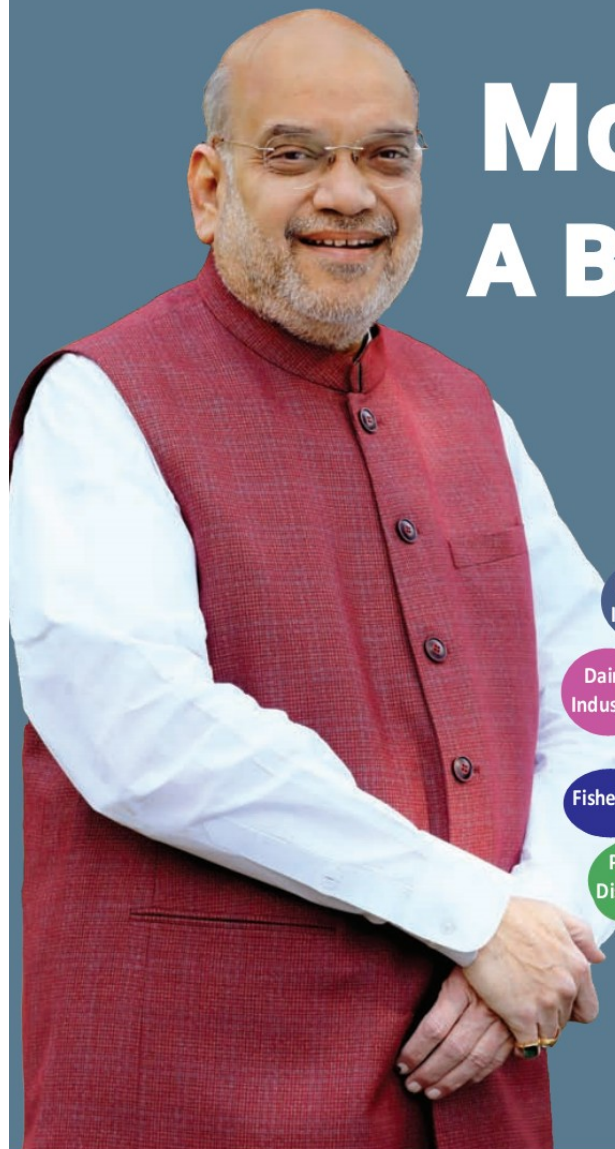




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# Sahkar Uday

Sarv Sahkar, Sarv Sakaar



## Model Bye-laws A Big Gain for PACS



Implemented in 22 Major States

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**Sahkar  
 Uday**

June 2023, Issue-3, Year-1

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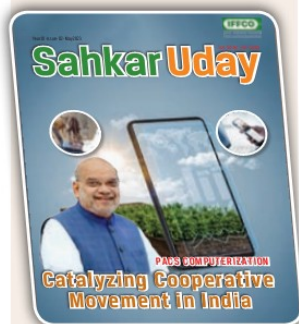
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The cooperative will produce  
 crops on barren land

## From the Editor's Desk

**C**ooperative societies in India originated nearly 120 years ago when the first Agricultural Credit Society was formed in 1904. The last 12 decades have seen radical changes in the cooperative sector. Today, India's cooperative sector is playing an important role in the development of the social and economic sectors of the country.

A cooperative society provides equal rights to all its members without taking into consideration their shareholding and social standing. The Indian cooperative credit structure is one of the largest rural financial systems in the world, providing better socio-economic security to small and marginal farmers.

“Cooperative Societies” cater to various needs of their members, such as short-term and medium-term loans, fair price selling facilities and agricultural inputs like seeds, fertilizers and pesticides, as well as encouraging the habit of savings among members.

Despite the presence of all the above positive aspects, the Indian cooperative structure is facing various challenges. Lack of adequate resources, weak organization, lack of professionalism, as well as a large number of dues, are some of the serious problems faced by Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS). The current Government of India has proposed new bye-laws with the aim of overcoming all these challenges and problems in the Indian cooperative movement, which will be established as “model bye-laws” for all cooperative societies across India.

At the centre of these new model bye-laws, there are various provisions to bring professionalism, transparency and accountability to the functioning of cooperatives, thereby further strengthening the trust of members in them. The Indian cooperative movement is now at the pinnacle of success. One sterling example is that of the Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), which has once again been honoured with being the world's best cooperative society, which is a moment of pride for all of us!

This month's issue of “*Sahkar Uday*” includes detailed coverage of Model Bye-laws, Employment Opportunities for the Youth, Start-up Ecosystem, IFFCO's Nano Fertilizer Export, along with other important topical information.

Hope you like this issue. We look forward to your suggestions to make the magazine more interesting and informative.

**Thanks and regards!**  
**'Jai Sahkar'**

## Cooperative Voice



With the efforts of India, both Ayurveda and Millets – ‘Shree Anna’ have become a global movement these days. We can also create new museums based on the journey of thousands of years of the different types of millets.

**PM Narendra Modi**



Inaugurated the ‘Advanced Organic Testing Laboratory’ at AmulFed Dairy in Gandhinagar. These equipment will help identify and quantify organic compounds in food samples. The laboratory supports market demand for organic produce, benefiting both farmers and the industry as a whole. It will play an important role in environmental protection along with land enrichment.

**Amit Shah**

Union Minister for Home and Cooperation



We welcome the decision by Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah ji to form 1100 new Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in the cooperative sector in order to realize Narendra Modi’s vision of “Sahakar Se Samridhhi”.

**BL Verma**

Minister of State for Cooperation , Government of India



On behalf of the farmer brothers and sisters of India, we welcome the cabinet decision to approve the subsidy of ₹1.08 lakh crore for Urea and DAP for the Kharif season 2023-24. Modi government is committed to the development of farmers.

**Dileep Sanghani**

Chairman, IFFCO



Lakhs of farmers in the country are getting better production and more profit by adopting IFFCO Nano Urea (Liquid). Its cost is less and profits are more. IFFCO Nano Urea (Liquid) is available at all cooperative societies and IFFCO centres.

**Dr. US Awasthi,**

MD & CEO IFFCO



Integration of PACS in the FPO scheme will enable them to expand their business in the areas of supply of production inputs; agricultural equipment like cultivator, tiller, harvester, etc. and processing, including cleaning, assaying, sorting, grading, packing, storage, transportation, etc.

**Ministry of Cooperation**

# Model Bye-laws A Big Gain for PACS

- Bye-laws implemented in 22 major states including Uttar Pradesh
- Unemployed rural youth and women to get employment opportunities; PACS business scope will increase.

## Sahkar Uday Team

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah is working on a strategy to strengthen infrastructure from the Primary Agricultural Credit Society (PACS) to Apex, in the cooperative sector, in order to realise Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of "Sahakar Se Samridhi".

PACS model bye-laws have been made to empower and expand the scope of these credit societies at the village level. They have been adopted in 22 states and the process is on in the rest of the states and the Union Territories.

This central government initiative will create employment opportunities in rural areas and, youth and women will be brought into the mainstream society to contribute constructively to sustainable economic development.

### PACS model bye-laws

Several administrative reforms have been undertaken to strengthen PACS. There are various provisions for bringing professionalism, transparency and



## Cover Story



accountability to their operation.

Several changes have been made in the appointment of the Board of Directors. Representation of women, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, have been made mandatory in their boards.

Professionals can be easily hired now, as also landless farmers, agricultural labour representatives, animal husbandry, dairy farmers, and fish farmers.

No one can be denied PACS membership. This will make the benefits of cooperatives accessible to most people. In case of the death of a member, the provision of giving membership to their family members has also been simplified.

### Requirement of Model Bye-laws

There is a dire need for efficient management and functioning of PACS. Also, to meet the requirement of skilled professionals and increase its administrative capacity, it is necessary to amend the bye-laws of PACS.

Keeping in view the importance of PACS in giving impetus to cooperative movements, a national cooperative database is being prepared to map

cooperative societies all over the country, ensure 100% computerization of all PACS, and bring uniformity to its national bye-laws.

Shri Amit Shah recently said in an event: "Cooperative movement will only gain momentum by strengthening and economic upgradation of PACS. A total of 2.64 lakh PACS, along with those in dairy and fisheries sectors, have been identified in the first phase of the National Cooperative Database Project."

The 22 states where PACS have been implemented include Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Assam, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. This will facilitate the smooth working of cooperatives at the central, state, district and gram panchayat levels.

### Introduction of model bye-laws

PACS were facing a number of challenges for which it was necessary to reform these credit societies, but it wasn't easy because PACS was a state subject.

Shri Amit Shah discussed this with state administrations across the country,

“

**PACS model bye-laws will make them multipurpose and profit-making and expand their scope to include marketing, godowns, gobar gas production, electricity bill collection, facility of gas distribution agencies, tap water scheme, etc.**

**-Shri Amit Shah,  
Union Home and  
Cooperation Minister**

”

and they understood and welcomed his initiative.

The cooperative movement in India has an old history, hence its bye-laws are outdated and coming in the way of serving people in the 21st century. They have a limited range of operations, including short-term crop loans, loans for the purchase of low-cost agricultural equipment, and distribution of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides.

### Other business activities associated with PACS

- ♦ Seed distribution
- ♦ Fertilizer distribution
- ♦ Pesticide distribution
- ♦ Fish farming
- ♦ Dairy industry
- ♦ Poultry Industry
- ♦ Farm Machinery Custom Hire Centre
- ♦ Horticulture
- ♦ Bee-keeping
- ♦ Sheep, goat and pig farming
- ♦ Sericulture
- ♦ Food grains purchase
- ♦ Storage (warehouse and cold storage) and packaging of agricultural products
- ♦ Hospitals
- ♦ Community Centres
- ♦ Branding and Marketing Activities
- ♦ Fair price ration shops
- ♦ Insurance facility
- ♦ Bank Mitra and Business Representative
- ♦ LPG, Petrol and Diesel Dealership
- ♦ Community Service Centre and Data Centre
- ♦ Jal Jeevan Mission
- ♦ Gobar gas
- ♦ Electricity Bill Distribution and Collection Centre
- ♦ Locker facility

The income is also, less which also necessitates this change.

#### NCCT committee received 1,500 suggestions

An expert committee was constituted in collaboration with the National



## 10 major schemes of the Ministry of Agriculture

- ♦ Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)
- ♦ Agriculture Marketing Infrastructure (AMI)
- ♦ Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM)
- ♦ Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)
- ♦ PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PM FME)
- ♦ Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)
- ♦ Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF)
- ♦ National Program for Dairy Development (NPDD)
- ♦ Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF)
- ♦ Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)

Council for Cooperative Training (NCCT) to prepare these model bye-laws.

A 9-member committee headed by Shri AP Reddy prepared a draft in this regard, which was sent to the States and Union Territories, along with State Cooperative Banks, District Cooperative Central Banks, and various cooperative federations.

This draft was also put on the website of the Ministry to get members'

opinions. More than 1,500 suggestions and comments poured in, which were incorporated into the final draft. It was then sent to all the parties concerned on January 5, 2023.

#### Advantages of implementing Model Bye-laws in PACS

The distribution of agricultural input to farmers will increase and dairy and fishery cooperatives will also be able to work under this format.

## Cover Story



## Latest details of states implemented model bye-laws

Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, Odisha, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar and Chhattisgarh

### Union Territory

Jammu and Kashmir, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Ladakh.

PACS will handle more than two dozen scheduled tasks, including post-harvesting storage, marketing and processing of agricultural produce. The responsibility of implementing 10 major schemes of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has been entrusted to the Ministry of Cooperation.

Similarly, the process of linking these schemes with PACS is also going on simultaneously. ◆◆◆

## Central Government's Gift to PACS

Making PACS multipurpose will generate employment opportunities for youth and women in rural areas. PACS will also get the benefits of schemes from various ministries. So far, around 32 such enterprises have been identified in these schemes through which PACS can earn profit. Also, around 80 areas have been identified where PACS can go multipurpose and earn profits.

PACS are currently governed by cooperative laws of various states and Union Territories and many challenges arise due to a lack of uniformity. In many states, PACS are either inactive or are not able to work to full capacity due to the lack of legal reforms.

They lack business capability and diversification. Also, organizational weakness and lack of awareness among the Board of Directors and PACS members come in the way. Then there is a lack of business acumen harming its economic condition.

There are currently 95,000 PACS at the national level. Computerization of 63,000 PACS, which are active, has been approved, for which budgetary approval of ₹ 2,516 crore has been received.

More than 13 crore farmers are directly associated with these cooperatives. The national software being developed for this project will include separate modules for all business activities listed in the model bye-laws.





# Science and Technology enhance strength of society

**"India considers technology as an instrument for the progress of the country and not as its instrument to assert dominance."**

## Sahkar Uday Team

**O**n National Technology Day -- May 11, 2023 -- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi dedicated projects worth more than ₹5,800 crore to the nation.

On this occasion, he underscored the importance of technology as a tool for giving momentum to the country's growth trajectory and that, it is essential for our nation in achieving sustainable development goals and building an inclusive ecosystem.

Shri Modi said that measures taken after 2014 have resulted in big changes

■ India has become the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest start-up ecosystem in the world.

■ The right use of technology empowers society.

in the field of science and technology.

"Start-up India Campaign, Digital India, and National Education Policy will help India in gaining new heights in the field of technology," the Prime Minister said.

Shri Modi emphasised that science, which was earlier confined to books, is now turning into patents through experiments. "The number of patents

has increased from 4,000 per year 10 years ago to more than 30,000 annually. Registration of designs has grown from 10,000 to 15,000 in the same period. The number of trademarks has grown from less than 70,000 to more than 2.5 lakh registration annually," he said.

Shri Modi laid foundation stones and dedicated multiple projects related to scientific and technological

## Initiatives

advancement to the nation, on this occasion. This is in line with his vision of “Aatmanirbhar Bharat” by strengthening scientific institutions in the country.

“Today, India is moving forward in every direction that is necessary to become a tech leader. In 2014, there were only around 150 incubation centres in India. Today, the number of such centres in India has crossed 650. In 2014, India’s Global Innovation Index Rank was at 81, which has risen to the 40th position today! The youth of the country are setting up their own digital ventures and start-ups. The number of start-ups in India has increased from roughly 100 to 1,00,000 authorised start-ups today. India has become the 3rd largest start-up ecosystem in the world. This growth has come at a time when the world is passing through a period of economic uncertainties. It shows India’s potential,” Shri Modi said.

“That’s why I will say again, that for policymakers, for our scientific community, for our thousands of research labs spread across the country, for our private sector, the present moment is extremely important and that the passion, energy and capabilities of the children and youth today are India’s biggest strengths,” the Prime Minister said on the occasion.

Shri Modi emphasized that India’s future will be decided by the youth and children of today and praised the theme of “School to Start-ups -- igniting young minds to innovate”, marking the event. Referring to the efforts of the central government to inspire people towards innovations in the country, Shri Modi said: “A strong foundation has been laid in the country during this period to inspire the young



**JAM Trinity, GeM Portal, CoWin portal and e-NAM are making technology an agent of inclusion.**

**-Prime Minister  
Shri Narendra Modi**



minds of India towards innovation. ‘Atal Tinkering Lab’, which was started a few years ago, is today becoming the innovation nursery of the country and more than 10,000 of these labs have been established in 700 districts across India. More importantly, 60% of these labs are in government and rural schools. More than 75 lakh students are working very hard on more than 12 lakh innovation plans in these Atal Tinkering Labs.”

On this occasion, Shri Modi reiterated that today, at the initial period of “Amrit Kaal”, the goals of 2047 are clear before us – “We have to make India ‘Viksit’ and ‘Atmanirbhar’”. He said that we need to create an inclusive ecosystem for growth, innovation and sustainable development. Shri Modi underlined the importance of technology at every step and said that India is moving forward with a holistic 360-degree approach in this regard. He said, “India considers technology as an instrument for the progress of the country and not as its instrument to assert dominance.”

Quoting former President, late APJ Abdul Kalam, Shri Modi underscored the importance of knowledge and said that India is developing as a knowledge society.

Talking about the strong foundation built in the country during the last 9 years to ignite the minds of youth, he said, “Young scientists are coming out of schools and reaching the remotest corners of the country,” and emphasized that it is the duty of every citizen to support them, nurture their talents and help them implement their ideas.

He said that India’s “Tinkerpreneurs” will soon become the world’s leading entrepreneurs. Shri Modi said when we move keeping in mind the social context of technology, it becomes a powerful tool of empowerment. He recalled a time when technology was beyond the reach of common citizens and things like debit and credit cards were status symbols. But, today, UPI has become the new normal because of its simplicity.

Today India is among the countries with the highest data use. The number of rural data users has overtaken urban users. JAM Trinity, GeM Portal, CoWin portal and e-NAM are making technology an agent of inclusion, Shri Modi said. Presently, the central government is using technology to provide public services. Shri Modi said that online birth certificates, e-Pathshala and Diksha e-learning platforms, scholarship portals, Universal access numbers during job tenure, e-Sanjeevani for medical treatment and Jeevan Praman for the elderly, are solutions helping citizens at every step in life. The Prime Minister referred to Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools emerging as new game changers, with immense possibilities in the healthcare and therapeutics sectors and said that India must take a lead in such revolutionary technologies.



# NCDC to Set up 1,100 New FPOs in Cooperative Sector

## Sahkar Uday Team

**M**any positive steps are being taken in the cooperative sector to realize Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's resolution of "Sahakar Se Samridhi".

The Union Ministry of Cooperation said 1,100 new farmer producer organizations (FPOs) will be established in the cooperative sector under a central scheme. The National Cooperative Development Cooperation (NCDC), under the able leadership of Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah, has been entrusted with this task. Financial assistance of ₹33 lakh will be provided to each FPO under the scheme. Further, financial assistance of ₹25 lakhs per FPO will also be provided to Cluster Based Business Organizations (CBBO).

Since February 2021, the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare is implementing a central-sector scheme, "Formation and promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations", with a budgetary provision of ₹6,865 crore.

Around 13 crore farmers are associated with Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) in India's cooperative sector. This government decision will facilitate PACS to diversify their business and generate new and sustainable sources of income.

They currently deal with the distribution of agricultural inputs such as short-term loans, seeds, fertilizers,

- Small farmers will get direct benefits.
- PACS gets expansion, to become a permanent financial source.



etc. The integration of PACS with FPOs will enable them to supply agricultural equipment like cultivators, tillers, harvesters, etc, and also undertake food processing operations.

Farmers will get better prices for their produce by expanding their work area into activities such as grain cleaning, assaying, sorting, grading, packing, storing and transporting.

In addition to this, PACS will also be able to take up high income generating enterprises like beekeeping, mushroom

cultivation, etc. This government initiative will also help in providing necessary market linkages to cooperative societies in getting fair price for their produce.

This initiative, along with various other steps taken by the Ministry of Cooperation to strengthen the cooperative movement across India, will make the cooperative sector, and PACS in particular, more dynamic, viable, and financially sound. It will also prove to be very helpful in institutionalising and making them a permanent feature in the cooperative sector. ♦♦♦

## Development Measures

# Cooperatives: Platform for Aspirations of 70 Crore People



## Sahkar Uday Team

In order to fulfil Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of "Sahakar Se Samridhi", Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah is working on a strategy to connect youth with cooperatives.

Model bye-laws have been introduced to ensure the participation of youth, from Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) to Apex, which will create employment opportunities for them in various cooperative societies.

Shri Shah said at a function, "Work has to be done to take forward the cooperative ideology for the next 100 years by combining it with technology and professionalism, as per modern times." He further said that Shri

- A strong PACS foundation will strengthen the cooperative sector.
- Need to take forward the cooperative ideology for the next 100 years by combining it with technology and professionalism.
- Cooperatives reaching out to 91% of Indian villages.

Modi has breathed new life into the cooperative movement by creating the Union Ministry of Cooperation in the 75th year of Indian Independence.

"We are celebrating 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' and 2047 will be the year when the cooperative movement will be at its peak in the country," Shri Shah said.

"Nothing can be better than the cooperative movement to make 70

crore underprivileged people financially self-reliant; these people were not even in a position to dream of development during the last 70 years, as the previous governments only used the slogan of "Garibi Hatao", but did precious little. People cannot be linked to economic development unless their living standards are improved. After Shri Modi became the Prime Minister of India in 2014, there has been a radical change



in their lives. He has increased the aspirations and expectations of citizens, which only cooperatives can fulfil,” Shri Shah said.

“The world has adopted both the capitalist and communist models, but both are extreme models. The cooperative model is the middle way and is best suited for India,” Shri Shah said. He said unbalanced development has taken place due to the present economic model, whereas, the cooperative model is the right way forward and must be popularized to make it universal and all-inclusive.

“This will lead to the creation of a self-reliant India; 8.55 lakh out of 30 lakh cooperative societies in the world are in India and around 13 crore people are directly associated with them. Almost 91% of villages in India have some form of cooperative agency working for them,” Shri Shah said.

“Many people think that cooperatives have failed, but they should look at global data which shows that cooperatives are a major contributor to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of

“

**A strong foundation of the cooperative movement has been laid across the country and it is now our responsibility and that of the generations to come to build a strong and vibrant nation upon this foundation.**

**Shri Amit Shah, Union Minister of Home and Cooperation**

”

many nations,” Shri Shah said.

Due to the lack of even a database of cooperatives in India and the lack of proper attention, this sector has been neglected, Shri Shah said, adding that despite this, the current government led by Shri Modi has shored up cooperatives, transferred profits of giants in the field like Amul, IFFCO, and KRIBHCO directly to the bank accounts of farmers.

“Cooperation has been the soul of Indian culture since the very beginning. India has given the idea of cooperatives

to the world. Only the principles of cooperatives can give longevity to the cooperative movement. Abandoning the principles of cooperatives is the root cause for some PACS biting the dust,” Shri Shah said.

Self-reliance means not only being self-reliant in technology and production, but also for everyone to be financially self-reliant. When this happens, the nation will automatically be self-reliant. The Modi government has computerized 65,000 PACS, which will bring PACS, District Co-operative Banks, State Co-operative Banks, and NABARD online, Shri Shah said.

The central government has sent model bye-laws for PACS to the states and UTs for their suggestions, so that PACS can be made multi-purpose and multi-functional. Most of the states have started implementing them. The Ministry of Cooperation is actively working to bring in all possible reforms to make cooperative societies thriving, prosperous and relevant to the lives of crores of villagers and farmers, Shri Shah said.

◆◆◆

# Amul Launches Advanced Organic Testing Laboratory in Gandhinagar

## Sahkar Uday Team

**A**mul has set up an Advanced Organic Testing Laboratory at AmulFed Dairy, Gandhinagar, Gujarat which was inaugurated by Shri Amit Shah, Union Home and Cooperation Minister. Amul or Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), is a leading food products organization of India and the Amul Dairy will test various products in this laboratory with the help of a modern facility to ensure which products are organic and label them, accordingly. This move is expected to strengthen the people's confidence in organic products at a time when food is being grown with fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals. This is a first designated lab for Amul to evaluate organic products and assist organic farmers.

By delivering accurate test findings and ensuring that organic claims are supported by research, organic testing laboratories play a crucial role in fostering trust. The laboratory fosters



- Cooperative company's first laboratory for organic testing.
- State-of-the-art organic laboratory will increase trust in organic products.

market demand for organic produce by protecting the integrity of organic goods, which benefits both farmers and the sector as a whole.

Pesticides, heavy metals, and other contaminants are detected in the laboratory via diverse testing approaches and techniques, thereby boosting the people's confidence in these products and also protecting their health. It also ensures that organic

food items correspond to national and international organic standards.

The new equipment in the Amul lab will identify and measure organic chemicals in food samples and these include trace elements and heavy metals in food samples, as well as mycotoxins, additives, and preservatives. They can also identify pesticides, herbicides, and other pollutants.

Amul wants to offer organic farmers and other industry participants affordable organic testing results that adhere to international standards.

Amul forayed into the organic business in May 2022 by introducing 'Amul Organic Atta'. But this company has now included basmati rice and arhar dal in its list of organic products. ◆◆◆



# High Employment Generation Due to PM Initiative: Shah



## Sahkar Uday Team

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah recently handed over 44,703 appointment letters for government jobs in Assam. Several dignitaries including the Chief Minister of Assam, Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma, were present on the occasion.

In his address, Shri Shah said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Assam government gave government jobs to about 86,000 youth in 2 years, and by giving 14,000 more jobs in the next few months it will fulfil its promise of providing 1 lakh government jobs in Assam very soon.

Shri Shah said that changes such as e-governance, smart city mission, integrated command and control centre and CCTV network have made Assam a developed state and infrastructural

- Home Minister distributed 44,703 government jobs in Assam.
- 'Now you will get permanent jobs instead of temporary ones.'

changes under various schemes by Shri Modi such as AMRUT mission, RERA law, and a wide network of metro and electric buses have been heartily welcomed by Assam people.

Cleanliness is ensured through Green Energy, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and the construction of public toilets, clean energy, solar rooftop and LED lights. Shri Shah said that for the welfare of the urban poor, about 15 million houses were built for the urban poor. The street vendors have become

“

The NDA government distributed appointment letters to the 44,703 youths in Assam. Government completed approx 86,000 appointments, proving its election promise to give 1 lakh govt jobs in the state.

**-Shri Amit Shah,  
Union Home and  
Cooperation Minister**

”

self-reliant through the Pradhan Mantri Swanidhi Yojana.

Shri Shah said that the government took several steps to make Assam the

## Achievements



medical capital of North East India and Eastern countries and that the fiscal position of Assam has improved, the state's GSDP has increased from Rs 4 lakh crore in 2021-22 to Rs 5.50 lakh crore in 2023-24. Industries are growing and investment is coming under the industrial policy and Assam is on the path of development with the Arunodaya scheme. He said that the agriculture and dairy sector is developing and 3,000 ponds are being developed and the government is making every effort to make Assam flood free in the next 5 years.

### Government Committed to Empowering Youth

At the job fair held recently, Shri Modi delivered 71,000 appointment letters for government jobs. He said, "All of you have achieved this success through hard work." The central government is speeding up government jobs recruitments along with training programs to utilize the immense energy and potential of young manpower in India's development. "The Government of India has given priority to making the government recruitment process transparent and fair in the last nine years. Earlier, the Staff Selection Board used to take around 15 to 18 months

Whether it is foreign investment into the country or record exports from India, it is also creating employment opportunities in every nook and corner of the country.

**-Prime Minister  
Shri Narendra Modi**

to complete the recruitment process. Today this process is completed in six to eight months. Earlier it was very difficult to apply for a government job. One had to stand in queues for hours. Moreover, it was also not sure whether the application reached on time or not. Today the entire process from applying to getting the results has become online. Today it is also sufficient to self-attest the document. The biggest advantage of all these efforts is that the possibilities of corruption or nepotism have ended".

### New employment opportunities through infrastructure development

The Central Government is giving priority to basic infrastructure development pan India. Mentioning this, Shri Modi said, "During these nine years,

the policies of the government were formulated keeping new possibilities of employment at the centre. Be it the construction of modern infrastructure, development of rural areas, or expansion of facilities related to survival, every plan and policy of the Government of India is creating new employment opportunities for the youth."

### Public service centres promoting rural entrepreneurship

Shri Modi said, "Five lakh common service centres have been opened in every village and they have become a major source of employment besides making youth entrepreneurs at the village level. Be it building more than 30,000 'Panchayat Bhavans' in villages or connecting nine crore houses with water connections, all these campaigns are generating employment on a large scale. Whether it is foreign investment into the country or record exports from India, it is also creating employment opportunities in every nook and corner of the country." Shri Modi said, "The nature of the job has also changed very rapidly in the last nine years. In these changing circumstances, new sectors have emerged for the youth. The Central Government is continuously supporting these new sectors as well. We have





witnessed a new revolution in start-up culture in these nine years. While there were a few hundred start-ups in 2014, today this number is close to one lakh. And it is estimated that these start-ups have provided employment to at least 10 lakh youth."

#### Mudra Yojana changing picture

Shri Modi said, "The Government of India has sanctioned 23 lakh crore rupees to the youth under the Mudra Yojana in the last nine years. Some have started their new business with this amount, whereas some have bought a taxi or have expanded their shop. And their number is not in lakhs. I proudly say this number is in crores today. There are about eight to nine crore people who have started their independent work for the first time with the help of the Mudra Yojana. The ongoing 'Aatma Nirbhar Bharat' campaign is also based on the creation of employment through manufacturing. The Central Government is providing assistance of about Rs 2 lakh crore for manufacturing under the PLI scheme. Apart from making India the manufacturing hub of the world, this amount will also help in providing employment to lakhs of youth."

Shri Modi said, "It is very important for the youth of India to develop the

**In the last 9 years,  
the Government of  
India has also given  
priority to making  
the government  
recruitment process  
faster, more  
transparent and fair.**

**-Prime Minister  
Shri Narendra Modi**



skills to work in different sectors. As part of this, higher education institutions and skill development institutions are also being constructed on a war footing. A new IIT and IIM have come up every year between 2014 and 2022. On average, one university has been opened every week and two colleges have been opened every day in the last nine years. There were around 720 universities before the formation of our government. Now this number has increased to more than 1100. Only seven AIIMS were built in seven decades. In the last nine years, we have moved towards building 15 new AIIMS. Many of these hospitals have also started providing their services. As of 2014, there were less than 400 medical colleges. Today their number has increased to about 700. If the number of colleges

increased, naturally the number of seats also increased and opportunities for higher education also increased for the youth. There were only around 80,000 MBBS and MD seats in our country before 2014. Now the MBBS and MD seats have increased to more than 1.70 lakh." Shri Modi said, "In this 'Mahayagya' of development going on, youth power will now play a direct role in such big changes. He urged the youth, "From today a new phase of learning is starting in your life. The government is laying great emphasis on the new skill development of its employees. Keeping this in mind, the Online Educational Platform (i-GoT) Karmayogi has been started. There are many types of courses available on this platform. Make full use of them." ♦♦♦



**Achievements**

**IFFCO**

पूर्णा: सहकारी स्वामित्व  
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# Initiatives to Make Cooperatives Universal and All-Inclusive: Shri BL Verma

## Sahkar Uday Team

**U**nion Minister of State for Cooperation, Shri BL Verma, recently tweeted: “Our government is constantly working to solve all the problems in the cooperative sector. The work of removing obstacles in this sector is being done at a rapid pace under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah.”

“The computerization of 63,000 functional Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) pan India is being implemented with an investment of ₹2,516 crore. The project entails bringing all the functional PACS onto ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) based common software, linking them with NABARD through State Cooperative Banks (StCBs) and District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs),” he further said in the Tweet.

The roots of cooperatives date back to pre-Independence times. After Independence, cooperatives became an integral part of Five-Year Plans (FYPs). Today, the cooperative movement is contributing to strengthening the country's economy. The Modi government created the new Ministry of Cooperation to provide a separate administrative, legal and policy framework to strengthen the cooperative movement in the country. The central government has made the development of cooperatives the main basis of national development, while also creating harmony between all the states.

Shri Verma also tweeted about the development of primary cooperatives in



- All obstacles are being removed in the development of the cooperative sector.
- No gram panchayat in the country will be left untouched by cooperatives.

India: “Around 60,000 gram panchayats did not have any cooperative societies. The 2023-24 General Budget announced the setting up of 2 lakh new PACS and dairy-fishery cooperatives in uncovered villages and panchayats over the next 5 years. By making these cooperatives omnipresent and all-inclusive, work will be done for the welfare of all the underprivileged sections of society.”

On the measures being taken to expand the work of cooperatives, Shri Verma tweeted: “With the implementation and computerization of the modern bye-laws for cooperatives, we are now on our way to make those PACS multipurpose. We have entered into an agreement to reform PACS, and Common Service Centres (CSCs) spread across the country will also be able to work like PACS.” Referring to the proposal

for food storage facilities in every village, Shri Verma tweeted: “Till now, there was only 47% food storage facility in India. The central government has a target of reaching 100% food storage capacity.”

Shri Verma further said that Shri Modi is coming up with the world's largest food storage scheme, so that food grains of farmers are not wasted at the gram panchayat level.

“Arrangements are being made at the PACS level for storage facilities. Farmers will not only be able to safely store their food grains but can also take them out of the godowns at their convenience and sell them at a competitive price. The central government is also setting up the world's largest cooperative university, where teaching and training related to the cooperative sector will be carried out,” Shri Verma added. ♦♦♦



### Sahkar Uday Team

Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) has been ranked No. 1 among the Top 300 cooperatives in the world.

The ranking is based on the ratio of turnover to gross domestic product (GDP) per capita. The ranking is as per the 2022 edition of the 11th Annual Report published by the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA).

IFFCO has been contributing significantly to India's GDP and economic growth.

Its footprint in the global cooperative movement is inspired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of "Sahkar Se Samridhi", and is guided by the able leadership of Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah.

According to the 2022 edition of the 11th Annual World Cooperative Monitor report published by ICA, IFFCO ranks among the largest cooperatives in the world.

Recently, IFFCO developed the

- IFFCO ranks first among 300 cooperatives in the world in the 11th Annual Report of the International Cooperative Alliance.

world's first "Nano Urea" liquid and "Nano DAP" liquid with an aim to reducing the use of chemical fertilizers and increase crop productivity. This is a big step towards sustainable agriculture.

IFFCO's Nano DAP has been developed keeping in mind Shri Modi's initiative of "Atmanirbhar Krishi, Atmanirbhar Bharat" to enhance farmers' income in the country.

IFFCO also secured the 1st position among the Top 10 cooperatives in the world in the agriculture sector.

The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) and the European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises (EURICSE) launched the 2022 edition of the World Cooperative Monitor during an international webinar.

This is the Alliance's 10th report that explores the economic and social impact

of the largest cooperatives worldwide, ranks the Top 300, and analyses their responses to current global challenges.

Two Indian cooperatives have made it to the first and second places. These are the Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative (IFFCO) and the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Limited.

Dr. US Awasthi, Managing Director of IFFCO, said that it is a proud moment for IFFCO and a great achievement for all in the Indian cooperative movement. He further said that IFFCO is realizing the vision of prosperity with Shri Modi's and Shri Amit Shah's cooperation.

IFFCO has always been committed to the development of farmers across the country and taking the Indian cooperative movement to the remotest village in the country and IFFCO believes that innovation and digitization are keys to success, Dr. Awasthi said. ♦♦♦



New Beginnings

# Nano-Fertilizers

## India's Answer to Global Food Crisis

**IFFCO's Nano Urea to revolutionize the way of Indian farming.**

**By Ank Anjalideep**

India, like the whole world, was suffering from food insecurity in the 1960s, and '70s and, to overcome this crisis, our country adopted new technologies such as hybrid seeds and chemical fertilizers.

The Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) was set up as a chemical fertilizer company during this time and has played an important role in maintaining India's status as a food-surplus nation. Now that India is moving towards becoming the "food bowl of the world", IFFCO needed a reliable partner and tied up with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Ministry of Agriculture, in 2019.

**Nano Urea is Big Deal!**

IFFCO represents millions of farmers and has come up with an innovation that can squarely address the global food

crisis looming over the world.

Let's first understand the problem posed by traditional fertilizers. Traditional fertilizers are chemically produced and introduce elements in the soil that are not there naturally. Among all the elements, nitrogen is the most essential element required for crop growth. But 40-60% of the total nitrogen applied (through chemical fertilizers) into the soil is not absorbed by plants and remains in the soil, from where it transfers to groundwater and air in the form of nitrous oxide. This causes soil, water, and air pollution.

IFFCO invented "Nano Urea" to solve this problem. One single particle of urea is equivalent to 55,000 nano urea particles. These particles are delivered directly to the plant, thereby releasing nitrogen directly inside the cells of the saplings. Once the nano-nutrient reaches

plant cells, it stimulates and enhances various mechanisms resulting in better growth and development. It also helps in the secretion of various enzymes which helps in making available other nutrients and also improves soil health.

**Field Trials**

This quality of "Nano Urea" was established after 11,000 field trials on 43 crops by National Agriculture Research System (NARS). These trials show that a 500ml bottle of IFFCO Nano Urea at ₹225 each can effectively replace a 45 kg bag of traditional urea and, at the same time, increase the crop yield by around 8%. The smaller packaging saves a lot on transportation costs and storage space that traditional fertilizers occupy. Till the 1900s, the world population was stagnant, and countries were often plagued by food shortages and famine. This all changed when German physicist

Fritz Haber invented the chemical process to produce ammonia, eventually giving birth to chemical fertilizers. Now, with the new chemical fertilizers in the kitty of farmers, most countries could produce enough food stocks to feed their populations for the first time, apart from enjoying surpluses. Due to this the world population boomed, in the mid-20th Century, reaching 8 billion, or 800 crore, today.

But this revolution came with a catch -- efficient production of chemical fertilizers necessitates the setting up of large manufacturing plants and a large quantity of raw materials is needed to run them. To set up these plants, a large amount of capital investment is necessary, which is beyond the reach of nations with weak economies. Thus, most of the fertilizer plants are concentrated in nations with large economies and resources. Due to the current Russia-Ukraine War, and before that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, global supply chains took a massive hit. This has become a huge problem for countries that are completely dependent on foreign manufacturers for fertilizers. Also, many economies are yet to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic, hence incapable of affording costly fertilizer imports.

#### **Nano Urea to the Rescue!**

Recently, Sri Lanka banned chemical fertilizers because their economy could not support foreign imports. IFFCO's Nano Urea came to the rescue and an emergency supply of 2,00,000 bottles was airlifted to Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 20th October 2021. Other Asian and African nations are also facing acute fertilizer shortages, as they were



## *India moving towards becoming the 'food bowl of the world'.*

traditionally dependent on China and Eastern Europe for the supply. Now, these countries are looking to India to supply them this essential commodity. This is why IFFCO has generated interest among foreign nations, signing MoUs with cooperative and private organizations to set up plants in those countries. The cost of setting up a Nano Urea plant is also lower than that of a traditional fertilizer plant.

IFFCO also invented "Nano DAP" (Liquid), which got the approval of the Department of Agriculture Cooperation in March 2023. Nano DAP is suitable for all crops as a seed primer, growth enhancer, productivity and quality booster. Some of the key benefits of this formulation are supplementing seed germination, vigorous seedling growth, improved root development, strong plant growth, and increased

flowering, which ultimately leads to enhanced crop quality and yield. Like Nano Urea, Nano DAP is offered in 500 ml bottles of ₹600 each.

#### **Centre's Boost**

The central government has committed to popularizing Nano fertilizers in the country through extensive media campaigns. Also, National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) and Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd (RCF), have signed a contract with IFFCO for license production of Nano Urea (Liquid) and will soon come up with their own plants. The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, while addressing the joint Parliament session on January 31, 2023, called it a great scientific feat in the field of agriculture.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Union Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah have also highlighted the need for Nano Urea on several occasions. IFFCO's Nano Urea and Nano DAP will not only help India become the "food bowl of the world", but also they will help revolutionize the way human beings farm. ♦♦♦

**(Assistant Manager, IFFCO, India)**



Commendable Initiative

# Cooperatives to Give Impetus to PM KUSUM Scheme

- PM KUSUM to provide solar tube wells to 20 lakh farmers.
- PACS will play an important role in completing the plan.

## Sahkar Uday Team

The central and state governments are working on several agricultural schemes to reduce farmers' expenses and increase their income. Under the guidance of Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah

ministry of Cooperation will implement the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) scheme in cooperatives to take forward Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resolution of "Sahakar Se Samridhi." This important responsibility has been

entrusted to the Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS).

Launched in the year 2019, a target has been set to extend the benefits of this scheme to 20 lakh farmers. Under PM KUSUM Yojana the central and state governments together provide huge

### How to get the benefit

Under this scheme, applications can be made for the purchase of solar power plants with a capacity of 0.5 MW to 2 MW. Farmers will be able to apply as per their requirement or based on capacity notified by the distribution corporation.

subsidies to the farmers. This scheme is expected to strengthen the rural economy.

#### Pradhan Mantri KUSUM scheme

Irrigation accounts for the largest cost share of cultivation and availability of solar pumps for irrigation will save both electricity and labour for the farmers. This scheme will help bring life to barren land by irrigating it with the help of solar energy. ◆◆◆

### Provisions laid down in the plan

- Each farmer will receive a 60% subsidy to set up tube wells and pump sets. They will also get 30% of the total cost as a loan from the government.
- Farmers can take 30% of their total expenditure as loans from NABARD, banks and other financial institutions. Farmers need to bear only 10% of the total cost to install solar plants and solar pumps.
- Farmers can also sell the electricity generated from their solar panels. This will provide them with additional income.
- A landholder in a rural area can get a stable source of income by utilising barren and uncultivated land for solar plant implementation for 25 years.
- The scheme ensures increasing the use of renewable energy to help mitigate pollution in farms and open a gateway to eco-friendly cultivation.

### Required Documents

It is mandatory to have the following documents if a farmer wants to take advantage of PM KUSUM scheme in this Kharif season:

- Farmer's Aadhaar Card.
- Ration card.
- KYC of the applicant farmer.
- Passport size photo.
- Bank account passbook.
- Mobile number



## Achievements

# IFFCO Project Brings Greenery to Barren Pratapgarh

**This project changed the lives of 1,50,000 poverty-stricken Bhil and Meena tribes living in 400 villages here in just 6 years.**

### Sahkar Uday Team

**B**efore 1999, most villages of Pratapgarh district in Rajasthan faced severe drought conditions. With no signs of rain, the barren fields parched and cracked, farmers here were in deep despair.

A large number of them migrated out of the area due to lack of sustainable means of livelihood. In such desperate conditions, IFFCO came to the rescue when, in 1999, its subsidiary organization, Indian Farm Forestry Development Cooperative Limited (IFFDC), launched Western India Rainfed Farming Project (WIRFP) in the area.

IFFCO constructed 49 dams and 104 anicuts, with an average height of 6.5 feet and an average water storage capacity of 67,600 cubic metres. Farmers, most of them tribals, could now grow several food grains and

The main objectives of the project were to conserve surface water, develop groundwater resources and provide sustainable livelihood through soil water conservation.

vegetables. Their farms turned green and their lives returned to normal.

This project changed the lives of 1,50,000 poverty-stricken Bhil and Meena tribes living in 400 villages here in just 6 years. IFFCO was awarded the "Social Impact Award" in 2011-12

for this effort under the livelihood category of The Times of India.

The main objectives of the project were to conserve surface water, develop groundwater resources and provide sustainable livelihood through soil water conservation.







**IFFCO constructed 49 dams and 104 anicuts, with an average height of 6.5 feet and an average water storage capacity of 67,600 cubic metres.**

IFFCO's dams and anicuts led to the irrigation of an average of 95 acres of land.

Soybean, maize, mustard, wheat, gram, cotton, paddy and vegetables now grow at those very villages where, earlier, there was barren land as far as

the eye could see.

Due to the availability of plentiful water now, cotton cultivation has become profitable. Compared to 25 quintals per hectare earlier, production has now increased to 40 quintals per hectare. The yield of Rabi crops increased from 7% to 27% of the total agricultural produce here. Food grains can be easily sold at the committee level at a good price.

IFFCO also formed 939 Self Help Groups (SHGs) and 22 Primary Livelihood Development Cooperative Societies (PLDCS) in the villages, which are functioning today.

The women of Pratapgarh are

now earning well by operating sewing machines, making incense sticks, etc, in these SHGs.

Today, these cooperatives have enough deposits to easily take loans from banks of their choice. More than 1,000 trained experts help in the implementation and monitoring of rural cooperative programs.

Under the IFFCO project, there are now 104 anicuts, 49 earthen dams, 230 ponds, and 515 farm ponds in this region.

This is the story of human resilience which, if given a helping hand, can turn barren land into an unending landscape of greenery and well-being.



# IFFCO to Export Nano Urea to 25 Nations

## IFFCO Nano Urea

World's first Nano fertilizer



**Helps in cost reduction**




**Enhance soil quality**



**Aids in plant nutrition**



**Assured increase in farmers' income**



**Increases crop yield**



**Cheaper than conventional urea**



### Sahkar Uday Team

**N**ano Urea has the potential to reduce the consumption of conventional urea, the most commonly used nitrogen fertilizer, by 50% or more. After Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the world's first Nano Urea plant at Kalol in Gujarat last year, IFFCO is exporting the fertilizer to 5 nations.

Shri U. S. Awasthi, Managing Director and CEO of IFFCO (Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited), said in a recent interview: "We have already produced 6 crore bottles of 500 ml each and have sold 5 crore units to farmers, which is equivalent to 22 lakh tonnes of solid urea or conventional urea. We are already exporting the product to Sri Lanka, Nepal, Kenya, Suriname and Mexico."

Shri Awasthi said: "We have shipped Nano Urea samples to 25 additional countries, and we anticipate demand

from them. Numerous other nations are in the process of giving approvals, with Brazil already having done so."

"We are exporting through a cooperative and will need to set up 2-3 facilities for exports alone. We are working on one more plant in the south, and one more in the east. For the location of others, the Government of India will be consulted as it is a strategic decision," he said.

Shri Awasthi further stated that in addition to the factory in Gujarat, 2 other facilities have been built in Uttar Pradesh in Bareilly and Prayagraj, and the 4th facility built in Bangalore is likely to be completed sometime in September this year.

After the commissioning of the 5th Nano Urea plant in Jharkhand by December 2024, the output of this product will reach 30 crore bottles, he said. "By December 2024, IFFCO will produce 30 crore bottles of Nano Urea,

which is equivalent to 135 lakh tonnes of urea. This will facilitate the replacement of all the imports of urea fertilizer and lead to huge foreign exchange savings," he said.

On February 4, Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah laid the foundation stone for a ₹450 crore Nano Urea plant on 30 acres, along with a township of IFFCO, in Jharkhand's Deoghar.

A 500 ml bottle of Nano Urea (liquid) can effectively replace a 45 kg bag of urea, and it is 16% cheaper. It is also totally environment-friendly, with zero nitrogen oxide emissions.

Nano Urea is expected to reduce the "imbalanced and excessive use" of conventional fertilizer, while also increasing crop productivity, soil health, and increasing the nutritional quality of crops. The spray of Nano Urea particles on leaves results in higher yield and hence, the soil does not get contaminated. ♦♦♦

# The Rise of IFFCO in the cooperative world

It is the biography of US Awasthi, which weaves a rich tapestry of his memoirs to give an account of the cooperative society he nourished and took to the very pinnacle.

**Rohit Kumar**

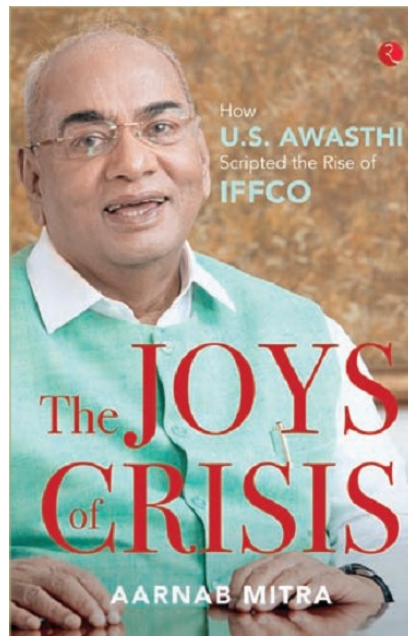
**D**r. Uday Shankar Awasthi, Managing Director and CEO of the Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), is one of the top leaders who gave a positive direction to the cooperative movement in India.

IFFCO is a multi-state cooperative society engaged in the business of manufacturing and marketing fertilizers on a large scale. The bold and far-reaching aspirations and accomplishments of Dr Awasthi, who garnered farmers' trust across India and took IFFCO to new heights of success, have been compiled in two books -- in Hindi and English languages, by two separate authors.

The books, "*Sangharsh Ka Sukh*" and "*The Joys of Crisis*", depict IFFCO's progress along with the life journey of Dr. Awasthi. "*Sangharsh Ka Sukh*" by Abhishek Saurabh is in Hindi and is published by Rajkamal Prakashan Group. Well-known biographer Aarnab Mitra has written "*The Joys of Crisis: How U.S. Awasthi Scripted the Rise of IFFCO*" in English, which is published by Rupa Prakashan Pvt Ltd. Both these books were released recently at IFFCO's 52nd Annual General Meeting held in Delhi on May 30.

Speaking at the book launch, Dilip Sanghani, present Chairman of IFFCO, said: "This book truly traces the life journey of a visionary who has taken IFFCO to the top of the world. It also delineates IFFCO's success story during

the last 30 years. This book is not only important for IFFCO members, but it is even more significant for those who want to stand out from the ordinary and make a mark for themselves."



Both these books contain authentic narrations of the highs and lows, challenges and achievements, in the personal and professional life of Dr. Awasthi, while leading IFFCO, the world's largest cooperative society in the fertilizer sector, for the last three decades. It is this consistency and solidity that has helped him ensure IFFCO's rapid growth and diversification.

Under his leadership, IFFCO carved a new identity as the world's leading cooperative. This cooperative has empowered and enriched Indian farmers

by setting up state-of-the-art fertilizer plants across India and even outside the country. Dr. Awasthi, popularly known as the "ultimate well-wisher of farmers in India and the world", has made meaningful interventions in the fields of sustainable agriculture and environmental protection through activities like soil conservation campaigns, neem plantations, and organic farming. Under him, IFFCO invented revolutionary fertilizers like Nano Urea and Nano DAP.

Dr. Awasthi developed self-reliance among farmers, rural women and youth across the country through associate organizations such as Indian Farm Forestry Development Cooperative Limited (IFFDC), Cooperative Rural Development Trust (CORDET), Kisan Sanchar and IFFCO 'Yuva'.

He has been setting new records of success and is making special contributions to promote the economic and social development of the rural areas of the country through his pro-farmer IFFCO initiatives. Dr. Awasthi's unwavering loyalty towards the Indian farmers and his will and ability to develop new and innovative products in the country's interest has enabled IFFCO to fulfil Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's dream of "*Atmanirbhar Bharat*".

Dr Awasthi is the true architect of IFFCO's success in realizing the Prime Minister's avowed mission of "*Sahakar Se Samridhi*". ♦♦♦

# Gujrat Woman Shifts to Pea Farming, Profits by ₹15,000

Sahkar Uday Team

**M**ost residents of the agricultural district of Sabarkantha in Gujarat are small and marginal farmers engaged in cotton and wheat cultivation.

With a GDP per capita of just ₹1.45 lakh, it is one of India's most backward districts, according to the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

Gitaben Harshbhai, a resident of Bambodi village in Sabarkantha, however, decided to take a calculated risk and drop traditional cotton farming for peas. She is now making a profit of ₹40,000 to ₹45,000 per crop cycle, almost ₹15,000 more than what she was making through cotton. She has thus become an inspiration for farmers in her village. In conversation with Shri NS Patel (then SMM, IFFCO, Gujarat), Gitaben said Gujarat is not among the major producers of pea and 2 years prior to shifting to pea farming, Gitaben too was involved in cotton farming.

However, she felt that she was not getting the best out of her 1 bigha (0.3 acre) plot. Cotton might be a commercial crop but it is very labour-intensive, and her 5-member family couldn't keep up with the needs of the crop and were dependent on expensive hired labor. Cotton crops are also prone to diseases and dependent on chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Due to all these issues, she could make a profit of only ₹25,000 from its cultivation.

Gitaben then decided to shift to pea cultivation. She went to the market to procure seeds and was surprised to know



- Gitaben takes a calculated risk and drops traditional cotton farming for peas.
- Now making a profit of ₹40,000 - ₹45,000 per crop cycle.

that the cost of pea seeds is considerably less than cotton seeds. Also, the maturity taken by pea crops is much less than that of cotton and can be harvested multiple times in a year. Although the labour necessary to raise pea crops is also very high, it is not more than that of the cotton crop, as the pea crop requires only 15 days of intensive labour.

As for fertilizers, Gitaben used Farm Yard Manure (FYM), which, being easily available everywhere including her own household, didn't add to her costs. Pea is also prone to pests and requires pesticides, but Gitaben needed to spray it only twice in the life cycle of one crop. Hence, shifting to pea cultivation immediately brought down fertilizer and pesticide costs and saved her a lot of money.

Gitaben was able to get a high crop harvest of around 300 kg for three crop

cycles. After keeping some of the produce for her own household, she took the rest to the nearest market in Vadali, a neighboring taluka in Sabarkantha district. Here, she was able to get ₹31 per kg in the first cycle, ₹20 per kg in the second, and ₹18 per kg in the third cycle. On being asked whether the profitability declined due to less amount per kg each time, she replied she was still able to make good profits.

Today, Gitaben's success has inspired farmers in her village, as well as those in the surrounding areas, who are slowly following in her footsteps. Her story can serve as an example to women farmers across India, who now know that taking calculated agricultural risks may lead to good profits too. Gitaben took a small step but even such a small step in unchartered territory is a big achievement. ♦♦♦

Initiative

IFFCO

पूर्णा: सहकारी स्वामित्व  
Wholly owned by Cooperatives

A land mark initiative of cooperative department in Uttarakhand

# The cooperative will produce crops on barren land

## Sahkar Uday Team

In Uttarakhand, through cooperative farming, the barren land will be productive for crops. Through this initiative, cooperative Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) will take the land to the surrounding barrens on lease for 30 years. The collective farming will be done on these barren lands. A collective efforts will be made to implement this scheme with the help of Cooperative Department, Agriculture Department and Horticulture Department. Cooperative farming has got successful results in Mogi village of Jaunpur block of Tehri state. It will now be started in the entire Uttarakhand state.

Government will bring back the splendor of the mountains through cooperative farming. Cooperative Secretary BRC Purushottam said that it has been seen that the problem of migration is being opposed in Uttarakhand. Youth are leaving the fertile land and going to the city in search of livelihood. So, the responsibility of farming has come on the elders or women. This is the reason why barren mountains are seen instead of greenery in most of the places,

because consolidation is not possible in Uttarakhand. Therefore, after the initiative of the Ministry of Cooperatives, cooperative farming will be started here. For such initiative, the government will provide land lease assistance to the farmers for 30 years.

The advantage of this will be that the farmers will not have the fear of their land being encroached upon and secondly, they will continue to get the benefits of the crops grown on their fields even while sitting far away. Ministry of Cooperation through the PACS Committee started this pilot project from Mogi village of Tehri. After the completion of this pilot project, it will now be implemented in the entire state. A project proposal has been invited for it from a village in 13 blocks. In the first phase such villages of each block will be identified where barren land is more.

The PACS Committee of the Ministry of Cooperatives will take on lease about 1000 barren land lying in the village for the next 30 years and collective farming will be done on it. It may be known that earlier the plan of consolidation in Uttarakhand could not be successful. So, now through

cooperative farming all those problems which used to come to the fore at the time of consolidation will be removed. Farming will be started by the people left in the village at present. If there is a shortage of people, PACS will also outsource labour for this.

In the last 22 years, 1.49 lakh hectares of land became barren in Uttarakhand.

At the time of the formation of the state in the year 2000-01, the area of cultivable land in Uttarakhand was 7.70 lakh hectares. In the last 22 years, there has been a decrease of 1.49 lakh hectares in the cultivable land. The area of barren land has increased in the last 22 years. There are many important reasons for this decline in the agricultural sector. Population migration, educational institutions, growth of industries, construction of roads and rapid development work have been considered important factors behind this. To increase the agricultural area, this effort of PACS in collaboration with the Ministry of Cooperation will once again promote cultivation in fallow land in a systematic manner, which is likely to yield successful results. ♦♦♦

## Guest Column



Veer Pratap Singh

# Cooperatives as Catalyst for Transformation of Villages

**T**he roots of cooperatives are getting stronger in every village of the country and the lives of farmers, labourers and workers are improving drastically.

These changes are not only helping villages to develop but also bringing prosperity to the lives of farmers and other villagers collectively.

The condition of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) in states such as Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and Chhattisgarh was far from satisfactory.

With the efforts of the central government to change village economies, there is a new awareness and enthusiasm among farmers and their roles are changing in a rapidly developing India.

The small, marginalized farmer who is the food provider of the country, is now also contributing to India's development by becoming the architect of Shri Narendra Modi's "Sahakar Se Samridhi".

The cooperative sector can prove to be a boon for the livelihood of the rural

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poor, landless and unemployed.

The central government is serious about the backward states in the cooperative movement and has formed a separate ministry that will help in reviving this sector. It has also taken several important decisions to revive and activate PACS in villages and their implementation is in active progress.

Cooperative societies have become an important part of farmers' lives in India. Through cooperatives, farmers not only get the means of farming – seeds, fertilizers, equipment, technical assistance and guidance – but also increase the quantity and quality of their produce by knowing the methods of advanced agriculture.

At the initiative of the Union Ministry of Cooperation, cooperative societies are moving fast in the direction of storage and marketing of crops.

By connecting crores of farmers at the district, state and national levels with cooperative societies at the village level, the cooperatives are greatly facilitating the work of farmers. A single small farmer found it difficult to make a living from agriculture due to the lack of resources. Now, by joining these cooperative societies, farmers support each other and make a living through their agricultural activities, including livestock breeding and fisheries.

The central government has taken several positive steps for the empowerment of the cooperative sector. The central government is setting

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up a National Cooperative University to increase public awareness in the field of cooperatives and to provide skilled and trained manpower to the cooperative sector.

In addition, the central government has decided to form three new National Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS). The central government is also giving FPO status to PACS. India has a cooperative heritage that was being ignored for some reason, but the Modi government has given it a new lease of life. ◆◆◆

**President, Bhartiya Kisan Vikas Multipurpose Cooperative Society, Lucknow**



A soil testing program was organized in Wazirganj, in which about 52 farmers participated. Farmers were given detailed information about the importance and methods of soil testing.



IFFCO organized a cooperative training program in Narela in which all cooperative societies and retail dealers of Delhi participated. It gave information about its Nano DAP and Nano Urea in the program.



The Gujarat government launched the Emergency Response Vehicle (Rakshak) given to Amreli Municipal Council. Discussions were held about the emergency services of "Rakshak" at the launch.



Certificates were distributed to 25 participants (Chairman/Directors of UCBs and Credit Societies) who attended LDP at NIRB (National Institute of Rural Banking), Bengaluru.



Monrudi Somart, Advisor to the Ministry of Education and Agriculture, Government of Thailand visited the NCUI Incubation Center and appreciated its holistic and inclusive approach to training in order to empower women in need.



NABARD and Gujarat State Cooperative Union organized a training program on the use of computers for service cooperatives of the Amreli district.

# Success Through Cooperatives

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