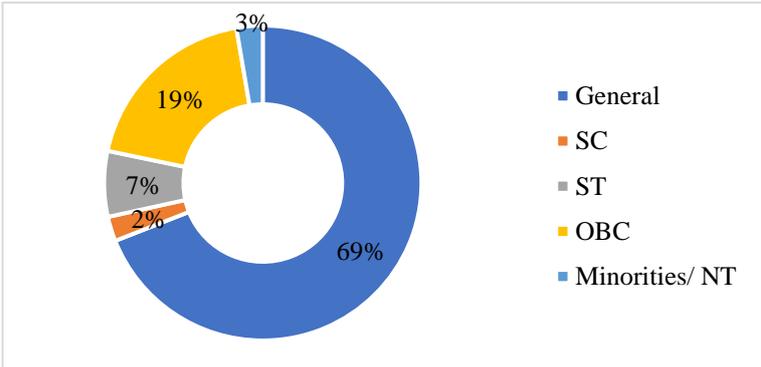
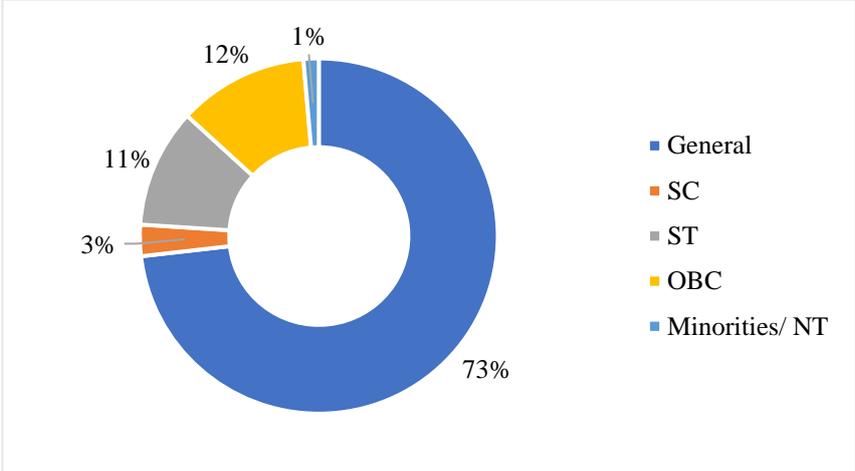


Figure 5 shows the categories of men trained in Maharashtra during the year 2023-24. Out of 5,138 men, 69% were from General category, 19% were OBC and very few belonged to the categories of ST, Minorities and NT with percentage of 7 %, 3 % and 2 % respectively.

Figure 6. Categories of Women Trained in Maharashtra (2023-24)



In the case of women, the Figure 6 indicates the outreach to women in Maharashtra for the purpose of spreading awareness. The data shows that, 73% women from General category were trained along with 12% from OBC, 11% from ST followed by SC (3%) and Minorities/ NT (1%).

Figure 7. Sectors Covered in Maharashtra during the Year 2023-24 (in Percentage)

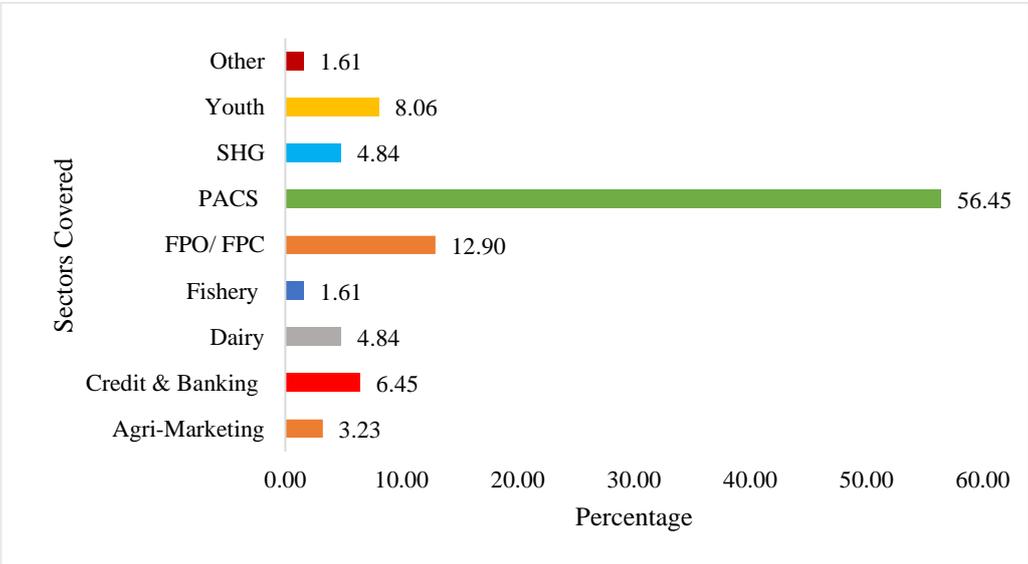


Figure 7 represents the sectors covered in Maharashtra during the upscaling. According to the data, out of total sectors covered, PACS ranks first with total share of 56.45% followed by FPO/FPC (12.90%) and Youth with the share of 8.06%. Fishery was the least covered sector having share of 1.61%.

These capacity building programmes were conducted for

- Board of Directors,
- Management,
- Farmer Members as well as
- other stakeholders of the cooperatives in Maharashtra.

These programmes served to spread awareness about the new initiatives taken by Ministry of Cooperation for strengthening of cooperatives.

B. Feedback from the Participants:

1. It was observed during the programme that, few of the PACS were already aware about the CSC centers and applied for the same.
2. The farmers from the Konkan region were interested to start their FPO in Cashewnut processing and marketing of it and other agricultural products through this initiative. The main constraint was they were not aware about the schemes and grants given by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
3. Participants showed interest in the training programmes conducted by VAMNICOM/ RICM/ ICM's for their capacity building.
4. Participants requested to arrange training programme to acquire more knowledge to start Common Service Centre (CSC) in their PACS.
5. Participants were willing to know the process to initiate foodgrain storage facility at premises of PACS and FPOs of the particular village.
6. Board of Directors and Chairman from few villages already applied for the (warehouse) grain storage facilities, channelized through connecting officers from the warehouse management

As per the discussion, with the stakeholders, following benefits will lead to overall development of the cooperative ecosystem.

- **Enhanced Access to Credit:** With the revamp of NCDC and the promotion of digital technology in cooperatives, the access to credit for cooperative stakeholders will improve. This will help in the expansion and modernization of their business, leading to increased income and better livelihoods.
- **Skill Development and Employment Generation:** The promotion of cooperative education and training will help in developing the skills of cooperative stakeholders, making them more employable. It will also create job opportunities in the cooperative sector, especially in rural and semi-urban areas.

- **Better Infrastructure and Market Linkages:** The development of cooperative infrastructure and the formation of multi-state cooperative societies will provide better infrastructure and market linkages to cooperative stakeholders. This will help in improving the quality of their products and increasing their market reach.
- **Increased Government Support:** With the formation of cooperative cells in government ministries, there will be better coordination between the government and the cooperative sector. This will result in increased government support and better implementation of policies and programs for the benefit of cooperative stakeholders.
- **Promotion of Inclusive Growth:** The Ministry of Cooperation aims to promote inclusive growth by strengthening the cooperative sector. This will help in reducing regional imbalances and promoting equitable development across the country.

In conclusion, the new initiatives of the Ministry of Cooperation in India have the potential to bring a new era of development and growth in the cooperative sector. It will not only benefit the cooperative stakeholders but also contribute to the overall economic development of the country. With the right implementation and support, the cooperative movement in India can truly lead to 'Sahkar se Samridhhi'.

Prosperity through Cooperation

Mr. Tushar Ladhane from Diskal, Tal. Karjat, Dist. Ahmednagar attended Upscaling Programme on Major Initiatives of the Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India on 10th January, 2024 at Mirajgaon. After attending the programme he shared that, “during the programme, I learned about various opportunities for our cooperative society. Besides providing crop/ agricultural loans, our society can engage in diverse business activities. We can operate as a Farmer Producer Organization, can start a generic medical shop under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJK) scheme, establish Common Service Center (CSC) offering over 300 e-services, and even acquire licenses for Rural LPG dealership and fuel stations”. He also expressed that, “as a farmer, I have faced challenges selling our produce immediately after harvest due to the lack of storage facilities in our area, resulting in low prices. The initiative of establishment of the world's largest grain storage through societies is appreciable. This will help reduce wastage caused by storage unavailability and enable us to obtain post-harvest loans against storage receipts. These initiatives will contribute to making our village self-sufficient, leading us towards prosperity through cooperation.”

GUJARAT



Awareness Programme at Gujarat



Dairy sector plays a prominent role in the rural economy by supplementing the income of rural households, particularly the low-income landless labourers and small and marginal farmers. It also provides subsidiary occupation in semi-urban areas. Indian dairy sector is all set to enter into a new era. During the last 20 years, about 80,000 villages in the country were

Third Generation Selling Milk to Dairy Cooperatives

Nilesh Patel, a 35-year-old farmer, sells three cans of milk at the collection centre of Bedwa Milk Producers' Co-operative Society Ltd in Bedwa village, home to around 6,700 people.

“It is our third generation selling milk to the cooperative,” Patel said, recollecting that he received a bonus of ₹75,000 last year for selling milk to the cooperative. Patel, who lives in the village with his family of seven, tends to 14 buffaloes and manages a farm spanning about 3 bigahs (around 2 acres). He earns about ₹50,000 a month after deducting expenses for cattle feed.

Patel is among the 1,863 member-producers of the village dairy co-operative society, a group that includes 511 landless farmers. This society supplies milk to the district milk union, the Kaira District Co-operative Milk Producers Union headquartered in Anand, less than 15km from Bedwa village, from where Gujarat milk cooperatives started before Independence.

Patel's story is not confined to his village alone. He is part of a grand narrative, encompassing 3.6 million farmer-members spread across 18,600 village dairy cooperative societies in Gujarat. The milk, including Patel's contribution, undergoes processing and emerges as various products branded Amul — India's largest FMCG brand and a global dairy powerhouse.

covered under the dairy Co-operatives which brought off an economic miracle by uplifting it from ashes to second rank among the world's dairying nations. This was not achieved with the usual high levels of investment in the state-of-the-art technology nor by the high producing, well fed animals nor by well educated, financed and modern dairy farmers rather by transforming an exploitative market into a remunerative one and by creating farmer owned organizations that brought stability to the market place while supporting production increases with a full range of quality inputs and services. In recent past, it has

been realized that the promotion of dairying is not only contributing to national health building but it is also a provider of substantial employment opportunities in rural areas. Properly organized and developed dairying could be effectively used as an instrument of social justice.

A. Initiatives Covered during the Programme are as follows:

1. Diversification of the PACS: - Model Bye-Laws for Making PACS Multipurpose

The PACS members were explained that with the very first initiative of the Cooperation Policy-2023, there is vast scope for the business diversification. This allows PACS to do over 25 dairy, fisheries, storage, etc. business activities while improving governance, transparency, and accountability in their operations. PACS membership has also been made more inclusive and broad-based, with suitable representation for women and Scheduled Castes/Scheduled tribes.

2. Strengthening of PACS through Computerization

To enhance the efficiency of PACS, computerization of PACS/LAMPS has been started. Total 62,318 functional PACS/LAMPS are being linked with NABARD through a single National Software Network. So far, proposals for computerization of a total of 62,208 PACS have been received from 25 States and 4 Union Territories.



3. PACS as Common Service Centres (CSCs) for better access to e-Services

MoU has been signed between Ministry of Cooperation, MeitY, NABARD and CSC e-Governance Services India Limited for providing more than 300 e-services such as banking, insurance, Aadhar enrolment/

updatation, health services, PAN card and IRCTC/ Bus/ Air ticket, etc. through PACS. So far, 24,470 PACS have started providing CSC services to the rural citizens and increase incomes of PACS at the same time.

4. Formation of new Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) by PACS

Government has allowed 1,100 additional FPOs to be formed by PACS with the support of NCDL, in those blocks where FPOs have not yet been formed or the blocks are not covered by any other implementing agency. This will be helpful in providing the farmers with necessary market linkage and get fair and remunerative prices for their produce.



5. Rupay Kisan Credit Card to Members of Milk Cooperatives:



In order to expand the reach of DCCBs/ StCBs and to provide necessary liquidity to the members of Dairy Cooperative societies, Rupay Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) are being distributed to the members of cooperatives for providing credit at comparatively lower interest rates and enable other financial transactions. As a pilot project, 73,503 Rupay KCC have been distributed in

Panchmahal and Banaskantha Districts of Gujarat.

Figure 8. Total Population Trained in Gujarat (2023-24)

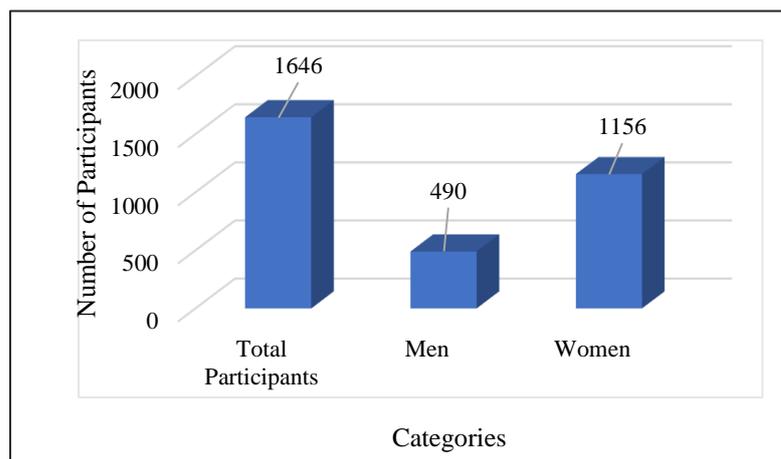


Figure 9. Categories of Participants Trained in Gujarat (2023-24)

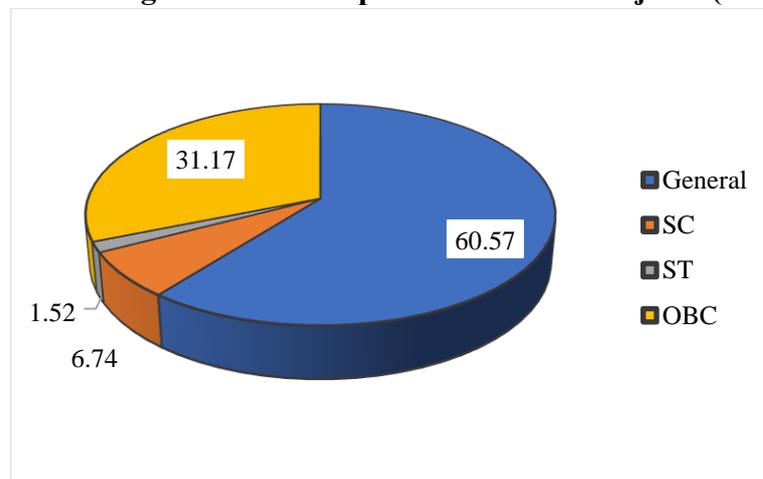
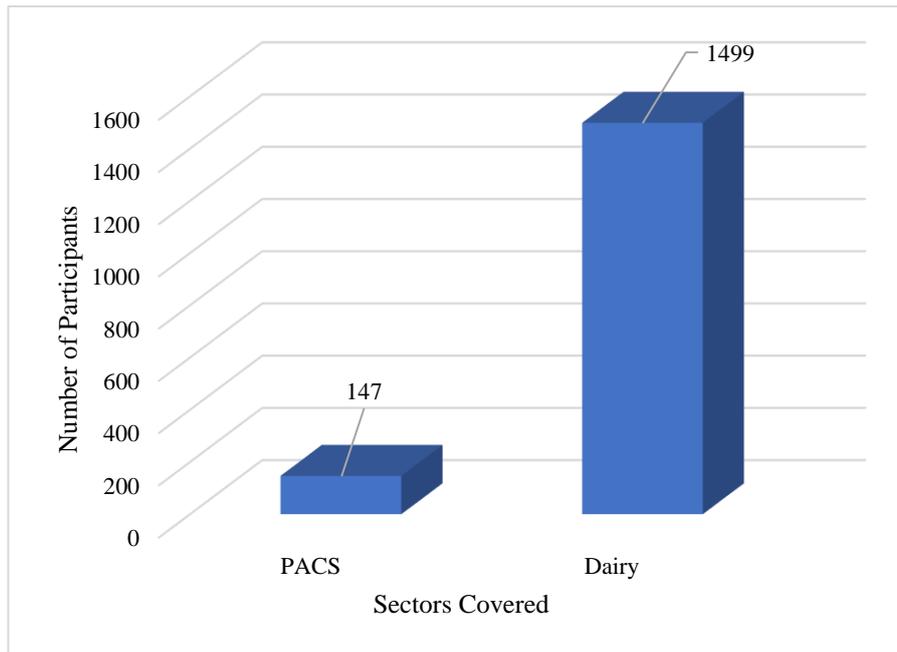


Figure 10. Sectors Covered in Gujarat during the Year 2023-24



A total of 30 Cooperative Societies were covered in Gujarat States for conducting the Awareness Programmes. The number of participants trained were 1646. The sectors covered were the Dairy and PACS.

Dairy Farming Has Made Me 'Atmanirbhar'

Gayatri Patel from Sandesar village of Gujarat's Kheda district wakes up at 5 am every day, recites the morning prayers and heads to his cattle farm. She affectionately pats her cows before milking them. Then, with the milk carefully packed in steel canisters, she heads to the Sandesar Dairy Cooperative Society—an institution she helped build along with others in her village, and one that has played a key role in establishing one of India's most amazing brands: Amul.

Forty-year-old Gayatri Patel had just few calves in 2016. She and her husband are now owners of Vansh dairy farm with 75 cattle and a turnover of around Rs 34 lakh per annum.

"Dairy farming has made me 'atmanirbhar'," said Gayatri, who sells 400 litres of milk daily to the Bathankuwa Primary Cooperative Milk Society which has 30 female members.

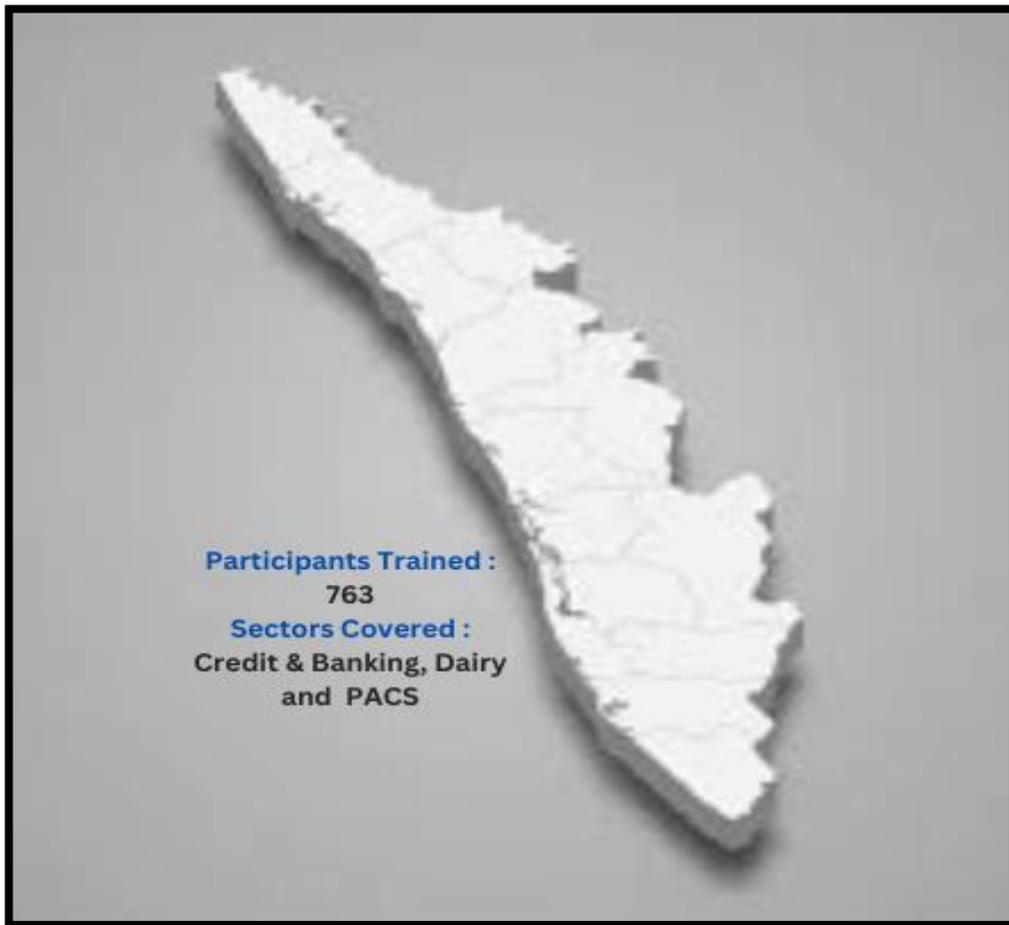
Upscaling Programme at Bathankuwa Primary Cooperative Milk Society



B.Issues/ Constraints

Parameters	Problems	Outcomes	Constraints
Farmers/Members Points	Lack of cold storage facilities was the major problem in the collection of milk	There is the need to give live demonstration regarding registration for different initiatives individually in details	Lack of awareness about the information regarding training institutes. Training program fees are costly.
	Lack of Cooperation between Panchayat and PACS in some cases	During this awareness program campaign applications were grabbed from the PACS & FPOs members	Needed infrastructure (Computer/Printer), manpower to handle this on a proper way
	Improper knowledge about the process to avail benefits from the initiatives of MoC.	ST & OBC category people have highly engaged in dairying than others. Therefore, dairy farming has been become the supplementary source of earnings to the poor, weaker section, small and medium farmers.	One of the main challenges was getting technical assistance, access to government programs, and connections to the market.
	Local Politics	Through this awareness program, increased access to government schemes especially for the women	The participation of women was minor, as expected.

KERALA



A. Initiatives Covered during the Programme are as follows:

1. PACS as CSC Centre:



In the programme the new initiatives introduced by MoC were explained to them, especially the How cooperative society can start Common Service Centers (CSC) and the provide 300 e-services, more than 25,000 PACS have started providing services as Common Service Centers (CSCs), and transactions worth Rs 10.08 crore have been conducted through these PACS.

2. World largest Cooperative Grain Storage Scheme:

The world's largest grain storage programme in the cooperative sector an investment of over Rs 1.25 lakh crore. The plan involves the creation of 700 lakh metric tons of storage capacity over the next five years, with the construction of thousands of warehouses and godowns across the country. Aiming to fortify food security, empower farmers, and reduce food grain wastage. It is being implemented through the convergence of various existing schemes, such as the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) and Agriculture Marketing Infrastructure (AMI), to enable participating Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) to avail subsidies and interest subvention benefits for infrastructure development.

3. Formation of New Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs) by PACS:

During the program, the formation of new Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) by PACS was covered as an important initiative to empower farmers, enhance their collective bargaining power. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has allocated 1100 additional FPOs to the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) for formation of new FPOs in the cooperative sector, and PACS can be encouraged to set up FPOs by the state government.

4. PACS as Jan Aushadhi Kendra:

Government is promoting PACS to operate Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras which will provide additional source of income. The Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras (PMBJK) program aims to open 2,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras through PACS by the end of the year. These Kendras will offer more than 1,965 high-quality medicines and 293 surgical and other products at 50 to 90 per cent of the cost of branded medicines available in the market.

B.Feedback from the Participants:

As discussed with the members of the PACS/dairy cooperatives from Kerala state, the Kerala state policy is not allowed to adopt the common by-law act within the state of Kerala. Suggested that farmer members of the organizations increase the participation of farmers and women-farmer members. Participants also insists experts about the grain storage scheme and give briefed, the Chairman and Board of Directors had previously applied for the grain storage

facilities in the warehouse, using officers from the warehouse management as a conduit. In the process of the Common Service Centre (CSC) awareness program initiative, PACS applications were pulled up in order to obtain additional information and training necessary to establish a Common Service Centre (CSC) on PACS premises. In order to utilize the grain storage facility via PACS, hold meetings and seminars in PACS and FPOs associated with the specific communities. To adequately manage this, the Common Service Centre needs infrastructure such as computers and printers and employees.

Figure 11. Gender wise Distribution of Participants (2023-24)

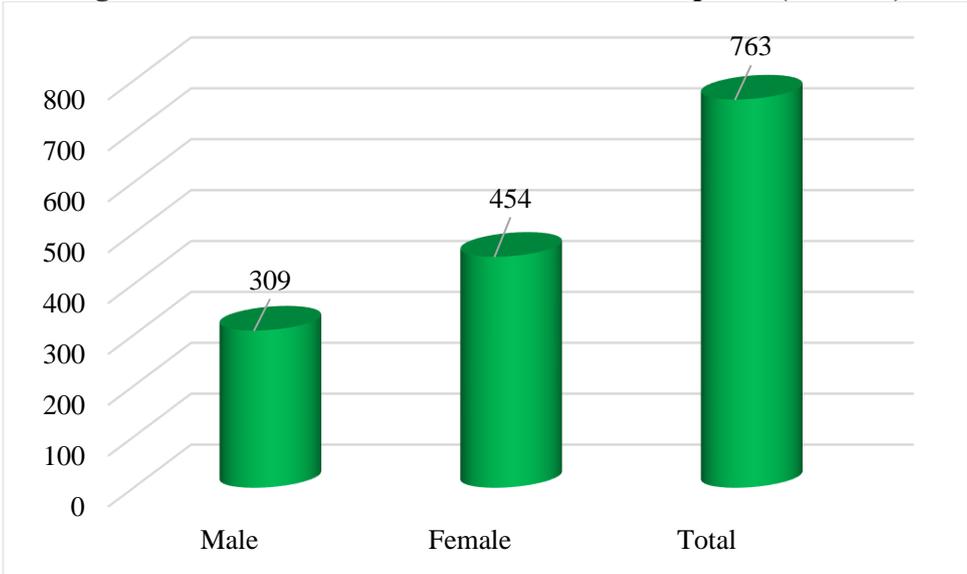


Figure 12. Categories of Men Trained in Kerala State in Percentage (2023-24)

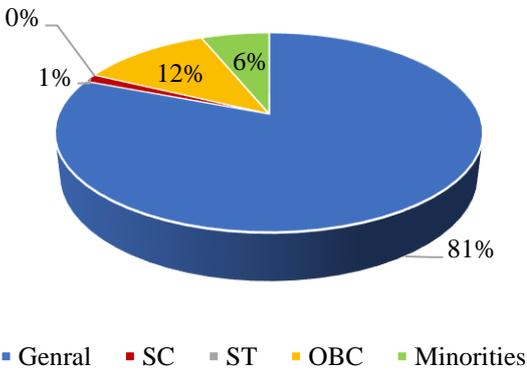


Figure 13. Categories of Women Trained in Kerala State in Percentage (2023-24)

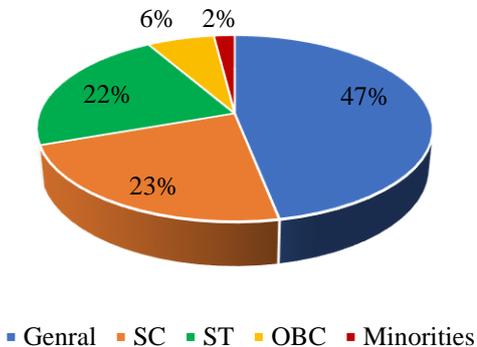
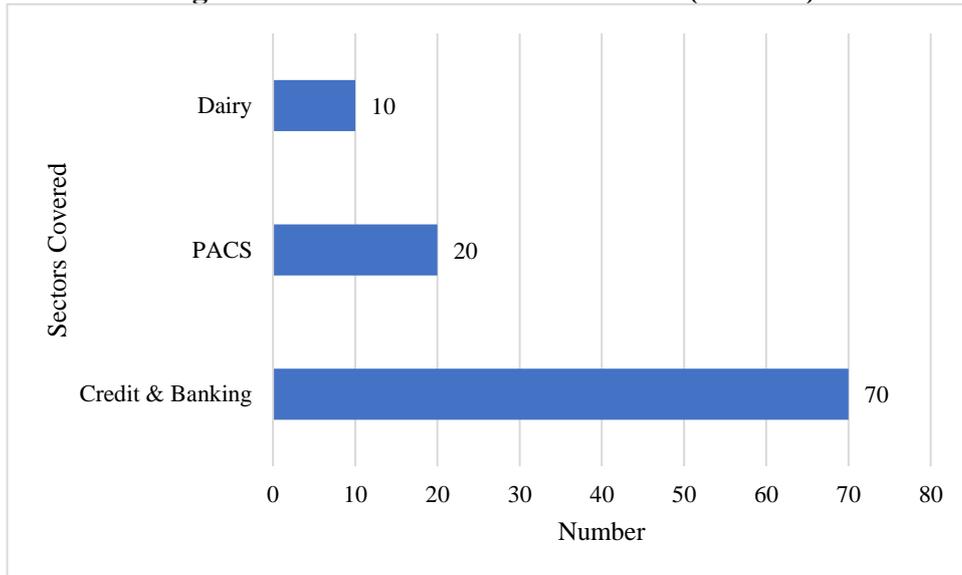
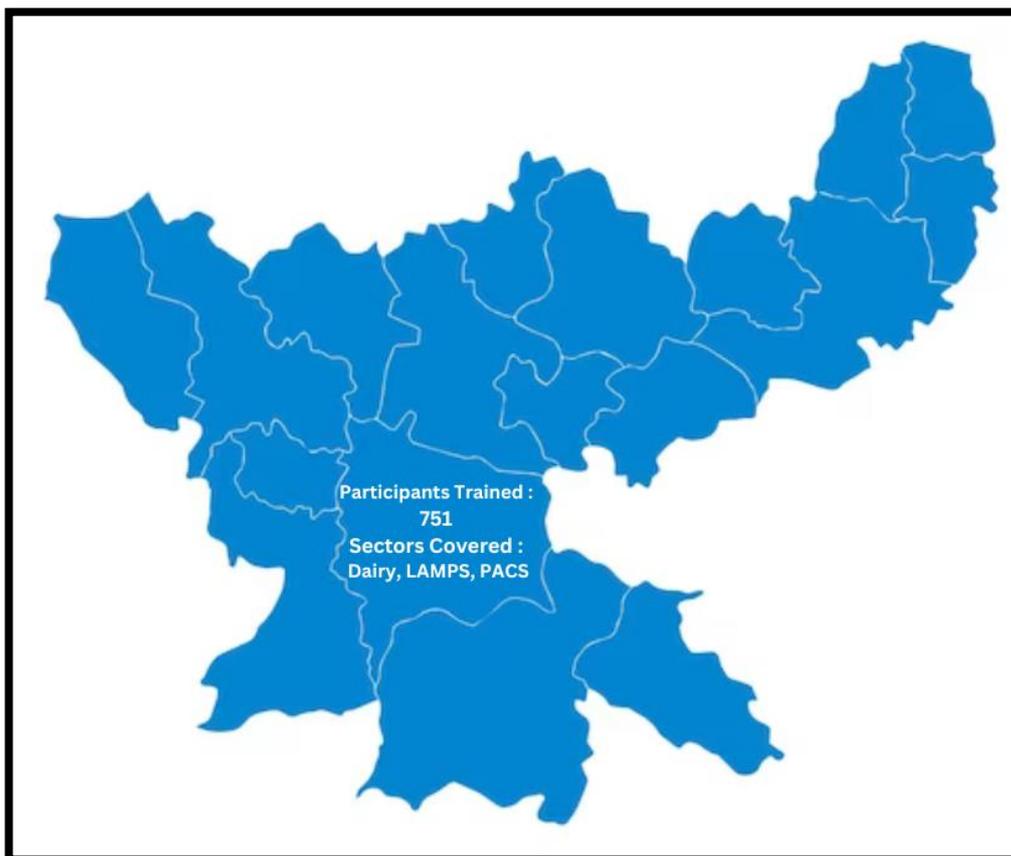


Figure 14. Sectors Covered in Kerala (2023-24)



JHARKHAND



A. Initiatives Covered during the Programme are as follows:

1) PACS/LAMPS as CSC Centre:



In the programme the new initiatives introduced by MoC were explained to them, especially the Common Service Centers (CSC) and the 300 e-services they provided. More than 25,000 PACS

have started providing services as Common Service Centers (CSCs), and transactions worth Rs 10.08 crore have been conducted through these PACS. Furthermore, they insisted on showing the movie and the web portal demonstration on Common Service Centre (CSC).

2) PACS/LAPMS as FPO:

The scaling up programme as we informed them now PACS will be able to do other economic activities related to agriculture as FPOs and this initiative will also be helpful in providing them members of the cooperative societies with the necessary market linkage to get fair and remunerative prices for their produces. The initiative to allot 1100 additional FPOs to the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) allows PACS to engage in various economic activities related to agriculture as FPOs. This enables the provision of necessary market linkages for fair and remunerative prices for agricultural produce.

3) MoC Initiatives on Cooperative Dairy:

In scaling up programme participants were also informed about Govt plan to establish around 2 lakh new cooperatives for which includes dairy cooperatives also. It will help them as the milk producer may have to travel shorter distance for pouring the milk at the milk collection centre.

4) Other Initiatives Discussed during Programme:

Furthermore, in session covered the other initiatives particularly focusing on enhancing the viability and diversification of LAPMS/PACS/Dairy. These initiatives include the formulation of Model Bye-Laws to make PACS multipurpose, computerization of PACS/LAMPS to enhance their efficiency, the establishment of new multi-purpose PACS/Dairy/Fisheries cooperative societies.

Figure 15. Gender-wise distribution of Participants (2023-24)

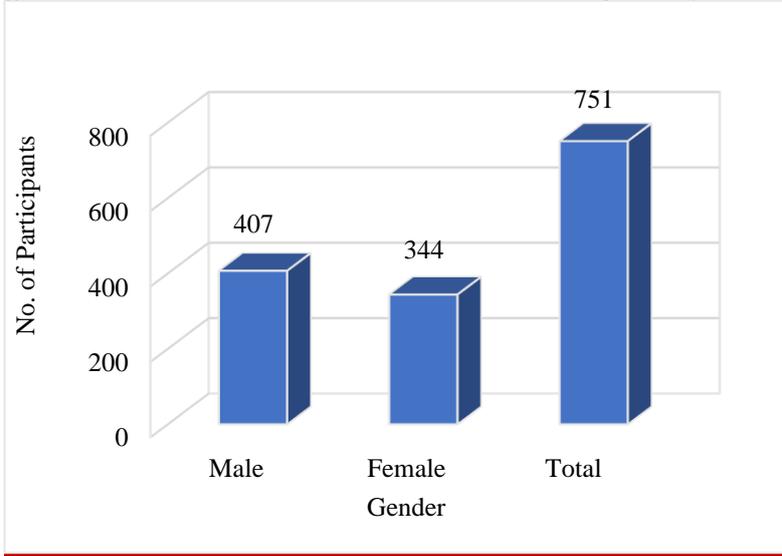


Figure 16. Categories of Men Trained in Jharkhand in Percentage (2023-24)

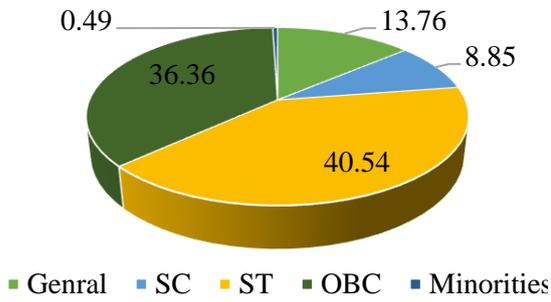


Figure 17. Categories of Women Trained in Jharkhand in Percentage (2023-24)

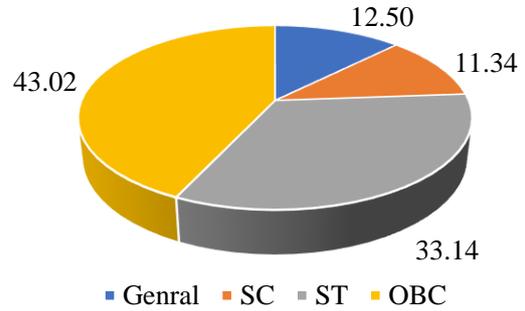
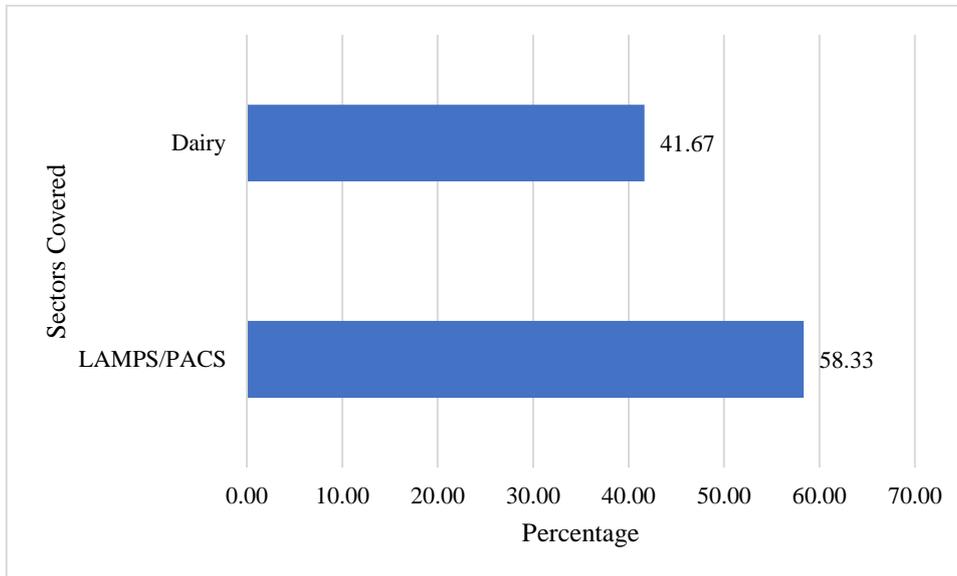


Figure 18. Sectors Covered in Jharkhand (%) (2023-24)



B.The Outcome of the Programme and Problems Faced:

Parameter	
Outcomes of the Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased awareness and understanding among participants regarding the major initiatives of the Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India, leading to enhanced appreciation of the government's efforts to strengthen the cooperative sector Improved knowledge and recognition among participants about the multifaceted role of LAMPS as multi-service centers

<p>Problems</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scattered Population: For Acting PACS/LAMPS as multi-service center mostly each LAPPS/ PACS working in large area population also scattered so it makes difficult to start multiple activities. • Less Workforce: the LAMPS are working the procurement of Paddy during the peak season society has to manage with a smaller number of workforces. • Lack of Professional Management: the most of LAMPS don't have the professional approach towards managing societies' activities. • Limited Collection: the dairy cooperative having the low collection so the collection done from large area due to less quality dairy not able operate in economic scale.
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Jharkhand Women's Cooperatives as a Business Model

“Cooperatives have a long history of promoting social and economic empowerment together with equality.”

The Jharkhand Women's Self-Supporting Poultry Co-operative Federation Ltd. (JWSSPCFL), a Federation of primary level poultry co-ops throughout Jharkhand, is dedicated to uplifting the state's rural and neglected women. The goal of the overall effort was to carry out poultry-related operations in keeping with these women's way of life. Currently, the Federation is made up of 10 members cooperatives. The cooperatives in the Federation are spread across 16 blocks in the districts of east Singhbhum, Lowadaga, Gumla, Khunti, Dumka, Godda, Koderma and Bokaro. The Jharkhand Self-Supporting Co-operative Societies Act of 1996 allows the women entrepreneurs to form cooperatives and register as Self-Supporting Co-operative Societies. Currently, Jharkhand has ten registered cooperatives that are members of the Federation. Brand "Swayam" is being promoted for forward connectivity by opening retail locations throughout Jharkhand.

The primary level cooperatives were involved in the day-to-day operations of smallholder poultry farming, but the Federation was formed to unify the entire operation under a broader conglomerate and strive towards advanced integration setup. In accordance with the Jharkhand Self-Supporting Co-operative Societies Act of 1996, JWSSPCFL is registered. With the goal of offering a sustainable life, it has made significant progress since its registration on March 31, 2005. Today, it is a powerful organization that enables 4670 marginalized rural women from ten co-ops in Jharkhand to reach their full potential as business owners.

JAMMU & KASHMIR



A. The Major Initiatives Discussed in the Programme

1. Strengthening of PACS through Computerization

To enhance the efficiency of PACS, computerization of PACS/LAMPS has been started. Strengthening Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) through computerization has been a pivotal strategy in enhancing the efficiency, transparency, and effectiveness of agricultural credit delivery systems. Under this scheme total 63,000 functional PACS/LAMPS are being linked with NABARD through a single National Software Network. So far, proposals for computerization of a total of 58,383 PACS have been received from 24 States and 4 Union Territories. For this, a total of Rs 437.17 crore has been released by the Central government to the States for hardware purchase, digitization and setting up support systems.

2. PACS as a Common Service Centre

In order to enable Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) to function as Common Service Centres (CSC), a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Ministry of Cooperation, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, NABARD and CSC e-Governance Services India Limited, which will enable PACS to deliver more than 300 e-services, including banking, insurance, Aadhar enrolment/ updation, health services, agricultural services, etc. to rural citizens of the country. Till 30th November, 2023, total 24,470 PACS have started providing CSC services in the country.

3. Formation of new Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) by PACS

In a recent development, Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) will expand their scope to engage in additional economic activities related to agriculture, akin to Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs). This initiative aims to equip cooperative society members with essential market linkages, ensuring fair and remunerative prices for their agricultural produce. The initiative was launched during the National Mega Conclave held on July 14, 2023.

4. PACS as Jan Aushadhi Kendra for access to generic medicines at rural level

This initiative aims to make affordable generic medicines accessible to the general public at the grassroots level, specifically within villages and blocks. Additionally, it will create more job opportunities for PACS members. The State Government is actively identifying and motivating interested PACS to apply online for participation in this endeavor.

Figure 19. Participants in Jammu and Kashmir

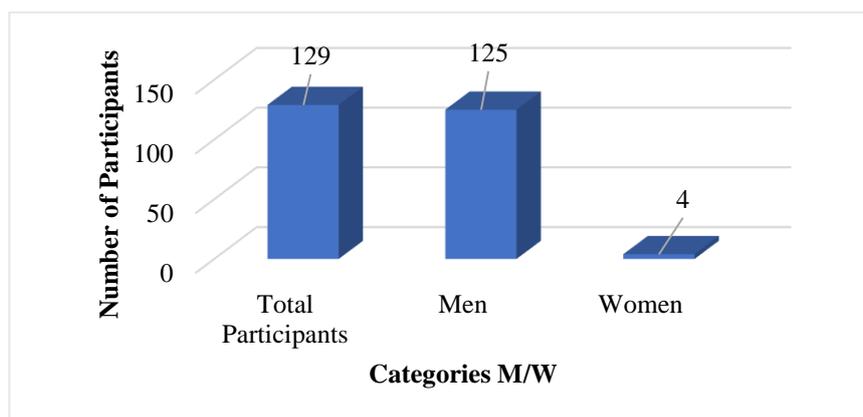
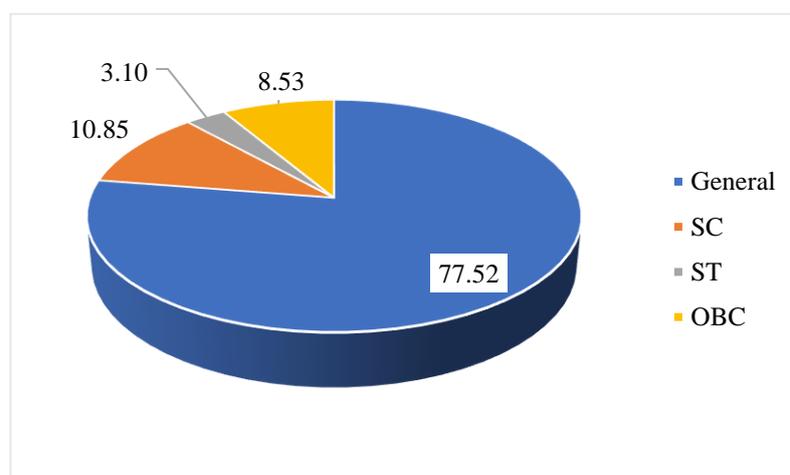


Figure 20. Categories of Participants in Jammu and Kashmir



B. Highlights of the Programme

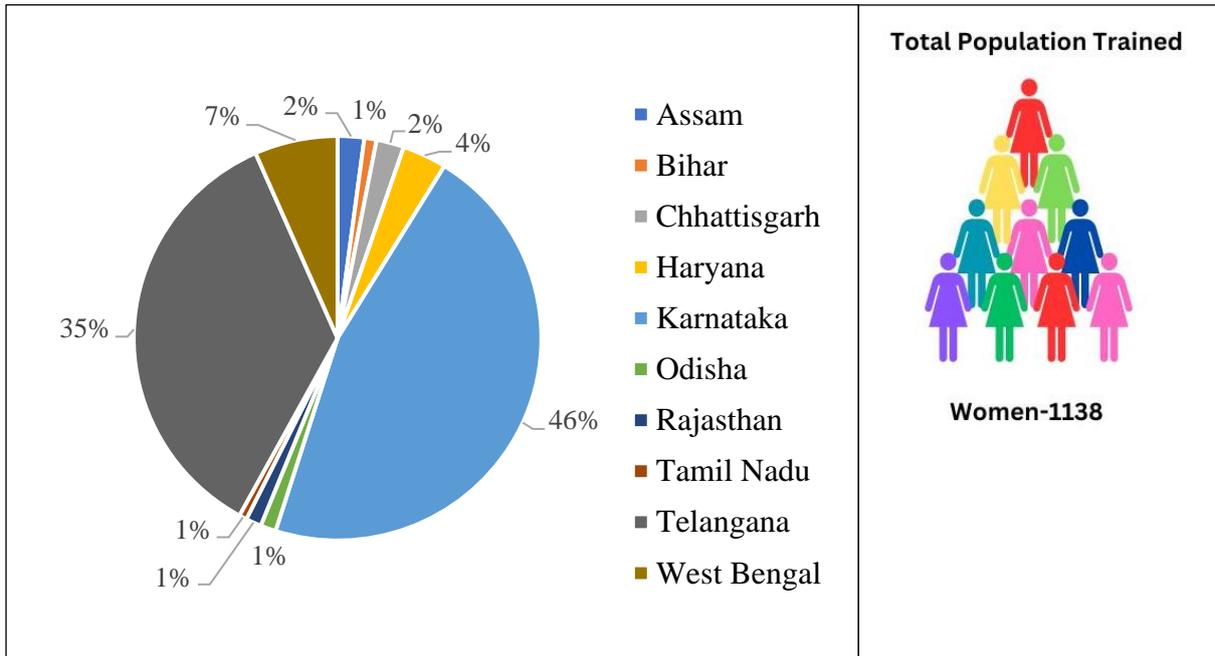
- The participants raised relevant questions for availing new services for PACS such as Generic Medico store, agency for CNG Petrol Pump, dealership of fertilizer distribution etc.
- The participants also raised concerned for financial support due to loss incurred business operations by the PACS
- The support from DCCBs for computerization and required manpower for its operation.

C. Outcome of the Programme

- Participants gained knowledge about the various initiatives of Ministry of Cooperation.
- Got an idea of various business activities

OTHER STATES

Figure 21. Other States Covered during the Programme



A. Initiative Highlighted:

1. Promoting Fisheries Cooperatives:



Fishery Cooperative for Tribal Development

Sustainable fishing in the dam reservoir is demonstrated by Dimbhe Reservoir Tribal Fishing Cooperative Society Limited at Ambegaon, Pune (Maharashtra). Dimbhe Dam construction resulted in the submersion of 11 villages and the destruction of 13 more, forcing the Koli Mahadeo, Thakar, and Katkari tribal people to relocate. Since the resettlement of these communities in 19 villages just above the reservoir's submergence line, these communities have been forced to eke out an existence on the steep slopes surrounding the 2,202-hectare reservoir.

The fascinating journey brought the tribals of the outlying villages and fisher families together and encouraged to fish farming. They have successfully reared fish in floating cages & pens. Women are also involved in the Cage fish culture practice & getting wage. Milk Society which has 30 female members.

An establishment of new multi-purpose fishery cooperatives along with PACS or primary dairy cooperatives covering every Panchayat/ village was emphasized under this initiative. It was further added that, these multi-purpose societies will be established within the next five year covering every Panchayat/ village. For this, assistance will be provided by NABARD, NDDDB, NCDC as well as other National Level Federations.



2. Formation of New Farmer Producer Organizations

It is believed that, FPOs help small farmers from production to marketing of their produce and fetch better prices for their produce in the market. This collectivization of farmer members benefits them with the necessary market linkage. By recognizing this, PACS are allowed to form additional 1,100 additional FPOs with the support of NCDC. These FPOs

will be formed where there are no FPOs till now and no other implementing agency is working there.

B. Highlights of the Programme:

The programme was conducted only for women. It was brought to their notice that there is need to increase the work participation of women in the workforce and formation of cooperatives is one avenue for employment generation as well as socio-economic empowerment.

C. Problems Faced:

There is need for skill development such as financial literacy, computer literacy, etc. so that women cooperatives can take advantage of Ministry of Cooperation initiatives.

CHAPTER III

MAJOR INITIATIVES AIMED AT EMPOWERING WOMEN

Women Empowerment: An Urgent Need

- India is one of the fastest growing economies
- Aspirations to become a developed country by 2047
- Share of women in population is 48.5% but share in workforce is 27.5%
- As more women enter the workforce, the country will begin to experience economic growth
- Women workers mostly in rural areas
- Lack access to land
- Work as agricultural laborers
- Gender equality has been well recognized by the World Order in promoting socio-economic development.
- Cooperatives are a promising solution and serve as a strong institutional machinery to empower women.





Agricultural sector is a major sector employing women but due to lack of access and control over land they shift to allied activities. The cooperative movement in the dairy sector is very well entrenched and women have played a significant role in the entire value chain. Dairy cooperatives, where women have played a key role and many other successful women cooperatives and SHGs have shown how cooperatives can bring about socio-economic empowerment of women. To give new dimensions and further promote the untapped potential of women cooperatives, **new initiatives have been promoted by Ministry of Cooperation** to encourage women to enter every sphere of economic activity.

VAMNICOM conducted a programme specially for women to educate them on new schemes for cooperative societies for women. These schemes will enable them to diversify their activities, come together to form cooperatives and avail of loans and thus get economically and socially empowered. About 1800 women were sensitized on schemes available for women. States covered:

- Assam
- Bihar
- Chhattisgarh
- Gujarat
- Haryana
- Jharkhand
- Karnataka
- Odisha
- Maharashtra
- Rajasthan
- Tamil Nadu
- Telanagana
- West Bengal

A. Major Initiatives discussed in the Programme:

National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), a statutory corporation under the administrative control of Ministry of Cooperation, is playing a major role for the development of Women Cooperative Societies and economic empowerment of women throughout the country. NCDC encourages women to avail financial assistance under various programmes/schemes. Cooperatives exclusively promoted by women or cooperatives having women as their members can avail assistance under various schemes :

Swayamshakti Sahakar:



The purpose of the scheme is:

- To provide financial services to Women Self Help Groups
- Facilitate women to access bank credit to undertake collective socio-economic activities
- Enable women to maintain sustainable livelihood

Dairy Sahakar :

- An initiative to promote dairy business by providing financial assistance to cooperatives so that they can achieve higher outcomes in environmental, social and governance (ESG) linked activities. Since women account for about 31% of total members in cooperative societies and India has about 25000 exclusive women dairy cooperatives, women can seize the opportunity under *Dairy Sahakar* to expand and scale up their dairy activities.
- The initiative includes creation of infrastructure by cooperatives for new projects and modernization /expansion of new projects.
- Financial support by NCDC also covers activities such manufacturing cattle feed/ feed supplements, manufacturing dairy equipment and machinery, manufacturing veterinary drugs, veterinary/dairy education, capacity development, etc.

Nandini Sahakar :



- To improve socio-economic status of women and support entrepreneurial dynamism through women cooperatives. Any cooperative society, having minimum 50% women as primary members, within three months in operation is eligible to apply for assistance which will be in the form of credit linkage for infrastructure term loan and working capital. Further 2% interest subvention on term loan for innovative activities and 1% interest subvention on term loan for all other activities are given. The scheme converges critical inputs of women's enterprise, business plan formulation, capacity development, credit and subsidy and also interest subvention of other schemes.
- Nandini Sahakar assists several business activities such as agro-processing, supply chain, value addition, logistics, farm mechanization, retail, marketing of foodgrains, input

supply and basically encompasses large number of business activities for which loan can be availed.

- Assistance is provided to eligible cooperatives.

Cooperation among Cooperation

On International Women's Day, I met Mrs. Ashwini Arge at NABARD's Regional Office in Pune on March 15, 2024. She's a member of the Gauri Mahila Self Help Group in Sangli district. Gauri Mahila SHG is registered under Charak Swasthya Bahuddeshiya Sanstha (CSBS), Sangli with 30 members. Mrs. Ashwini Arge shared insights about their SHG's activities. CSBS Sangli, initiated the formation of 60 SHGs across nine villages, actively involved in mentoring and guiding women, facilitating training sessions. These SHG members engage in producing various products like mats, lunch mats, pouches, handbags, and more using golden grass. Mrs. Arge mentioned her journey from financial dependence to earning Rs. 9000 monthly after joining the group. NABARD supports SHG members financially, and provides training under its Micro Enterprise Development Programme (MEDP), aiming to empower women economically.

- Women seeking assistance can access sample detailed project reports on NCDC website.
- Guidance on how to apply for loans under Nandini Sahakar is available on social media
- Women can apply online on the dedicated NCDC web portal or to the dedicated NCDC Regional offices across the country.
- Viable proposals by women cooperatives which are operating successfully for at least last three years can avail of loans as per requirement.

- 1-2 years of moratorium on repayment of principal in certain cases
- Cooperative societies have to offer security of loan to the satisfaction of NCDC

B. Outcome of the Programme and Highlights:

- Women gained information on the government schemes which they could avail and thus realize their potential for becoming entrepreneurs. Several women participants were members of cooperative societies and felt motivated to start their own enterprises.
- Several women themselves revealed their journey of empowerment which was enabled by joining a cooperative. They desired to avail loans to further expand their activities.

C. Challenges Facing Women:

- While women had the desire to become entrepreneurs, several felt the need for financial literacy and computer literacy.
- Further, skill development in various activities was required so that they could become small entrepreneurs, and start at least nano or micro enterprises.

- Several women who were engaged in activities such as tailoring, food processing, etc wanted training on how to market their products and reach out to distant markets.

Overall, it was felt that the initiatives of the Ministry which aimed at providing loans to women is becoming a people-based movement reaching upto the grassroot level and to vulnerable sections which largely include women. The cooperative based economic model can certainly help to promote gender parity and increase the share of workforce of women.

CHAPTER IV

BROAD CONCLUSIONS AND IMPACT OF OUTREACH OF MINISTRY OF COOPERATION INITIATIVES

While Cooperatives with more than hundred years history always played a key role in addressing the socio-economic issues facing the country, their image was strengthened with the formation of a separate Ministry in 2021. Soon after inception, the Ministry of Cooperation took major initiatives in several sectors of the economy and as these initiatives begin to get implemented, the cooperative societies will be able to realize new possibilities for their economic development through diversification of activities.

In order to disseminate the initiatives, VAMNICOM played an important role by identifying several PACS and various other cooperative societies such as dairy, fisheries, sugar, Urban Cooperative Banks, Women Cooperatives, etc. and conducting programmes to disseminate guidelines on the initiatives of Ministry of Cooperation. After conducting several programmes covering major states of India, the following conclusions emerged:

1. Many participants for the first time became aware of the initiatives of the Ministry of Cooperation and were prompted to take advantage of the same. Notable among the initiatives were the Model Bye-Laws for making PACS multipurpose. Most states have adopted the Model Bye-Laws and hence members of PACS realized the potential in scaling up the activities of PACS.
2. PACS have largely been out of the ambit of technology support and computerization of their data base would improve their efficiency. PACS computerization entails bringing all functional PACS into an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) based common software. However, members of certain PACS highlighted that accounting systems differ among states and overall there is poor documentation and no practice of regular audit. The staff also lacks technical skills and PACS suffer due to weak technology. Hence implementation of common software for PACS remains a challenge and hence there is need to bring uniformity in administration of all PACS. Trainings and capacity building programmes for the staff as well as Board members will facilitate and smoothen the process of computerization and also enable them to operate as Common Service Centres more efficiently.

3. The participants were interested in establishing dairy and fisheries cooperatives but expressed lack of suitable infrastructure and skill in fish production, post harvest management and value chain.
4. The guidelines for registration for obtaining license for establishing Jan Aushadhi Kendra was indicated by several PACS as this would enable access to generic medicines to rural population.
5. The need for establishing more quality and modern warehouses was clearly understood by participants as storage of produce will prevent distress sales and through warehouse receipt the farmers can avail of loans while their produce is in the godown. Hence participants expressed that training and capacity building programmes should be provided to PACS on modern warehousing structures, quality standards such as refrigerated storage, maintaining precise temperature, humidity and moisture control, etc.
6. PACS were interested in understanding the statutory approvals and other permissions required for converting their wholesale consumer pumps in to retail outlets.
7. Women expressed the need to avail of the benefits of schemes which will enhance their entrepreneurship abilities and revealed the need for acquiring guidelines for the same.

Observing the feedback obtained from participants across states, sectors and several cooperative societies, VAMNICOM aims at conducting several training programmes to ensure that participants are made aware of the necessary guidelines and method of registration of several schemes. With respect to diversification of activities such as fisheries, dairy, etc suitable programmes will be conducted to train the participants on production, post-harvest management and marketing of produce. The potential as well as documentation required for exports and also availing of benefits in schemes launched by the government, will be imparted to the necessary stakeholders. Overall VAMNICOM aims at unlocking the major initiatives of Ministry of Cooperation through several training programmes and capacity building of all stakeholders in the entire supply chain so that all challenges are addressed and cooperatives can serve as an engine of growth, especially in rural areas and empower major sections of society such as women and youth.

GLIMPSE OF AWARENESS PROGRAM

सहकार से समृद्धि
Prosperity through Co-operation

सामान्य सेवा केंद्रों और अन्य बहु सेवाओं के माध्यम से पैक्स/डेयरी/मत्स्य सहकारी समितियों को मजबूत करने के लिए सहकारिता मंत्रालय (भारत सरकार) की प्रमुख पहलों पर स्केलिंग अप कार्यक्रम

Scaling up Programme on Major Initiatives of Ministry of Cooperation (Govt. of India) for Strengthening of PACS/Dairy/Fishery Cooperatives through Common Service Centers & other Multi Services

वैकुण्ठ मेहता राष्ट्रीय सहकारी प्रबंध संस्थान
विद्यापीठ मार्ग, पुणे - 411 007
VAIKUNTH MEHTA NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT
University Road, Pune - 411 007



Youth Awareness Programme at VAMNICOM, Pune



Dr. Mahesh Kadam, Associate Professor, VAMNICOM Pune, at Tandali, Pune, Maharashtra Addressing the Participants



Demonstration of Drone-Technology for Cooperative Society at Satara



Shri. Shivaji Walke at Nigave, Kolhapur Addressing the Participants



Visit to Farmers Producers Organization (FPO) at Nanded by Shri. Shivaji Walke And Dr. Jagadish Aditya Dinakar, Research Officers



Dr. Y. S. Patil, Associate Professor, VAMNICOM Addressing the Participants at Akaluj, Maharashtra



Dr. Mahesh Kadam, Associate Professor at Gadhhiglaj, Kolhapur, Maharashtra Common Service Centre (CSC) Expert Addressing the Participants



Dr. Mahesh Kadam, Associate Professor with Participants from PACS



Dr. Sangeeta Shroff, Professor & Dr. Rohini Vikhekar, Research Officer, VAMNICOM, with Board of Directors and Chairman, at Shriram Vividh Karyakari Sahakari, Society, Bhilar, Mahabaleshwar, Dist. Satara, Maharashtra



Ms. Sonal Kadam, Research Officer at Pait, Dist. Pune, Maharashtra



Dr. Aditya Jagadish, Research Officer with Participants

SCALING-UP PROGRAMMES IN GUJURAT



Lambhu Milk Cooperative Society
Mahisagar Guj - 9 Feb 2024



Chappri Duh Mandli.Ta.
Khanpur.Dist.Mahisagar - 15 Feb 2024



Madhvas Milk Cooperative Society
Mahisagar Guj - 12 Feb 2024



Taralnamusada Milk Cooperative Society
Distt Mahisagar Guj - 13 Feb 2024



Kanod Duh Mandli.Ta.
Khanpur.Dist.Mahisagar - 14 Feb 2024



VAMNICOM Faculty Members with Participants from PACS



Dr. Sangeeta Shroff, Professor and Dr. Rohini Vilhekar, Research Officer with Participants at Nangaon, Pune, Maharashtra



Ms. Sonal Kadam, Research Officer at Mirajgaon, Ahemadnagar, Maharashtra



Ms. Sonal S. Kadam, Research Officer at Avsari, Pune, Maharashtra



Farmer Member Participation in the Upscaling Programme



Dr. Amit Borkar, Assistant Professor, VAMNICOM and Mr. Naresh Buddhewar, Addressing Participants on PACS as a CSC Centre at Kurkheda and Armori, Gadchiroli, Maharashtra



Dr. Girish Mangleek, Associate Professor, at Jharkhand



Dr. Hema Yadav, Director, VAMNICOM and Dr. Y. S. Patil, Associate Professor, VAMNICOM in Maharashtra



Dr. Prashant Kadam, Professor, VAMNICOM Addressing the Participants in Maharashtra



Dr. Prashant Kadam, Professor, VAMNICOM with Participants in Maharashtra





Shri. R. K. Menon, Registrar and Assistant Professor, VAMNICOM Addressing the Participants at Kerala



Shri. R. K. Menon, Registrar and Assistant Professor, VAMNICOM Addressing the Participants at Kerala



Participants at Gujarat



Ms. Sonal Kadam and Mrs. Saba Sayyad, Research Officers, VAMNICOM at Shirur, Pune, Maharashtra



Dr. Rohini Vilhekar and Shri. Shivaji Walke, Research Officers with Participants at Rahuri, Dist. Ahmednagar, Maharashtra



Dr. Pallavi Ingale, Associate Professor, VAMNICOM Addressing the Participants at Solapur, Maharashtra



Dr. Pallavi Ingale, Associate Professor, VAMNICOM at Jadhavwadi, Aurangabad



Dr. A. K. Asthana, Associate Professor at Kherda Primary Milk Cooperative Society of Anand Distt., Gujarat



Participants Engaged in the Reading the Book of 54 Major Initiatives taken by the Ministry of Cooperation



Dr. Sangeeta Shroff, Professor at Hyderabad, Telangana
(Women participants in the Upscaling Programme from Various Societies)

Annexure-I

Sector wise Number of Cooperatives in India

Sr. No.	Sectors	No. of Cooperatives	% to the Total
1	Housing Cooperative Society	191989	24.50
2	Dairy Cooperatives	140834	17.97
3	PACS / FSS / LAMPS	103727	13.19
4	Credit & Thrift Society	79414	10.14
5	Labor Cooperatives	43699	5.60
6	Miscellaneous Non-Credit	27121	3.48
7	Agriculture & Allied Cooperatives	25801	3.29
8	Fishery Cooperatives	25578	3.26
9	Women Welfare Cooperative Societies	24067	3.07
10	Agro Processing / Industrial Cooperatives	22567	2.88
11	Consumer Cooperatives	20778	2.65
12	Multipurpose Cooperative	18427	2.35
13	Livestock & Poultry Cooperatives	15203	1.94
14	Handloom Textile & Weavers Cooperatives	14545	1.86
15	Marketing Cooperative Society	8892	1.13
16	Miscellaneous Credit Cooperative Society	5712	0.73
17	Handicraft Cooperatives	4779	0.61
18	Transport Cooperatives	3986	0.51
19	Social Welfare & Cultural Cooperatives	2122	0.27
20	Tribal - SC / ST	1439	0.18
21	Urban Cooperative Banks	1381	0.18
22	Tourism Cooperatives	450	0.06
23	Educational & Training Cooperatives	391	0.05
24	Sericulture Cooperatives	320	0.04
25	Bee Farming Cooperatives	243	0.03
26	Sugar Mills Cooperatives	221	0.03
27	Jute and Coir Cooperatives	64	0.01
Total		783750	100

Source: National Cooperative Database (<https://cooperatives.gov.in>)

Annexure –II

Major Initiatives by Government for Strengthening PACS:

1. *Model Bye-Laws for making PACS Multipurpose*: In order to diversify the activities of PACS and increase their sources of revenue, Model Bye-laws for PACS were prepared after consultation with all States/Union Territories, National Federations and other stakeholders. All States/UTs are expected to adopt the revised Bye –laws so that PACS are able to undertake more business activities in agriculture, non-agriculture, credit and non-credit and thus get converted into Multi Purpose Agricultural Credit Societies. This will increase their income and also help to create more employment opportunities.
2. *Strengthening of PACS through Computerization*: This initiative aims to bring technology support to PACS, which have been largely untouched by modern technology. Given PACS' significant reach among small and marginal farmers, the government approved a Centrally Sponsored Project for PACS computerization spanning five years from 2022-2027. NABARD is overseeing the implementation of this scheme, guided by the National Level Monitoring & Implementation Committee and the Ministry of Cooperation.
3. *World's Largest Decentralized Grain Storage Program in Cooperative Sector to Ensure Food Security*: The government plans to establish the world's largest decentralized grain storage program within the cooperative sector to ensure food security. Indian agriculture faces price fluctuations throughout the year, leading to distress sales by farmers during low-price seasons. To address this, the government approved a foodgrain storage scheme allowing farmers to store their produce for higher prices. Farmers can also use their stored crops as collateral for loans. This storage scheme benefits consumers by creating time, place, and form utility. Other government initiatives include custom hiring centers, processing units, and fair price shops.
4. *PACS as Common Service Centres (CSCs) for Better Access to e-Services*: The government offers 300 e-services through Common Service Centers (CSCs) to ensure efficient governance and access to essential services. CSCs serve a dual purpose by improving public service delivery and fostering rural entrepreneurship, thus creating job opportunities. By enabling access to electronic services in Indian villages, CSCs contribute to building a digitally inclusive society, promoting rural entrepreneurship, and supporting holistic growth through essential services in sectors like agriculture, education, health, banking, and insurance.
5. *PACS as Jan Aushadhi Kendra for Access to Generic Medicines at Rural Level*: The government has decided to establish Jan Aushadi Kendras at selected PACS for the sale of

generic medicines. Generic medicines are similar to non-generic ones, containing the same active ingredients and meeting safety and quality standards, but are more affordable as they lack patent protection. These medicines are closely monitored by regulatory authorities for safety and efficacy. By making generic medicines easily available at PACS, the government aims to reduce healthcare costs and increase awareness among rural populations about affordable medication options, ultimately improving access to healthcare.

6. *Formation of New Farmer Producer Organizations:* An important government initiative allows PACS to engage in agricultural economic activities, functioning similarly to Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs). The amendment to the 2002 Companies Act enabled farmers to operate as companies, creating FPCs as a new form of economic organization. With a majority of Indian agriculture dominated by marginal farmers with small holdings, FPCs serve as a hybrid of cooperative and corporate systems, offering potential for collective procurement, aggregation, and sale of produce to increase farmers' returns. Additionally, FPCs can provide certified inputs, technology, and access to both domestic and export markets, benefiting farmers. PACS, under government initiatives, are now permitted to undertake agricultural economic activities as Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).
7. *Eligibility of PACS for LPG Distributorship:* The government has made a significant move by amending regulations to allow PACS to become eligible for LPG distributorship, enabling them to distribute LPG. In rural areas, the widespread use of solid fossil fuels for cooking poses health, environmental, and economic challenges. Recognizing these issues, the government's decision to permit PACS to obtain LPG dealership aims to address the problem by expanding the distribution network of LPG, thereby promoting rural development and improving access to cleaner cooking fuels.
8. *Permission to convert Bulk Consumer Petrol Pump operated by PACS into retail outlet:* The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has approved the conversion of Wholesale Consumer Licensed PACS into retail outlets. This initiative allows existing PACS to switch their wholesale consumer pumps to retail outlets, provided they meet all the necessary requirements, including statutory approvals and permissions, for setting up retail outlets in rural areas.
9. *Relief from Income Tax to Cooperative Sugar Mills:*
Cooperative Sugar Mills will not have to pay additional income tax on payment of higher sugarcane prices to farmers up to the fair and remunerative price or the State advised price. With this provision, Cooperative Sugar Mills will now be able to give higher price of

sugarcane to their members and they will get income tax deduction on this higher expenditure.

10. New National Level Multi-State Cooperative Society for Export:

Under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002, a new National Cooperative Exports Limited has been set up as an Umbrella organization to promote exports from the cooperative sector. Cooperative societies from Primary to National level including District, State, National level federations and Multi-State Cooperative Societies can become its members. Through this Society, the Export of farmers' products will be facilitated and the farmers will get better price for their products.

11. New National Level Multi-State Cooperative Society for Certified Seeds

Under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002, a new Bhartya Beej Sahakari Samiti Limited has been set up as an Umbrella organization for cultivation, production and distribution of improved seeds under a single brand name. Cooperative Societies (Primary, District, State level) of States/Union Territories can become its members. This Society will increase availability of improved seeds to the farmers, boost productivity of crops and enhance the income of the farmers.

12. New National Level Multi-State Cooperative Society for Organic Farming:

The National Cooperative Organics Limited has been established under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 as an Umbrella organization which will work for production, distribution and marketing of certified and authentic organic products. Primary to National level cooperative societies including District, State, National level federations, Multi-State Cooperative Societies, and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) can become its members. This will increase production of organic products and increase the profit of the farmers.

13. New Scheme of Cooperative Education and Training:

This scheme is needed to make cooperative societies strong economic institutions, broaden and strengthen the operative movement, build the capacity of faculty of VAMNICOM, NCCT and JCTC, promote quality research and studies on important areas of Cooperative Societies, improve the physical and IT infrastructure of existing functional cooperative education and training institutes, etc. In this regard, initial stakeholder consultations are being held and the formulation of the scheme is targeted in the next three months.

14. New National Cooperative Database

The work on developing a comprehensive, authentic and updated National Cooperative Database is being done in a phased manner by the Ministry of Cooperation with the assistance of State Governments. Under the First Phase, mapping of about 2.64 lakh societies of PACS,

dairy and fisheries has been completed on February 28, 2023. In the Second Phase, mapping of National Cooperative Societies and Federations has been done. Under Third Phase, about 8.5 Lakh Cooperative Societies of all other sectors are targeted to be included in the database by August 2023, out of which 7.72 Lakh Cooperative Societies have been included in the database till now.

15. Computerization of Central Registrar's Office

The office of the Central Registrar is responsible for administering the Multi State Co-operative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002. The office of the Central Registrar is being computerized to create a digital ecosystem for Multi-State Cooperative Societies. This software will assist in processing applications and service requests in a time bound manner through electronic work flow at the Central Registrar's Office. It will have provisions for OTP based user registration, verification check for compliance with MSCS Act and Rules, hearing through VC, issue of registration certificate and other communication, electronically. This computerization project will help significantly in registering new MSCS and will also promote their ease of doing business.

16. Computerization of Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (ARDBS)

To strengthen the Long-term Cooperative Credit structure, the Ministry of Cooperation is taking up the project of computerization of Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (ARDBs). It will have various components such as hardware procurement, comprehensive Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) solutions, digitization, providing training and support, and maintenance of software, etc. 25 percent of the expenditure incurred in this scheme will be borne by the ARDBs and the remaining 75 percent by the Central and State governments. Computerization will provide various benefits to ARDBs, such as increased efficiency, faster loan disbursement, reduced transaction costs, increased transparency and lower imbalances of payments, etc.

17. Scheme for computerization of office of Registrar of Cooperative Societies in States/Union Territories

To increase ease of doing business for Cooperative Societies and create a digital ecosystem for transparent paperless regulation in all States/Union Territories, a scheme for computerization of State Registrar Offices is being prepared by the Ministry of Cooperation. The software developed under this scheme will be based on the Cooperative Act of the respective State/UT. The Ministry is in dialogue with the Registrars of all the States/UTs to formulate this scheme and soon it will be proposed as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.



सहकार से समृद्धि

Prosperity through Co-operation

सामान्य सेवा केंद्रों और अन्य बहु सेवाओं के माध्यम से पैक्स/डेयरी/मत्स्य सहकारी समितियों को मजबूत करने के लिए सहकारिता मंत्रालय (भारत सरकार) की प्रमुख पहलों पर स्केलिंग अप कार्यक्रम

Scaling up Programme on Major Initiatives of Ministry of Cooperation (Govt. of India) for Strengthening of PACS/Dairy/Fishery Cooperatives through Common Service Centers & other Multi Services

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