

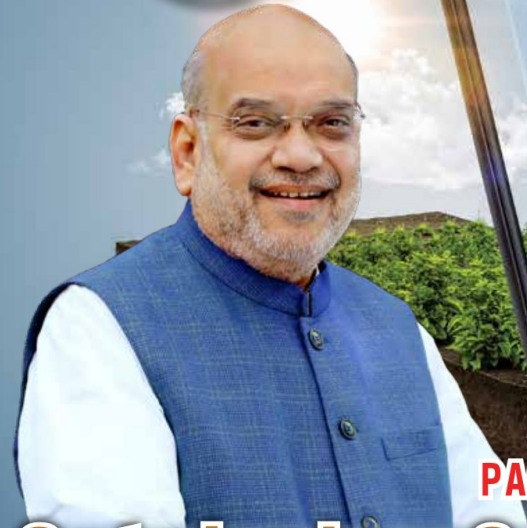
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Sahkar Uday



PACS COMPUTERIZATION

Catalyzing Cooperative Movement in India

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For any suggestion or responses please contact at :

sahkaruday@iffco.in

Joint General Manager
(Cooperative Development)

IFFCO Sadan, C-1, District Centre,
Saket Place, New Delhi 110017

You can also reach us at:



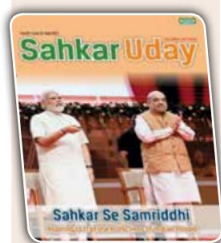
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**PACS COMPUTERIZATION
Catalyzing Cooperative
Movement in India**

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Page No **05**



Page No **09**

**Uttarakhand First to Complete
MPACS Computerization**

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Page No **13**



**Nano Fertilizer will Make
India Self-Reliant soon**

Page No **27**

**Ministry Finalizing
Sahara Investor's
Money Details**

Page No **30**

**India's Impactful and Eco-
friendly Alternative to
Stubble Burning**

Page No **10**

**Mudra Yojna's
Resounding Success
with 'Didi Cafes'**

Any nation cannot develop unless it's women are empowered and self reliant. With Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighting this by referring to the 'Didi Café' at National Panchayati Raj Day celebrations, many states aligned themselves to fulfil this goal.

Page No **15**

**India to Become Global
Destination for Dairy**

Page No **18**

**Nano Urea Increased Crop
Yield by 14.5%**



Page No **24**



**India's Agricultural Boost
IFFCO Bio-Decomposer Doubles
Sugarcane Farmer's Income**

From the Editor's Desk

The first edition of Sahkar Uday has elicited immense support and encouragement from our readers. We have been humbled and inspired to share more impactful stories, significant developments and other related happenings and we now present the second edition of Sahkar Uday.

The cooperative movement, with its supreme principle of 'All for one and one for all', has garnered immense success in India and reached several milestones across the country in diverse sectors such as -- dairy, fertilizer and other agricultural sectors.

Cooperative societies have played a major role in catalyzing a 'White Revolution' in our country and many of these are brands within their own right. Cooperatives not only generate 40 percent of India's total sugar produce but they also have a critical contribution in taking banking and finance to the rural areas.

Recently, Honourable Union Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation Shri Amit Shah inaugurated the world's first Nano DAP (Liquid) manufactured by IFFCO. During his address, Mr. Shah hailed IFFCO's successful effort and lauded it for setting a benchmark for national cooperatives to venture into research and other new areas.

The production of Nano fertilizer by India's cooperative sector signals the new heights scaled by India's cooperative movement. One of the seven important principles of cooperation is to embody the spirit of 'Education, Training and Information'. It is the aim of 'Sahkar Uday' that accurate, meaningful and truthful information can reach each and every member of the cooperative sector in the most effective way.

In this issue, we bring detailed information about Computerization of PACS, the world's first Nano fertilizer, the role of the cooperative sector in reducing the effects of climate change and other important topics. As always, we look forward to your feedback and suggestions.

Thanks and regards.



A new revolution is also taking place in the cooperative sector of India. Tax related reliefs have been given to the cooperative sector in this budget New cooperative societies engaged in manufacturing will get the benefit of lower tax rate.

PM Narendra Modi

Cooperative societies of the country like IFFCO have kept alive the spirit of cooperative along with professionalism, research and marketing in all spheres.

Amit Shah
Union Minister for Home and Cooperation



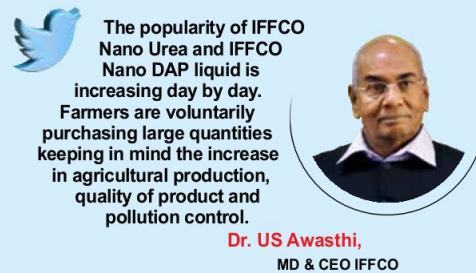
Stepping from co-operation to prosperity' #IFFCO registers record growth. National Cooperative Society @IFFCO profit increased by 62 percent to a record Rs 3,053 crore in the financial year 2022-23.

BL Verma
Central Cooperative Minister of State, Government of India



It is a pleasure to inform that IFFCO has performed brilliantly in the financial year 22-23. IFFCO is fulfilling the dream of prosperity with good production and excellent sales cooperation.

Dilip Sanghani
Chairman, IFFCO



The popularity of IFFCO Nano Urea and IFFCO Nano DAP liquid is increasing day by day. Farmers are voluntarily purchasing large quantities keeping in mind the increase in agricultural production, quality of product and pollution control.

Dr. US Awasthi,
MD & CEO IFFCO



Statistics are necessary to assess the contribution of cooperatives in the progress of the economy. The National Cooperative Database will provide a single point access to authentic information and updates on 8.5 lakh cooperative societies across the country.

Ministry of Cooperation



PACS COMPUTERIZATION:

Catalyzing Cooperative Movement in India

Sahkar Uday Team

Union Minister for Cooperation and Home Affairs Shri Amit Shah has aligned the cooperative movement in tandem with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of transforming rural India through 'Sahkar Se Samridhhi'. Under this ambitious campaign, the Government has taken steps toward strengthening the Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), which are also considered the foundation of cooperatives. PACS play a crucial role in connecting everyone with cooperatives and ensuring several benefits for the common man.

- With online PACS, there will be greater transparency and growth
- Instant benefits will unfold
- 58,000 PACS of different states to get computerised

Therefore, the modernization of PACS has been initiated via computerization to ensure smoother infrastructural facilities. This move has been welcomed by the states whose proposals have been received by the Ministry of cooperation for the computerization of more than 58,000 PACS.

According to a NABARD survey report, currently 63,000 PACS are active out of a total of one lakh. In this context,



Attention to State Bylaws in software

To make this whole process go smoother and easier, NABARD is creating nationwide software in multiple languages for everyone's convenience. Cooperative is a state subject in the constitution. NABARD's software has been mindful of the state bylaws to ensure that PACS can work in accordance to the state rules.

the Union Ministry of Cooperatives, presented a detailed proposal for PACS computerization to the Union Cabinet which got approved. On 29 June 2022, the cabinet approved ₹2,516 crore for this project, which will be taken up on a national level.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Cooperation is also constantly encouraging the states to activate the dormant PACS. Out of these ₹2,516 crore approved by the Cabinet, Central Government will bear 60 percent (₹1,528 crore), while 30 percent (₹736 crore) will be borne by states and union territories. NABARD will bear the remaining 10 percent (₹ 252 crore).

Shri Shah sought detailed proposals from states and union territories for the computerization of active PACS

to meet the deadline. This offer was immediately taken up by the states and in just a few months, more than 58,000 PACS applied for this scheme which were approved by the ministry and it also disbursed funds for facilitating PACS computerization. Official data indicates that ₹417 crore have been released so far and PACS computerization is underway. Desktop computers and other necessary equipment will be purchased with these funds.

Shri Amit Shah has prepared a strategy to directly link PACS with District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) and State Cooperative Banks. Computerization of PACS is on a war footing and a part of the first phase, with Shri Shah himself closely monitoring it. After PACS get

computerised and connected to the internet, all its operations will become online and PACS documents can get digitalised too.

PACS at a glance

- Proposals received from States for computerisation of 58 thousand PACS
- Cooperative movement to gain momentum
- Role of village panchayats to increase for socio-economic ecosystem
- Out of 2.52 lakh gram panchayats, only 95,000 have PACS.
- Out of 764 districts, only 352 have District Central Cooperative Banks.
- Out of 36 states, only 34 have State Cooperative Banks.
- 100-year-old PACS are also there, as well as PACS lending thousands of crores.



PACS computerisation will completely transform the image of cooperatives and greatly benefit our farmers, as most members are from the farming community. The biggest strength of cooperation is trust and assistance. Everyone's help is necessary to strengthen our cooperatives. This is the only guarantee of India's success in its 'Amrit Kaal' (the 75th anniversary of India's independence). This Amrit Kaal, we are working towards strengthening all those who were considered nonentities and underestimated. Small farmers are being empowered in every way today.

**-Prime Minister
Mr. Narendra Modi**



With PACS going online, an integration will be done with NABARD's software to facilitate multiple services. That will expand

its business scope and transform the lives of those associated with this.

Under the direction of Cooperation Minister, NABARD is working as a nodal agency for the implementation of this project. In the second phase, all PACS will get directly linked to District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) and State Cooperative Banks and also get digital access to NABARD. All financial transactions of PACS will be undertaken under the direct supervision of the Reserve Bank of India. With this, members of cooperative societies will begin getting direct benefits and all cooperative units will be interconnected. The Ministry of Cooperation has set June 2023 target to get NABARD's single software operational.

BIRD will provide training and support to PACS

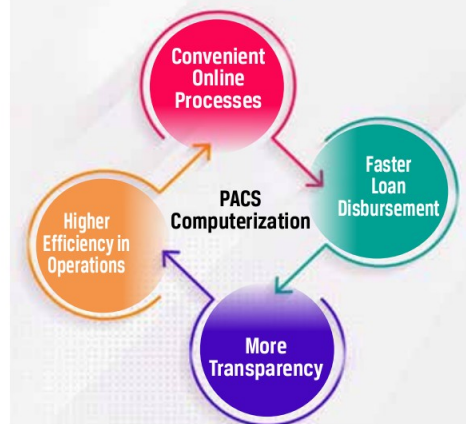
Besides computerization, all PACS documents will be digitalised soon. NABARD will play a crucial role in training the cooperative society members to use this software. NABARD's Bankers Institute of Rural Development (BIRD), Lucknow, will provide training and support for the next two years after computerization. For every cluster of 20 PACS, a trained

What will PACS get from computerization?

- ♦ Desktop computer
- ♦ Multi-Functional Printers
- ♦ Three hours power backup facility
- ♦ Biometric scanner
- ♦ All other related equipments

young professional will be assigned to coach them about the entire process. Similarly, for 200 PACS a dedicated team will be appointed for two years which will solve all types of PACS queries. In fact, NABARD is the Central Implementing Agency which is setting up Project Management Units (PMUs) in the Centre and States. These PMUs will help in completing the entire computerization process.





Many forms of PACS

India conceived the Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)—the first step of cooperative movement—many years ago. Formed by connecting tribal areas to remote villages of Assam and Chhattisgarh, PACS is known as Long Area Multipurpose Societies (LAMPS), whereas in some states such as Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, cooperatives are called Farmers Service Society (FSS). There are also hundred-year-old PACS in the country. Such societies were formed for short-term work at the local level where in societies members could easily get loans for such requirements as farming, marriage, children's education and other such needs.

Banking in the absence of banks

Despite not being a bank, PACS provides bank-like facilities to its members. In a cooperative society, members' savings are deposited to fulfil each other's needs, that is its capital, through which the needs of its members are met. However, all PACS are also members of District Central Cooperative Bank (DCCB) from where they take loans to meet their needs. DCCBs are licensed banks that are linked to State Cooperative Banks through Core Banking Solutions (CBS). State Governments are administrators of three-tier cooperative societies that are governed by states' cooperative laws, whereas NABARD refines and supports cooperative societies. Once computerized, PACS will get directly linked with their respective DCCBs and State Public Sector Banks.

Immense possibilities for cooperatives

At present DCCBs are established only in 352 districts of the country, while the number of districts has reached 764. In such a scenario, the Government believes that the cooperative movement process needs more streamlining in other districts, to ensure that every village and district

Details of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies Total During 2019-20*

Name of the States/Union Territories	PACS	No. of functional PACS
1- Andaman and Nicobar	58	0
2- Andhra Pradesh	2046	2046
3- Arunachal Pradesh	34	14
4- Assam	775	775
5- Bihar	8463	3779
6- Chandigarh	17	0
7- Chattisgarh	2028	2028
8- Delhi	0	0
9- Goa	78	44
10- Gujrat	8823	6016
11- Haryana	769	646
12- Himachal Pradesh	2175	810
13- Jammu and Kashmir	620	0
14- Jharkhand	1782	1782
15- Karnataka	5481	5168
16- Kerala	1643	1299
17- Madhya Pradesh	4536	4536
18- Maharashtra	20,788	20,788
19- Manipur	261	232
20- Meghalaya	179	128
21- Mizoram	153	30
22- Nagaland	1719	150
23- Orissa	2701	1239
24- Pondicherry	53	0
25- Punjab	3922	3367
26- Rajasthan	6569	4050
27- Sikkim	178	178
28- Tamilnadu	4525	007
29- Telangana	799	727
30- Tripura	268	268
31- Uttar Pradesh	8929	2330
32- Uttrakhand	706	8
33- West Bengal	7405	4178
All India Total	95509	67251

benefits from the cooperatives.

There are 2.52 lakh gram panchayats in the country, while only one lakh PACS exist. The Government wants to bridge this gap on a priority basis. ♦♦♦

Uttarakhand First to Complete MPACS Computerization

Cooperative Jan Aushadhi and Jan Suvidha Kendras also computerized

Sahkar Uday Team

Uttarakhand has become the first state in India to complete the process of computerization of all 670 of its Multipurpose PACS (MPACS). This is a part of the national PACS computerization campaign of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) launched by the Union Ministry of Cooperation and flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2021. On 30 October 2021, for the first time in India, the process of PACS computerization started in Uttarakhand, and now all 670 PACS and 307 district cooperative banks in the state, including many public facilities, have been computerized.

This will increase transparency in the system and also facilitate online audits which will in turn improve its financial operations. Uttarakhand has also become the first state to start 95 Jan Aushadhi Kendras and Jan Suvidha Kendras under cooperative societies. About 50 to 90 percent cheaper medicines will be available to the people through cooperative Jan Aushadhi Kendras. With the help of 95 Jan Suvidha Kendras, more than 300 Central and State Government schemes will be directly delivered to the villages. Along with this, the model of integrated cooperative



collective farming has also been launched in 95 development blocks of Uttarakhand.

With the formation of the Ministry of Cooperatives, the computerization process of all 63,000 PACS operating in the country had been kicked off. The Government is now creating a National Cooperative Database, a new National Cooperative Policy, and also setting up a National Cooperative University as part of its various initiatives for the cooperative sector. Along with this, multi-state cooperative societies have also been formed for the marketing of seeds, organic farming, and export of agricultural produce.

Nal Se Jal Scheme handed over to PACS in the state:

The Nal Se Jal Scheme will also be handed over to PACS in the future to ensure multi-functionality of the PACS. This was announced by Union Minister Shri Amit Shah, while

inaugurating the computerization of multipurpose PACS (MPACS), Joint Cooperative Farming, Jan Suvidha Kendras and Jan Aushadhi Kendras in Haridwar, Uttarakhand. Several dignitaries including Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama were also present on the occasion.

By forming the Ministry of Cooperatives, Prime Minister Modi has connected many marginal farmers with small landholdings and many types of businesses. Now with PACS becoming a multipurpose organisation, PM Modi has taken a strong step to increase the income of farmers through cooperatives. All the initiatives taken in the field of cooperatives have been implemented at the grassroots level by the Pushkar Singh Dhama-led Uttarakhand government and it has benefited the small farmers of Devbhoomi as well. ♦♦♦



Mudra Yojna's Resounding Success with 'Didi Cafes'

Sahkar Uday Team

Any nation cannot develop unless its women are empowered and self-reliant. With Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighting this by referring to the 'Didi Café' at National Panchayati Raj Day celebrations, many states aligned themselves to fulfil this goal.

"Didi Cafe is a good example of women self-help groups and entrepreneurship," said the PM as he inaugurated various projects at the National Panchayati Raj Day function in Rewa, Madhya Pradesh. Under the PM's leadership, schemes such as Har Ghar Jal, PM Swamitva, Mudra Yojana,

Panchayati Raj, women self-help groups (SHGs) and women entrepreneurship have taken off in a big way.

Women from Madhya Pradesh have successfully formed SHGs, with the help of Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) and currently 50 lakh women from Madhya Pradesh and nine crore women across the country

have been connected via this scheme. The Government is granting loans up to ₹20 lakh to each SHG without any bank guarantee so that they can easily begin functioning. Through this scheme, Didi Cafés have also opened up all over the state and women have started several small-scale industries there. They are getting elected to Panchayats



and asserting themselves there too, with about 17,000 women, associated with SHGs, having been elected as Panchayat representatives.

Along with urban women, rural women are getting self-reliant as well. With the Government granting loans to SHGs without any bank guarantee, women are on the road to progress. In fact, the Didi Cafes of Madhya Pradesh are proving to be a huge success and have made a special place in people's hearts and are being set up in every district with more and more women associating with them.

Two Government portals-- 'eGramSwaraaj' and 'Government e-Marketplace' (GeM) are easing the functioning of Panchayats. While speaking at the National Panchayati Raj

celebration in Madhya Pradesh, Prime Minister pointed out that before 2014, the Finance Commission had granted only ₹70,000 crore to Panchayats, which was insufficient. But after 2014, this grant has been increased to more than ₹2 lakh crore. Modiji's Government has constructed more than 30,000 panchayat buildings in the last 8 years and optical fiber connectivity has been provided to more than two lakh gram panchayats.

PM SVAMITVA Yojana is using drone technology to ensure non-discrimination in mapping the lands and issuing property cards to the people. Property cards have already been issued in 75 thousand villages in the country. PM Har Ghar Jal Yojana too has been highly successful with 60 lakh houses in

Madhya Pradesh being able to access tap water as compared to only 13 lakh before. The State government is also prioritizing benefits for farmers, as well. Under PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi, it has transferred about ₹2.5 lakh crore directly to farmers' bank accounts. Around 90 lakh farmers of Madhya Pradesh alone have received ₹18,500 crore as part of this scheme. The farmers of Rewa have received about ₹500 crore from this fund.

The Inclusive Development scheme launched in Madhya Pradesh will too prove to be a strong initiative to achieve a developed India. With the declaration of 'Sahakar Se Samridhhi', the Central Government, through cooperative societies, is committed to all-round development of all the states. ♦♦♦

Sahkar Uday Team

An emphasis on the Infrastructural development in the Union Territories (UTs) is a major step by the Central Government to boost cooperative federalism. Daman, Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli in the western coastal region have high tribal populations, and being coastal areas, their main source of livelihood is the sea. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is the first PM to give top priority to the needs of the marginalised people residing here and dedicated projects worth ₹4,850 crore.

Several housing, health and education projects have been completed here to address the basic needs of the tribal population.

After inaugurating the new Medical College and Medical Research Institute built here, Shri Modi said, "Even after so many years of independence, Daman,

Role model of central & state cooperation



PM Unveils Projects worth ₹4,850 Crore in Silvassa

Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli did not have a single good hospital or medical college. Their youth have to go to other states to become doctors as they didn't get these

opportunities here."

PM Modi also laid the foundation stone and inaugurated several development projects worth more than ₹4,850 crore in



Silvassa, Dadra and Nagar Haveli. Among these, 96 projects like NAMO Medical Education and Research Institute in Silvassa, government schools, government engineering college in Daman; beautification, strengthening and widening of various roads, fish market and shopping complex, and augmentation of water supply scheme are prominent.

He also handed over the house keys to Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) Urban beneficiaries in Diu and Silvassa. The PM also inspected the college campus model and visited Anatomy Museum and Dissection Room in Academic Block.

Daman, Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli got their first National Academic Medical Organization (NAMO) Medical College owing to the service-oriented approach and dedication of the Modi government. The Prime Minister said that in the last few years, Union Government has allocated ₹5500 crore to the UTs. Much work has also been done on the physical and social infrastructure of these territories. He also mentioned LED-lit roads, door-to-door garbage collection and 100 percent waste processing.

PM Modi also praised the new Industrial Policy of the state as a means to increase industry and employment in the UT. He said, "I have got the opportunity to start new projects worth ₹5000 crore. These projects are related to health, housing, tourism, education and urban development and will improve the ease of living, tourism, transportation and business." The Prime Minister lamented that the long-term government developmental projects were either stuck earlier, abandoned or went astray—so much so that the foundation stone itself turned into rubble and projects remained incomplete. But in the last nine years, a new working style has evolved with more emphasis on timely completion of projects.

PM Modi said that approximately 150 youth from the region will get a chance to study medicine annually and in the near future around 1,000 medical students will become doctors in this region. He also referred to a news report of a girl studying medicine in her first year who said she was the first one to do so, not only in her family but the entire village.

The Prime Minister said that

a spirit of service is the way of life here and recalled that during the pandemic, the local medical students proactively helped the people. He told that in 'Mann Ki Baat', he had mentioned the Village Adoption Program run by local students here. He added that the medical college will reduce the pressure on local medical facilities and that a new hospital with 300 beds is under construction and permission has been granted for a new Ayurvedic hospital as well. With the inauguration of engineering college along with medical, 300 students will get an opportunity to study engineering every year. PM Modi also mentioned the NIFT satellite campus in Daman, Gujarat National Law University campus in Silvassa and IIIT Vadodara campus in Diu. The Prime Minister said that the Government has provided pucca houses to more than 3 crore poor families in the country in the past years, where more than 15,000 houses were built and handed over by the Government itself. He said that more than 1200 families have got their own houses and women are given an equal share in the houses under the PM Awas Yojana. ♦♦♦



Nano Fertilizer will Make India Self-Reliant soon

The increase in the production of urea in domestic factories and inventions like Nano urea has reduced the import of urea.

Sahkar Uday Team

India is moving towards self-sufficiency in the field of fertilisers. This new development is the result of the leadership and vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, who has ensured IFFCO Nano Urea and DAP (Di Ammonium Phosphate) reaches farmers in every part of the country. While speaking at the launch of Nano DAP, Union Minister for Cooperation and Home Affairs Shri Amit Shah emphasised that this step will bring a radical change in India's agriculture sector. Besides

benefiting farmers, India will also be able to manufacture its own fertilizer.

Those who were present at the conference included Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation Shri Gyanesh Kumar, IFFCO Chairman Shri Dileep Sanghani and Managing Director Dr. Uday Shankar Awasthi and many other dignitaries.

While appreciating IFFCO's role in bringing Nano fertilizers and scientific research straight to the farmers through 'lab to land', Shri Shah lauded IFFCO for its 'extraordinary work'. He added that

the increased urea production in domestic factories, and inventions like Nano urea have reduced urea's import. The year 2021-22 has seen a decrease of as much as seven lakh tonnes in urea import. Shri Shah said that IFFCO's success will prove to be a huge inspiration for other national cooperatives to venture into new areas of research and development.

Nano Urea entered the market in August 2021 and by March 2023, 6.3 crore bottles of Nano Urea have been produced. The Minister assured the farmers that instead



of granular urea and DAP, liquid Nano urea and DAP will be much more effective. IFFCO has set up manufacturing units at Kalol, Kandla in Gujarat and Paradip in Odisha for its production with the Kalol plant already starting production. Five crore bottles of Nano DAP are to be produced in the current year which would be equivalent to 25 lakh tonnes of granular DAP. It is expected that by 2025-26, India will be producing 18 thousand crore bottles of Nano DAP from all three DAP plants of IFFCO.

He also repeated the basic mantra of cooperatives being 'Mass Production by Masses', while addressing the delegates at the conference and the cooperative societies have kept alive the spirit of cooperation by adhering to this mantra. Of a total of 384 lakh tonnes of fertilizers in the country, he said, cooperatives have produced 132 lakh tonnes, with IFFCO alone producing 90



lakh tonnes of fertilizer. Shri Amit Shah said, "Cooperatives such as

IFFCO and KRIBHCO have made huge contributions to India's self-reliance." Hailing Nano fertilizer as a revolutionary product, Shri Shah said that since liquid DAP is sprayed only on the plant, it will help in increasing the quality and quantity of production, and also in conserving land and improving soil quality. Thus, it will help in ending the threat of chemical fertilizers seeping into the soil and affecting the health of crores of people.

Shri Shah said that cooperative societies like IFFCO and KRIBHCO will make immense contributions to India's self-reliance in the fields of fertilizer, milk production and marketing. Along with its unparalleled professionalism, IFFCO has also set examples in the fields of research, capacity and capability. He said that the biggest example of IFFCO's success story is that today if IFFCO earns one rupee, 80 paise goes directly to the farmers after deducting income tax from it. ♦♦♦



India to Become Global Destination for Dairy

The dairy sector's role in rural development is very important and has been often highlighted by PM Narendra Modi.

Sahkar Uday Team

Appreciating the contribution of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) in the Indian milk industry, the Union Minister for Cooperatives, Government of India, Shri Amit Shah has suggested expanding the scope of dairy cooperatives. He stressed on the need to strengthen and expand dairy cooperative societies and establish them in every panchayat and village. He made these remarks during a review meeting on the formation of two lakh primary cooperative societies in the dairy sector.

The Minister emphasises that India's dairy cooperatives can make it a dairy of the world. The dairy sector's role in rural development, is very important and has been often highlighted by PM Narendra Modi. In fact, the animal husbandry and dairy sector is the biggest source of livelihood for landless village farmers. Considering this, Shri Amit Shah has made it a top priority and decided to form two lakh Primary Agricultural Credit Cooperative Societies (PACS) in the dairy sector. The responsibility of

implementing this decision has been entrusted to National Dairy Development Board (NDDB).

During the board meeting, Shri Shah was apprised of all the intricate details of the dairy pack making and he advised the development of a single brand for both Multi Commodity Cooperative Society as well as all products of the cooperative sector. This would give a big boost to the export of cooperative products, he said. It will also help in promoting organic products and obtaining better value for processed milk. Shri Shah asked NDDB to take the lead in increasing self-reliance in dairy machinery and also stressed the need to increase the export of indigenous dairy equipment by its subsidiary

company IDMC Ltd. The Minister said that in order to achieve these goals, NDDB subsidiaries will have to play a leading role. He appreciated NDDB's contribution to strengthening the dairy industry in neighbouring countries including Africa. He added that in order to make India 'dairy to the world', there is a need to increase the income of farmers associated with the milk industry as well as increase the export of milk and milk products. With all these efforts, Modiji's dream of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' can be realised.

NDDB Chairman briefed Shri Shah on the Farmers First vision, cooperative strategy, scientific dairy, animal husbandry policies adopted by the farmers, NDDB's contribution to strengthening dairy cooperatives and improving farmers' livelihood, along with its future plans. The Board of Directors including the Chairman then thanked the Cooperative Minister for his guidance and assured full cooperation for the development of dairy sector.

NDDB Chairman Shri Meenesh Shah, Secretary (Cooperation) Shri Gyanesh Kumar, Joint Secretary (Cooperation) Shri Pankaj Kumar Bansal and Board of Directors of NDDB, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India, Additional Secretary Shri Varsha Joshi, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Chairman Shamalbhai Balabhai Patel, Himachal State Cooperative Milk Producer Federation Limited Chairman Nihal Chand Sharma and Vice Chancellor of Kamdhenu University Dr NH Kelawala welcomed Union Minister Mr Shah. ♦♦♦





Cooperative Schools to Transform Education: B L Verma

Shri Verma added these state level cooperative schools would be equipped with modern facilities for a seamless education experience.

Sahkar Uday Team

Many states are witnessing the rise of cooperative schools to promote the concept of cooperatives in the country. Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region and Cooperation Shri B L Verma has lauded this proposal to build district-level cooperative schools in Jammu and Kashmir. Highlighting the need to establish cooperative schools in every district, Shri Verma said that these schools will be provided with laboratories, libraries, smart classrooms and the best of modern facilities.

He added that the country is experiencing a resurgence of the cooperative movement with the aim of addressing the problems of the

underprivileged sections of society and said that this has solidified under the able guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. As per plan, providing petrol pumps and gas agencies to various working societies is a top priority in rural areas and the Government will also provide the necessary aid via cooperatives to set up godowns for grain storage in villages. Cooperatives will also be launched in the education sector with a special emphasis on cooperative schools in each district to further boost education in India and ensure equality and accessibility.

Shri Verma added these state level cooperative schools would be equipped with modern facilities for a seamless education experience. Associating

women and youth with cooperatives will also continue to be a top priority, as always with the Government to ensure that all sections have equal participation.

He also talked about making arrangements for PACS registration at the Panchayat level and increasing the number of cooperatives in J&K to benefit the general public. The Minister of State emphasized making the public aware of the various schemes of the Cooperative Department to attract the youth.

Providing employment is yet another critical priority of the Central Government and many steps have been undertaken by the Government, in this direction. In this context, the Government has been organizing employment fairs at various levels and appointment letters are being distributed among the youth. The Government is also constantly engaged in strengthening the cooperative movement in the country by working towards setting up India's first National Cooperative University. The Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal is also proving very useful in its expansion, besides giving a platform to many cooperatives for selling their products. ◆◆◆

PACS to get Petrol Pump and LPG Dealership License

- Sugar cooperative mills to be given priority to sell ethanol under Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme.

-PACS will be allowed to operate retail outlets on their own.

Sahkar Uday Team

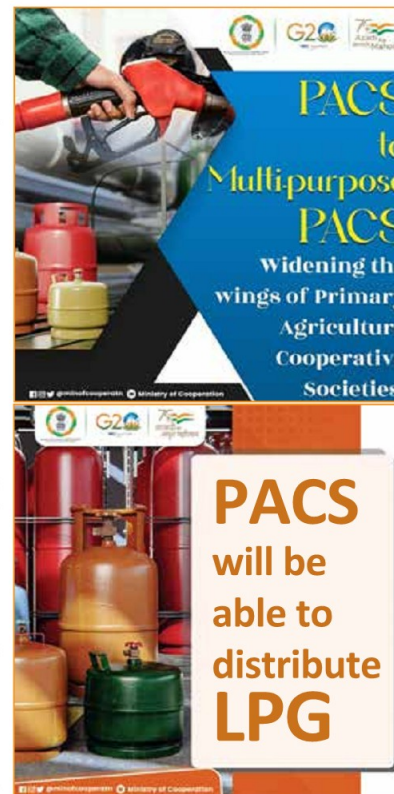
In order to strengthen cooperatives, the Government has decided that the existing Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) having petrol and diesel dealership license will now be given a one-time option to convert their bulk consumer pumps into retail outlets. This decision has been taken by the Government to strengthen India's cooperatives. PACS will be provided with the facility of procuring petrol pump and LPG dealership licenses. After this, all primary cooperative societies will be able to work as petrol pumps and LPG dealers.

This decision was taken in a meeting of Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah with Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri. Under this, PACS will also be given priority in the allotment of new dealerships for petrol and diesel. Apart from this, PACS will also be able to take LPG distributorship and the Central Government has already given its approval on this.

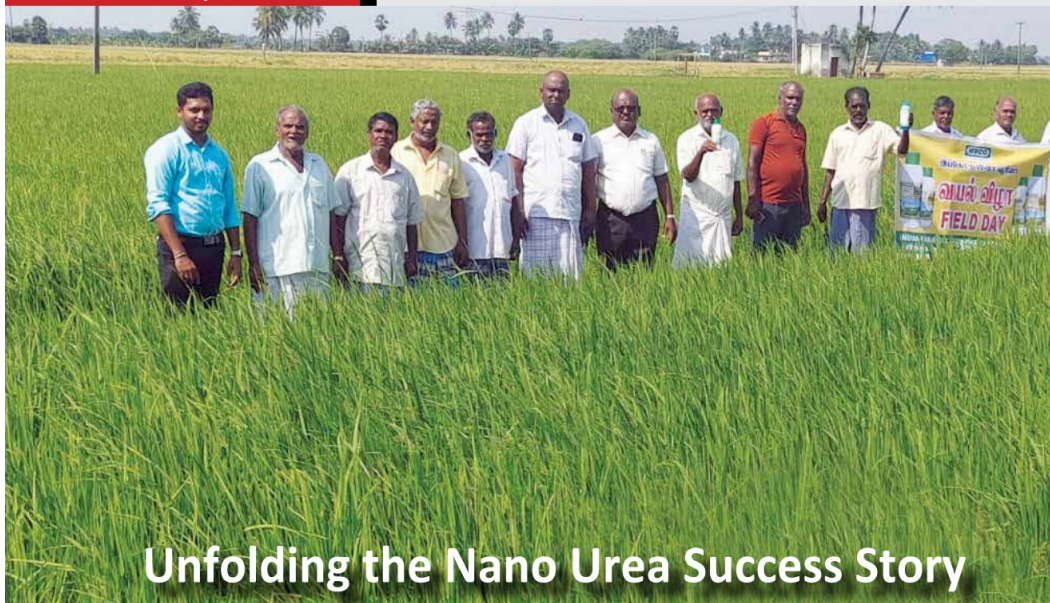
For this, Dilip Sanghani, President of the National Cooperative Union of India, had written a letter to Union Cooperative Minister Amit Shah requesting provisions to fix prices of the oil supplied to multipurpose cooperative societies' operated diesel

pumps at par with other commercial diesel pumps.

According to the Ministry of Cooperation, the Petroleum Ministry will also change rules to make PACS eligible for LPG distributorship. Under this, a model bylaw has been prepared through which one lakh PACS across the country will become the basis for rural economic development. This will help more than 13 crore farmers to increase their income through more than 25 different activities. Also, a centrally sponsored scheme for computerization of PACS is being implemented. Under this, PACS will be able to connect with NABARD through a common national software. A decision has also been taken to give priority to sugar cooperative mills in selling ethanol under the Ethanol Blending Programme. PACS will also be allowed to operate retail outlets on



their own. The Petroleum Ministry will ensure that cooperative sugar mills tie up with other private companies for ethanol purchase. ♦♦♦



Unfolding the Nano Urea Success Story

Nano Urea Increased Crop Yield by 14.5%

S. Paranjothi

S Manikandan, has created a record of sorts by making farming more profitable by spraying Nano urea (liquid) instead of using granular urea. This has not only reduced costs for Manikandan—who has been farming for two decades—but has also inspired others in his community to replicate his new idea. Manikandan resides in Ariyalur district of Tamil Nadu.

Recently, an awareness drive on Nano urea and its benefits

The application of Nano urea reduces the input cost and increases the profit by Rs 7360 per acre. For smart farming and combatting climate change, Nano urea is indeed a sustainable option and it also fulfils the nitrogen requirement of plants. The biggest benefit is that because the Nano urea particles are about 20-25 nanometers in size, their coverage area is 10,000 times more than granular urea.

was launched at Ulagalantha Chogam village, by the Cooperative Department of Ariyalur District in collaboration with Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO). Nano urea can provide regular plant nutrition with 90

percent compost utilization efficiency. Conventional urea, on the other hand, has only 30 percent efficiency and is a greener option which is easy to transport too.

This has motivated many farmers to use it in their fields.



Following this, Manikandan expressed his desire to use Nano urea in his one-acre land and in his remaining three acres of land, conventional urea with MOP. After a month, the IFFCO representative advised him to use 500ml Nano urea and 500 ml Sagarika. Sagarika liquid contains 18 percent potash. After a week of spraying Nano urea, the farmer again checked the field and saw huge growth and greenery. Manikandan then informed fellow farmers that for the next 20 days the field where he had sprayed Nano urea was looking much greener and had better growth than the area with conventional urea.

Manikandan used 500ml Nano urea and 500 ml Sagarika on the 30th day for one acre of field. After 45 days of the second

spray, the farmer repeated Nano urea and Sagarika's use. After the spraying Nano urea the second time, the farmer observed that the plants were developing good ears of grain during germination. He also noticed that that the crops used for Nano urea remained green for a longer time and this strengthened his confidence that he would definitely get a better yield.

He produced 36 bags of grain from one acre of paddy crop, each bag having a capacity of 65 kg. The total food grain production was 2,340 kg which was 130 kg more than the average production of 2,210 kg, showing a higher yield by 5.88%. 1,260 kg crop production was recorded in the field sprayed with Nano urea and 1,100 kg in the field where conventional urea was used. This showed an increase of 14.54 percent. Manikandan now advises fellow farmers to use Nano urea for better soil health and a secure future. This way they can also be able to save their forefathers' agricultural business.

The application of Nano urea reduces the input cost and

increases the profit by ₹7,360 per acre. For smart farming and combatting climate change, Nano urea is indeed a sustainable option and it also fulfils the nitrogen requirement of plants. The biggest benefit is that because the Nano urea particles are about 20-25 nanometers in size, their coverage area is 10,000 times more than granular urea. Hence, Nano urea is much more cost-effective than granular urea. It not only enhances farmers' income by increasing crop productivity, but also reduces input costs.

Nano urea has been manufactured to maintain the natural biodiversity and not have any negative impact unlike chemical fertilizers that kill earthworms, which are critical to make natural manure. Therefore not only is the quality of soil, air, and water conserved with usage of Nano urea, it also increases the quality of the produce and escalates profits for the farmers. It also has a positive impact on the quality of underground water and leads to sustainable development.

(Senior Field Representative
Tiruchi) ♦♦♦



IFFCO Initiates Community Mobilisation to Mitigate Impact Climate Action

IFFCO's Unique Climate Change Mitigation Initiative Ropes in Community Support

Sahkar Uday Team

In the backdrop of climate change and rapidly depleting natural resources, Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) has conceived a novel agro-social forestry initiative aimed at balancing ecosystems and wasteland development. This initiative has been unfolded in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan, with the support of cooperatives like Indian Agricultural Forestry Development Cooperative Limited (IFFDC) and the local communities.

Truant climatic changes, depleting forest cover, negative impact on flora and fauna coupled with burgeoning human population has put every country on the planet under stress. If this continues, then the future

generations will inherit nothing. Cooperatives like IFFDC are playing a crucial role in climate change awareness and reversing the subsequent damage on the local ecosystem through village-level cooperative societies.

This is not the first time IFFCO has worked to mitigate the harmful effects of climate change. It had launched a similar initiative — eco-restoration and wasteland development through agro-social forestry — in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan in the year 1986–1987. Following this, IFFDC also started activities such as watershed management, nutritional and economic security, livelihood, seed production, agri-supplies, CSR, and cross-cutting interventions, apart from agro-social forestry and climate change.

Social Forestry and Climate Change

The agroforestry program run by IFFDC mitigates the effects of climate change through the development of voluntary forestry on barren and marginal lands of farmers, village panchayats, and the Government. In this, concerned communities are organised into Primary Agro-Forestry Cooperative Societies (PFFCS). IFFDC also supports the farmers with necessary technical and financial help, capacity building, networking, marketing, and resource mobilisation inputs.

Promotion of Village-Level Forestry Cooperatives

IFFCO earmarked decades old barren lands for afforestation in Uttar

Results of IFFDC's Agro-Forestry Initiatives

- More than 29,400 hectares of barren land has now been converted into forests with 11.63 million trees.
- Forestry activities generated employment of about 5.15 million days for the rural community.
- It is estimated that 1.76 million tonnes of net carbon sequestration is occurring in these forests as a result of the forests developed by PFFCS with the help of IFFDC.
- These forests produce 21,555 tonnes of grass for livestock per year.
- It also helped save 134,000 tonnes of soil every year by reducing soil erosion.
- Barren land of Uttar Pradesh has now been converted into cultivable land and farmers are growing crops there.
- Developed barren lands are being converted into bio-diverse forests with a variety of flora and fauna.



IFFCO's efforts are aimed at

- (i) Mitigating the effects of climate change through natural resource management; and
- (ii) Trying to achieve set goals via village-level cooperatives.

Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand. This was followed by acquisition of Panchayat land parcels in Rajasthan, individually-owned land parcels in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, and revenue land parcels in Madhya Pradesh. For participatory community forestry, the respective communities of the wasteland have been organised into 152 Primary Agro-forestry Cooperative Societies (PFFCS). The primary Agro-forestry Cooperative Societies (ACS) formed by IFFDC has approximately 19,331 members. Of these, 36 percent are landless and 53 percent are marginal and small farmers. PFFCS is owned by the poor and underprivileged community of rural communities. Special emphasis has been laid on

women's participation in forestry cooperatives, and they form 32 per cent of all members.

IFFDC's programme began in drought-prone districts in Rajasthan, which included Udaipur, Chittorgarh and Rajsamand. The districts chosen in Madhya Pradesh were Sagar, Tikamgarh, and Chhatarpur and the severely drought-prone area of Bundelkhand in central India was also earmarked for afforestation. A plantation drive was also undertaken in several districts including Sultanpur, Amethi, Rae Bareilly, Prayagraj, Pratapgarh, Kaushambi, and Unnao



in Uttar Pradesh. Here, commercial agricultural work was not possible due to the poor quality of soil. The project also covered Nainital and Champawat in Uttarakhand, where the ecosystem had been negatively impacted due to deforestation and climate change.

A wide range of tree species have been selected by the community for plantation through the Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) method. The species of trees chosen for afforestation are based on available land, soil type, depth of water table, soil fertility, available plantation techniques and water resources. Earthwork, field preparation, plantation, conservation and management were carried out by the community under the leadership of



IFFDC Initiatives Provided the Underprivileged with Nutrition & Economic Security

IFFDC has taken up small orchard development projects on the lands of tribal families, for providing nutritional and economic security to the tribal and marginal communities. These small gardens have increased the availability of nutritious food and additional income to the tribal families. Approximately 17,480 hectares of land has been reclaimed by soil and water conservation measures activities to develop an integrated watershed. To develop water resources, 261 check dams, 1117 ponds, 326 LDPE tanks have been built and the depths of 1,213 wells have been increased. The watershed program is an effective effort to ensure food and livelihood security of rural communities.

PFFCS with guidance from IFFDC. As a result, 29,421 hectares of barren land in more than 500 villages have been converted into fertile land.

To ensure good quality saplings for successful plantation in barren land, nurseries have been developed at PFFCS level by forming self-help groups. According to one study, India has to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes by 2030 from additional forest and afforestation to achieve the twin goal of creating an additional carbon sink and increasing

the income of farmers. In the last five years, IFFDC has given more than 0.60 million saplings to farmers.

Conservation of Endangered Tree Species

There is a need to restore rare, endangered and threatened (RET) tree species to conserve the biodiversity of the country. IFFDC, under the guidance of IFFCO, has made efforts to conserve the endangered tree species and planted more than 100 species of indigenous and traditional plants such as Lasoda

(*Cordia myxa*), Mahua, and Khirni.

For increasing the pace of afforestation IFFDC introduced the Miyawaki Method (a Japanese technique) for rapid development of indigenous dense forest in IFFCO—Golden Jubilee Traditional Garden. In this method, soil conditions are improved and dense planting of native and traditional trees is done in a four-tier system, i.e., canopy, tree, sub-tree, and shrub. There are four research trials of 153 genotypes under research and development.





Dr. Manisha Paliwal

Strengthening Member Engagement in PACS

The journey of the Ministry of Cooperation towards achieving Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi vision of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas' through 'Sabka Prayas' began when initiatives were undertaken to accord priority to the spirit of cooperation. Accordingly, a separate Ministry was established on 6th July 2021. This new Ministry completely dedicated its mission to the world of cooperation. The prime objective behind the creation of a new Ministry at the Union level was to achieve India's prosperity through the model of cooperation – '*Sahkar se Samridhi*'.

India resides in its villages and historically, villages in rural function on the principle of cooperation and have immense capabilities to capitalize on various socio-economic and people-centric reforms for a better future.

Village-level, community-owned and member-driven cooperative units, commonly known as Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), form the largest number of cooperative entities in India. PACS are important community-level financial institutions in India that provide credit and other input services to farmers and rural communities. With more than 95,000 societies and an overall 90% spread in India's villages,

PACS has remained the fulcrum of the country's cooperative credit movement.

The cooperatives are governed under various State-specific Acts/Rules as 'cooperative' is a State subject as per India's Constitution. Till now, PACS were engaged in limited activities which hampered their business growth and spread. It was high time to transform these into multi-dimensional and multi-purpose business units at the community level.

The Ministry of Cooperation prepared draft model bye-laws for PACS and circulated the same for suitable adoption by the States/Union Territories. This was done with the aim of making PACS multipurpose vibrant business entities. These draft model bye-laws contain various provisions for bringing professionalism, transparency and accountability in their operation. PACS computerization drive of the Government will make them more professionally aligned via digitization of their business processes and transactions.

While PACS computerization was the need of the hour, computerization of PACS was a pending development intervention. It has the necessary potential in preparing the members of the PACS to understand the change

requirements and accord appropriate push to the drivers of socio-economic growth in the community.

Ways to Strengthen member engagement in PACS

- ▶▶ Promote transparency and accountability
- ▶▶ Increase member participation
- ▶▶ Deliver financial education
- ▶▶ Offer appropriate products and services
- ▶▶ Usage of technology

Overall, while digitization of PACS would lead to improving member participation in PACS, strengthening member engagement in PACS will also need a multi-faceted approach that involves improving transparency, increasing member participation, providing financial education, offering relevant products and services, and leveraging technology. With the pace of progress of implementation of various initiatives of the Ministry of Cooperation, it is expected that the Ministry, under Shri Amit Shah - the able leadership of the first-ever Cooperation Minister of India - would work in consultation and coordination with the States/UTs and all the stakeholders in the cooperative sphere for removing difficulties towards achieving farmers' prosperity through PACS.

(Professor, Sri Balaji University, Pune)



Farmers of Mandya tasted the sweetness of IFFCO's technology



India's Agricultural Boost IFFCO Bio-Decomposer Doubles Sugarcane Farmer's Income

IFFCO's commendable effort is making a significant contribution in fulfilling Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's dream of doubling the farmers' income.

AnkAnjalideep

India has created a record by overtaking Brazil as the largest producer of sugar in the world by producing over 500 million metric tonnes of sugarcane. Incidentally, India is also the largest consumer and the second-largest exporter of sugar.

But this journey was an arduous one. Take the case of the farmers of Mandya,

a district near Mysore, Karnataka. For many others like them, sugar production is fraught with multiple challenges. Besides being a time-consuming crop to cultivate, there's also no guarantee on the amount of sugar that can be extracted. A single crop of sugarcane yields only 10 percent or 100 grams per kilogram or less sugar. This percentage is much less than in other sugar-producing countries.

IFFCO provided an innovative product, IFFCO Bio-decomposer, to the farmers. Developed in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, the Pusa IFFCO Bio-Decomposer was designed keeping this specific problem in mind.



According to a report, it takes an average of 210 liters of water to produce one kg of sugar and this volume increases to 1780 liters when it comes to refined sugar. Hence, it is fair to say that a lot

of resources are used in the production of just one kg of sugar. However, sugarcane farmers have the option to not only produce sugar but they can also use sugarcane juice and jaggery to produce different types of ethanol. Due to effective government programmes on ethanol blending in petrol, today there is a huge demand for sugarcane crops in the country.

Those farmers who were unable to sell their crops to sugar mills are now able to sell them to ethanol producers. With an increasing demand for sugar worldwide, India is making huge strides in sugar export. This means higher profit and higher income for the sugar industry and farmers.

How IFFCO Drafted a Success Story for Farmers

Mandya farmers too were largely ignorant of the benefits of proper waste management, they simply burned post-harvest crop residues. In 2007, IFFCO collaborated with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Mandya, and adopted Satnur village to educate sugarcane growers. They were introduced to the benefits of modern waste management and IFFCO began sugarcane trash mulching.

In the first phase, farmers used trash

According to a report, it takes an average of 210 liters of water to produce one kg of sugar and this volume increases to 1780 liters when it comes to refined sugar. Hence, it is fair to say that a lot of resources are used in the production of just one kg of sugar.

cutter machines to cut crop residues after the completion of harvest.

In the second phase, IFFCO provided an innovative product, IFFCO Bio-decomposer, to the farmers. Developed in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, the Pusa IFFCO Bio-Decomposer was designed keeping this specific problem in mind. This product is available in all the retail centres of IFFCO market, IFFCO sales centres and societies. Along with this, it can also be bought online from iffcobazar.in. At a mere ₹20 a bottle, it is very economical too.

This bio-decomposer is mixed into a solution of water and jaggery. This solution is then sprayed on the fields containing biomass. Once used, within a period of 40 days the crop residue turns into compost which will then replenish the soil with nutrients. In a research done by KVK Mandya, it was found that it increased the yield by 5-6 tonnes per acre.

With a big smile playing on his lips, Bor Gowda, a farmer from Satnur village, said, "This technology has improved soil health and increased productivity levels too." ◆◆◆



National Cooperative University to Create Skilled Professionals

Sahkar Uday Team

To ensure that India's cooperative sector is in sync with the changing times, skilled professionals are the need of the hour and the future. In this context, the Union Ministry of Cooperation is establishing the world's largest university in India. The National Cooperative University will be a unique educational institution that will include education, training, research and development-related subjects in its ambit. Here, learners will get a specialization in different cooperatives categories like management, supervisory, administrative, technical and operations.

With the concern of Cabinet meet, the Cooperative Ministry has stepped up preparations for the establishment of National Cooperative University. This has also led to proposals from the state governments to set up similar state-level cooperative universities as well. This university will also be increasing awareness about the cooperative sector and more training institutes in the cooperative sector. It will be developed with the same parameters. There is a plan to equip such cooperative institutions with modern resources.

All autonomous cooperative societies under the Union Ministry of Cooperatives will work under the university. Preparations are being made on a war footing to make the working area of these institutions

- Specialized studies in national-level cooperative university
- To fulfil needs of cooperative societies from PACS to Apex

The University will act as an apex body to integrate, coordinate and standardize academic and research activities in existing cooperative societies and training centres. It will also award degrees and diplomas in various courses related to the cooperative sector.

more effective by identifying the shortcomings and needs in the review meeting held at the ministry level. The training work is conducted by the National Cooperative Training Council in various institutes located at different places. Of these, there are five regional level and 14 state level premier training institutes. There are five major regional cooperative management institutes at Chandigarh, Bangalore, Kalyani, Gandhinagar, Patna. Training institutes are established at Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Dehradun, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Imphal, Jaipur, Kinnaur, Lucknow, Madurai, Nagpur, Pune and Thiruvananthapuram. The training programme is organized in these institutes for people of all levels of societies in the cooperative sector.

The network of institutions affiliated to the National Cooperative University will work for capacity building and development of the employees and board members of the cooperatives. Various subject-oriented specialized

schools like dairy, fisheries, rural credit, cooperative law, cooperative testing will be set up in the leading states of the university concerned sectors.

According to the Ministry of Cooperation, the National Cooperative University will also create an all India network of cooperative education and training institutions to achieve its objectives. The University will act as an apex body to integrate, coordinate and standardize the academic and research activities in the existing cooperative institutions and training centres. It will also award degrees and diplomas in various courses related to the cooperative sector.

The Cooperative university will be the largest university in the world. The state governments have also been asked to take concern about development of state level cooperative universities, which are expected soon. The cooperative university will function to develop educational research and development norms along with teaching and training. ♦♦♦



Ministry Finalizing Sahara Investors' Money Details

Sahkar Uday Team

The Cooperative Ministry is constantly monitoring the implementation of various schemes which is among the top priorities of the Government. Review meetings are being held with the States on getting the investors' money returned from the four cooperative societies of Sahara Group.

Recently, the Supreme Court gave a historic decision under which the four Sahara Group societies have been asked to return investors' money. After the Ministry of Cooperation initiative, the apex court's order paved the way for the return of investors' money. It has ordered the Sahara Group to return ₹5,000 crore to about 10 crore investors within the next nine months.

A high-level meeting between the Ministry of Cooperation and the Sahara Group representatives was held under the chairmanship of Secretary (Cooperation) Shri Gyanesh Kumar wherein he discussed the implementation of the Supreme

Court's decision order. The Secretary (Cooperation) also sought information from Sahara's top officials on the way regarding the process of returning the investors' money. The Ministry discussed a comprehensive strategy through which the refund process will be initiated at the earliest. Detailed Information has already been sought from the depositors of Sahara's cooperative societies so that the process can be expedited.

PACS Computerization

Taking forward Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's resolution of 'Sahkar Se Samridhhi', the Ministry of Cooperation is on a computerization drive of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) pan India. Union Minister of Home and Cooperation Shri Amit Shah held several rounds of meetings with the states to review its progress. This included detailed discussions with the states for implementing the prepared action plan. Infrastructural facilities ranging from hardware to software are being provided to the states and many states have already succeeded in achieving the 100 percent target of PACS computerization. ♦♦♦

PACS bylaws getting support from states

The bylaws prepared for PACS are getting support from the states. In order to bring uniformity in PACS bylaws, the Union Ministry of Cooperation prepared model bylaws at the national level which were then sent to states. Its progress was reviewed in a meeting held at the Ministry. Model bylaws have been implemented in Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Manipur, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Uttarakhand, while the implementation process is still on in Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Punjab and Haryana. Discussions are on underway to implement model bylaws with minor modifications in the rest of the states too. During the review meeting, Secretary Mr. Gyanesh Kumar discussed the various dimensions of PACS model bylaws and answered in detail all the questions raised by the states.

Aiming sky high

Big Boost to Cooperatives by Govt.

Jitendra Tiwari

The policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Cooperative Minister Amit Shah deserve full credit for successful acceptance of the 'Nation First' concept by every Indian citizen.

It is a fact that India was suffering from policy paralysis in terms of health, education, internal security, and in the larger context, power polarization globally. Due to the visionary leadership of Modi ji and the painstaking efforts of Shri Amit Shah, India overcame the policy paralysis and significant decisions were undertaken in diverse sectors to overcome the innumerable socio-economic issues created by our past governments. This is why I hail Honourable Amit Bhai Shah ji as a 'Policymaker' instead of metaphors like 'Chanakya', 'Vikas Purush' or 'Iron Man'. The reality is that the new era of civilizational visionary policies was initiated by Shri Amit Shah and it boosted the image of Narendra Modi government as a 'decision-making government'. It is the result of that image that even though only one year is left for the third general election, the public's faith in the government remains intact.

Actually, an iron will was needed to solve the burning issue of internal security. So, after the 2019 General Elections victory, Amit Shah was given the critical Ministry of Home Affairs. Shri Shah immediately went



into a damage control mode and successfully carried out the surgical strike on terrorism with a well-defined policy.

The abolishment of Article 370 and 35A, the root cause of terrorism, was not only a strategic act but also a humble obeisance to the founder of Jana Sangh, Syama Prasad Mukherjee who said, 'Two heads, two flags, two constitutions will not work in one nation.' Soon people began referring to him as the 'Iron Man of modern India'. With the revocation of special status to Kashmir, the valley has been

rid of terrorism for quite sometime. Another critical security threat -- the problem of cross-border infiltration -- also came to end with the Citizenship Amendment Act which was a masterstroke by Shri Shah. The turbulent Northeast was also posing a huge challenge to the government over the last few years and the HM deserves full credit for successfully suppressing Naxalite violence.

There was a time when the cooperative movement was fading away in India. But it got a new lease of life with the first Cooperative



Minister, Shri Amit Shah popularizing it on a mass scale. The Government is working with ground-level farmers to establish the 'Sahkar Se Samridhi' mantra. Shri Amit Shah is working in mission mode to draft a new National Cooperative Policy and the government is also considering the inclusion of Cooperative learning in the school curriculum, besides opening a National Cooperative University. In fact, preparations are already underway in the latter.

Many provisions have been made to promote a cooperative-based economic development model and strengthen its reach at the grassroots level, in the budget of 2023-24. Concrete measures are being undertaken to strengthen the Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) spread across villages. Although the cooperative movement in India is not new, this ministry has been formed to help it reach greater heights. Shri Shah has a long history of being associated with cooperatives. He revived the Ahmedabad District Cooperative Bank which was facing huge losses

and made it profitable. The world's leading organization Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) is working hard to fulfil the Modi government's dream of taking forward the cooperative movement.

Presently, India is also a major producer of agricultural products and also ranks high in per-acre agricultural productivity on the global platform. The additional advantage of being governed by a stable, consistent and functional government has also boosted the country's standing over the years. India has withstood the test of time and towered over all big and small challenges. India's system of governance has withstood the test of time and our democracy is being given a stronger foundation by flexing in times of flux. It is only through the efforts of Prime Minister Modi that 'Make In India' has become the biggest brand by India in the recent times.

Inspired by Prime Minister's appeal to minimize chemical fertilizers usage, IFFCO invented the world's first Nano Fertilizer 'IFFCO Nano Urea (Liquid)'. In the agricultural

field, Nano Urea is going to decide the condition and direction of not only India but global agriculture. It was because of the PM's inspiration and the HM's leadership that a cooperative society IFFCO created a benchmark which remains unparalleled, globally. Nano Urea is in high demand worldwide. To quote Shri Shah, 'It is a proud moment for the entire nation.' Nano Urea commands a huge global demand, today. After urea, now DAP has also been invented in Nano form and India is the only country where urea and DAP are made available in liquid form. These wonderful achievements of India in the agricultural sector are the consequence of the visionary approach of PM Modi to empower and establish an agricultural economy and to generate double income for farmers. In this regard, IFFCO, which is under the guidance of Managing Director Dr US Awasthi, is playing a vital role to serve the nation.

(President, IFFCO Officers' Association)

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India's Impactful and Eco-friendly Alternative to Stubble Burning

It will save the soil from side effects and also enhance the climate

Sahkar Uday Team

In this era of pollution and climate change, eco-friendly waste disposal alternatives are the need of the hour. About 650 million tonnes of crop residue or stubble is generated in India every year. An increase in the production of rice and wheat leads to an increase in the amount of crop residue as well. The cultivation of wheat and rice, as compared to other crops, provides farmers with considerable economic benefits. Hence, these crops are a priority for them. However, after using a mechanical harvester to cut crops, at least five cm long crop and a large amount of straw are left behind in the field. This organic waste or crop residue poses an immediate obstacle in the early cultivation of new crops.

According to an estimate, the burning of one tonne of stubble results in the loss of 400 kg of carbon, 5.5 kg of nitrogen, 2.3 kg of phosphorus, 24 kg of potash and 1.2 kg of sulphur. Along with this loss, stubble burning also causes great harm to humans, animals and other living things. The answer to this huge problem is decomposing these crop residues and converting them into organic elements which can have huge climatic and economic benefits.

Farmers have very little time between



Farmers have very little time between harvesting the wheat crop and planting a new crop of rice. This time constraint, along with an excessive amount of crop residue left by mechanical harvesters, forces farmers with no other option but to burn crop stubble.

harvesting the wheat crop and planting a new crop of rice. This time constraint, along with an excessive amount of crop

IFFCO Bio-Decomposer

Then the farmer has to prepare the field for the next crop also. Stubble burning releases harmful gases like carbon dioxide (CO), carbon monoxide (CO₂) and toxic lethal gases such as nitrogen oxides (NO_x) etc. This worsens the air quality and depletes organic carbon present in the soil. Instead of this, soil quality could have been increased by these organic elements that get burnt and thus wasted.

residue left by mechanical harvesters, forces farmers with no other option but to burn crop stubble. Then the farmer also has to prepare the field for the next crop. Stubble burning releases harmful gases like carbon dioxide (CO), carbon monoxide (CO₂) and toxic lethal gases such as nitrogen oxides (NO_x) etc. This worsens the air quality and depletes organic carbon present in the soil. Instead of this, soil quality could have been increased by these organic elements that get burnt and thus wasted.

A better way is to convert this crop stubble into good quality and eco-friendly manure through a microbial process. However, the decomposition of paddy straw is considered harmful because of the lignocelluloses present in it and the high C/N ratio. In view of these problems in the agriculture sector, IFFCO has prepared a chemical solution named IFFCO Bio-decomposer, which is proving beneficial for farmers as well as the climate. ♦♦♦



Union Minister of State for Cooperatives BL Verma lauded the cooperative sector for keeping farmers and employees at the centre. Shri BL Verma had recently reached Pune to inaugurate the Pune Branch of Shri Rawalnath Cooperative Housing Finance Society.



Gujcomasol joined hands with IFFCO to popularize Nano Urea and Nano DAP. Dileep Sanghani, Chairman, IFFCO and Gujcomasol, Dr US Awasthi, Managing Director, IFFCO, Jayesh Radadia, Board Member, Paresh Patel, Director, Gujarat Cooperative and KRIBHCO, Yogendra Kumar, Marketing Head, IFFCO, and others were present on the occasion.



Inaugurating the Millets Experience Center of National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) at Delhi Haat, Union Agriculture Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar along with Managing Director of NAFED Rajbir Singh.



IFFCO and IFFDC have taken up a campaign of reforestation of barren land with check dams and small dams to enhance irrigation facilities in rural areas.



Women self-help group members of the Primary Farm Forestry Cooperative Society (PFFCS) of Malikmau, Uttar Pradesh, beekeepers. Monitoring bee boxes.



Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) Director General AS Rawat (IFS) inaugurated the Nafed Bazaar Store at Forest Research Institute (FRI), Dehradun.

भारत के सहकारिता सेक्टर में
एक नया revolution हो रहा है।

अभी तक ये देश के कुछ एक राज्यों
और कुछ क्षेत्रों तक ही सीमित रहा है।

लेकिन अब इसका विस्तार
पूरे देश में किया जा रहा है।

एग्रीकल्चर-सहकारिता वेबिनार में पीएम मोदी,
24 फरवरी 2023



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