



NAFCARD

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MOC NEWS

National Conference and Workshop on "Computerization of Agriculture & Rural Development Banks (ARDBs)" on 30th January 2024 at ICAR Convention Center, Pusa, New Delhi.



Inauguration of the Conference : Dignitaries on the dais (from left) - Shri Dolar Kotecha, Chairman NAFCARD, Shri B.L. Verma MOS (Cooperation) Shri Amit Shah, Union Minister of Home & Cooperation, Shri Gyanesh Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation, Shri Vijayakumar, Special Secretary & CRCS



Shri Dolar Kotecha, Chairman NAFCARD receiving Shri Amit Shah



Shri Gyanesh Kumar, Secretary, MOC welcoming Shri Amit Shah



Lighting of lamp



Address by Shri Amit Shah, Hon'ble Union Minister of Home & Cooperation



View of the Audience



Technical session on Centrally Sponsored Projects for Computerization of ARDBs was conducted by Shri P. Sunil Mohanakrishnan, DGM, NABARD in the forenoon of 30.1.2024 at Pusa, New Delhi.

Inauguration of office building of CRCS, New Delhi



Hon'ble Union Minister for Home & Cooperation Shri Amit Shah on 17.01.2024 inaugurated the Office Building of Central Registrar of Multi-State Coop Societies at New Delhi. Shri B.L. Verma, Minister of State (Cooperation), Shri Gyanesh Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation, Shri Dileep Sanghani, President of NCUI & Chairman of IFFCO and Dr U.S. Awasthi MD & CEO, IFFCO were among other dignitaries present on the occasion.

Launching of web portal developed by NCCF and NAFED

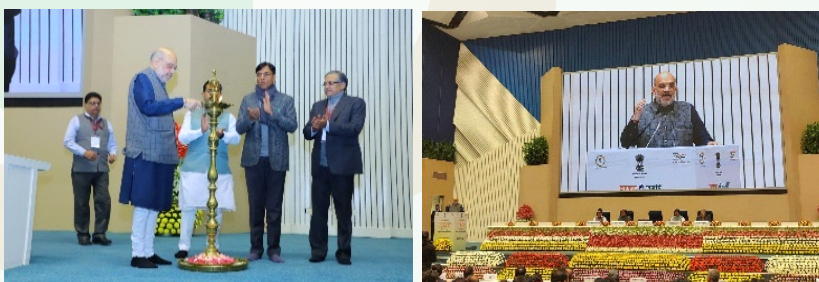


Shri Amit Shah, Hon'ble Union Home & Cooperation Minister inaugurated web portal developed by NCCF and NAFED on 04.01.2024 at New Delhi. These portals made for buying and quick payment of farmers producing Toor (Arhar) pulses on MSP is going to have a historic change in the lives of farmers and leaning towards bridge farming. India should be self-reliant in the

field of pulses. Before December 2027 India targets to become self-sufficient in pulses production and the country will not have to import pulses.

Shri Amit Shah addressing National Mega Conclave on PACS

Hon'ble Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah addressed the "National Mega Conclave on PACS operating as Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendra" along with Hon'ble Union Chemical, Fertilizer, Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandviya and Shri Gyanesh Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation on 08.01.2024 in New Delhi. Shri Amit Shah also distributed Jan Aushadhi Kendra store codes to PACS of 5 states. While addressing the conclave he said PM Shri Narendra Modi streamlined the system of generic medicines & made medicines available to 60 crore poor people through Bharatiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra.



COOPERATIVE NEWS

Panel submits New Co-op Policy draft to Ministry; awaits Shah's call

Shri Suresh Prabhu led National Committee for drafting the new National Cooperative Policy submits the final draft report of the Committee to the Hon'ble Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah. The draft document incorporates a major recommendations provided by co-operators during the national workshop. The National Cooperative Policy, a long-standing initiative of the Ministry, aims to establish the groundwork for a robust cooperative movement, transcending state and regional boundaries. To ensure diverse





representations, the Ministry has included members from all states in the Draft Committee, with the policy setting a strategic roadmap for cooperatives over the next 25 years. Sh Dileep Sanghani, a Panel member, emphasized that the policy has the potential to significantly impact India's socio-economic landscape, increasing the cooperative sector's contribution to the GDP. The overarching objective is to foster cooperative-based economic development supported by a sound legal and institutional framework. Key recommendations encompass structural reforms and governance, promoting cooperatives as dynamic economic entities, ensuring a level playing field, addressing capital and funding sources, prioritizing inclusion of marginalized sections, leveraging technology, enhancing skills and training, emphasizing sustainability, and outlining a comprehensive implementation plan. The NCP's ultimate goal is to get aligned with the Prime Minister's vision of "Sahakar se Samridhi" (Prosperity through Cooperation). *(Source: Indian Cooperative)*

MoC pushes for social media outreach; holds meeting with co-op PRs



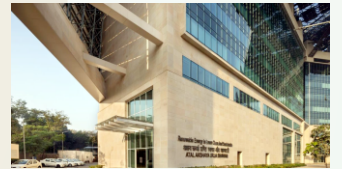
Union Ministry of Cooperation's Secretary Shri Gyanesh Kumar called a meeting of representatives from national cooperative bodies including NCUI,

IFFCO, Kribhco, Nafed, Trifed, NCCF and others on 19.01.2024 to discuss about measures to further increase social media platforms outreach of Cooperatives. Shri Gyanesh Kumar set a target of connecting with 30 crore people associated with Cooperatives. Shri Amit Shah's PS Shri Niraj Kumar Bansod, Deputy Secretary Shri Kapil Meena and other senior officials of the Ministry attended the meeting. The meeting decided to increase the outreach of respective co-ops on various social media platforms with an objective to deepen their reach up to the grassroots level, particularly by increasing the involvement of PACS. It was also directed to distribute more and more copies of IFFCO's Sahakar Uday, NCUI's Sahakar Jagran and other publications of National Cooperative Federations at the grassroots level. The Ministry of Cooperation also asked the participants to start circulation of publications and newsletters and other means of communication in different languages to increase awareness about the related cooperative societies. It is worth mentioning that taking this as a clarion call, National Level cooperative federations are actively making their presence felt on social media platforms like 'X', Facebook etc. but there are a few yet to do it. Earlier, the Ministry penned letters to national co-op federations asking them to increase their media presence. As a result, a few of the federations joined platforms like 'X' and Facebook and began to post co-op stories. *(Source: Indian Cooperative)*

Ministry unveils New Prudential Norms for Multi-State Co-op Societies

In a significant move to enhance financial stability and governance, the regulatory landscape for Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) undergoes a transformation

with the issuance of prudential norms under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) (Amendment) Act, 2023. This regulatory overhaul aims to strengthen the financial health of MSCS, ensuring prudential norms are followed, and transparency and accountability are maintained. These directives come into effect with the approval of the Competent Authority and mark a pivotal step towards a more robust cooperative sector. These norms are also applicable to multi-State multi-purpose societies engaged in credit activities, requiring separate accounts for credit functions. The MoC announced comprehensive guidelines, covering liquidity, exposure, and capital adequacy for MSCS, excluding multi-State cooperative banks. Here's a detailed look at the key aspects: Categorization of MSCS: MSCS will now be classified into Micro, Small, Medium, and Large categories based on their deposits. Notably, all employees' thrift and credit cooperative societies fall under the Micro category for regulatory purposes. Capital Structure: The capital of MSCS will be divided into Tier-I and Tier-II capital, aligning with the RBI guidelines for Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs). Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR): Each MSCS is mandated to maintain a Capital to Risk Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) as per their size classification. The minimum CRAR for Micro and Small MSCS is 9%, while for Medium and Large MSCS, it is 12%. The existing MSCS failing to meet this requirement have a grace period of 5 years for compliance. Refund of Share Capital: Share capital refund is contingent upon the MSCS maintaining CRAR above the minimum stipulated and ensuring that the refund does not result in a breach of the CRAR requirement. Liquidity Management: MSCS are required to maintain specific liquidity buffers, including cash and investments, to ensure financial stability and meet short-term obligations. Exposure Management: Stringent exposure limits have been defined, including aggregate exposure, individual borrower exposure, and exposure to housing and commercial real estate. Branch Expansion: MSCS meeting specified criteria can open branches within their area of operation, subject to compliance with CRAR norms, NPA thresholds, profitability, and other regulatory conditions. Those not meeting the criteria require approval from the Central Registrar before branch expansion. Reports and Disclosures: MSCS are mandated to submit business parameters and prudential ratios on a quarterly basis through the CRCS portal. Implementation Schedule: The existing MSCS not meeting the minimum CRAR requirements are granted a five-year timeline for compliance. All MSCS must adhere to exposure norms within two quarters from the date of this order. *(Source: Indian Cooperative)*



First Time: 250 PACS Chairpersons invited to witness Republic Day Parade

In a gesture of recognition and appreciation, around 250 Chairpersons of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) and their spouses from 24 States and 2 Union Territories across India will be accorded the prestigious status of "Special Guest" during the Republic Day Parade



2024 at Kartavyapath on 26.01.2024. During their visit to the capital, the Special Guests will have the opportunity to interact with the Minister

of State for Cooperation, Sh B. L. Verma, on January 25, followed by a special dinner. Post the Republic Day Parade, the guests will actively participate in the "Bharat Parva" event in the evening of January 26. The Ministry of Cooperation is dedicated to ensuring a memorable experience for the Special Guests, highlighting the success of the "Computerization of PACS" project. The event aims to inspire participating PACS to redouble their efforts in realizing the vision of 'Sahakar se Samridhhi'. The Ministry of Cooperation, in collaboration with the Ministry of Defence, is hosting this esteemed group. A PIB release reads "Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Ministry of Cooperation, steered by Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, has embarked on over 54 initiatives to realize the vision of "Sahakar se Samridhhi." A prominent initiative within this framework is the "Computerization of PACS" project, allocating a total financial outlay of ₹2,516 Crores. As part of this endeavour, 63,000 PACS are being computerized, with over 12,000 already integrated into the ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) software developed by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). (Source: Indian Cooperative)

IFFCO does India proud; ranks first globally in Co-op Monitor study

The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) and the European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises (Euricse) released the 2023 edition of the World Cooperative Monitor (WCM) on 25.01.2024. The Report contains the much-anticipated Top 300 rankings of the world's largest cooperatives and mutuals and a



special focus on member benefits. In the Top 300 ranking based on the ratio of turnover over gross domestic product (GDP) per capita as they did last year, two Indian producer

cooperatives reach the first and second positions: The Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) and Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Limited. In third place is the French Groupe Crédit Agricole. The Top 300 cooperatives and mutuals in the world report a total turnover of more than two trillion USD (2,409 billion USD), based on 2021 financial data. These organizations operate in various economic sectors, with Agriculture (105 enterprises) and Insurance (96 enterprises) leading the list. Wholesale and Retail Trade represent the third biggest economic sector (57 enterprises) in the ranking. Launched during a webinar in collaboration with the ICA International Cooperative Entrepreneurship Think Tank (ICETT), this year's report is the 12th edition, and it provides: a list of the worlds' largest 300 cooperatives and mutuals, an analysis of the economic sector and a focus on how large cooperatives and mutuals convey their identity and inform the public about their benefits to members. Each

year the World Cooperative Monitor produces a robust database that shows not only the economic importance of the cooperative business model, but also the global impact cooperatives and mutuals have on their members and communities. This is accomplished by building on years of research and data collection, and continually refining and improving the methodology. This year's report features a chapter focused on how large cooperatives and mutuals convey their identity as cooperative or mutual and how they inform the public online about the member benefits to enlarge their social base. They employ diverse elements, including direct statements, historical narratives, structures, business practices and descriptions of their cooperative nature. Additionally, they highlight various member benefits, both tangible and intangible, which vary according to the specific type of cooperative. (Source: Indian Cooperative)

World Cooperative Monitor: Kribhco among top ten in sectoral ranking

In the recently released World Cooperative Monitor report for 2023 by the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), Kribhco, the second-largest fertilizer cooperative in India, secured the sixth position in the sector rankings. Within the Agriculture and Food Industries category, Kribhco emerged as the sixth-ranked cooperative. This assessment is determined by the ratio of turnover to gross domestic product (GDP) per capita, offering a comprehensive view of the cooperative's economic standing within the sector. The Agriculture and Food Industries section encompasses a spectrum of cooperatives operating throughout the entire agricultural value chain. This spans activities ranging from the cultivation of agricultural products and livestock farming to the industrial processing of



agricultural goods and animals. It includes both agricultural producers' cooperatives and consortia of cooperatives that engage in the processing and marketing of agricultural products for their members. Kribhco's commendable performance across various operational domains translated into a significant profit before tax, amounting to ₹763.16 crore during the fiscal year 2022-23. Notably, the society achieved a urea production of 22.21 Lakh MT and ammonia production of 13.24 Lakh MT during the same period, demonstrating a remarkable capacity utilization of 101.20% and 106.16%, respectively. Furthermore, Kribhco successfully sold 57.08 lakh metric tonnes of fertilizers, encompassing urea and complex fertilizers, in the fiscal year 2022-23. In a noteworthy development, Kribhco's wholly-owned subsidiary, KRIBHCO Fertilizers Limited (KFL), achieved record-breaking production figures. KFL produced an unprecedented quantity of 10.95 Lakh MT Urea and 6.74 Lakh MT ammonia, achieving remarkable capacity utilizations of 126.65% and 134.30%, respectively. These



achievements underscore Kribhco's commitment to excellence and its significant contributions to the agricultural and cooperative landscape in India. (Source: Indian Cooperative)

World Co-op Monitor: Amul makes India proud; comes 2nd globally



Amul has made a remarkable achievement by securing the second position globally in the Co-op Monitor, showcasing the strength of India's dairy cooperative sector. The

Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd. (GCMMF), operating under the renowned brand name Amul, clinched this prestigious spot among the world's top 300 cooperatives. The ranking is determined by the ratio of turnover to gross domestic product (GDP) per capita. The report highlights the top 300 cooperatives and mutuals globally, with a special emphasis on member benefits. Notably, France's Groupe Cr dit Agricole and the Groupe BPCE lead in the financial sector, while Germany's REWE secured the second position in the retail trade sector. Amul, established in 1946 and managed by GCMMF, serves as a successful model for strengthening India's dairy cooperative sector. Union Home and Cooperation Minister Sh Amit Shah often cites Amul's success in bolstering the roots of the cooperative movement in India. With over 16 million milk producers pour their milk in 185903 dairy cooperative societies across the country, Amul has played a pivotal role in making India the largest milk producer globally. (Source: Indian Cooperative)

Linking Co-op Banks with SHGs; Govt sees its role in empowering women

While chairing a meeting with chairpersons of Regional

Rural Banks and Managing Directors of State Cooperative Banks on SHG Bank Linkage & Financial Inclusion, Union



Ministry of Rural Development Additional Secretary Sh Charanjit Singh said that the role of RRBs and Co-operative Banks should be to change rural society by empowering

women. He said that Branch Managers should visit villages and stay there for one night to assess the ground reality. In the meeting, NABARD Chairman Sh K.V. Shaji said that SHG women members could be transformed into Lakhpati Didis by financing micro enterprises owned by them. The discussions were focused on financing individual women SHG members by RRBs and co-operative banks. On this occasion, the presentation on the progress of SHG Bank Linkages made by the Regional Rural Bank and Co-operative



banks across various parameters was discussed. Women from the rural areas have shown that they are creditworthy and they can utilise the bank's credit for growth and can make regular loan repayment too. The NPA of the Regional Rural Banks have been reduced to just 1.43% which is the lowest in the banking industry. About 10 crore Women from rural households have been enrolled under 96 lakhs Self Help Groups and ₹8.03 lakh crores of credit has been availed by these women SHGs from the Banks since inception of the scheme. The meeting was attended by senior officials of State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, NABARD, Senior officials from Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India, State Rural Livelihoods Missions and Ministry of Rural Development officials and experts. (Source: Indian Cooperative)

FEDERATION NEWS

State Level Training Programme on 'Internal Reforms in LTCCS' from 8th - 10th January, 2024 at Dharwad, Karnataka.

Second State Level Training Programme on 'Internal Reforms in LTCCS' for CEOs of PCARDBs and Senior Officials of Karnataka SCARDB in association with National Institute for Rural Banking (NIRB), Bengaluru was held from 8th - 10th January, 2024 at Dharwad, Karnataka. It consisted of various topics including Agri Value Chain Finance and Prudential norms applicable to ARDBs - Asset classification and Provisioning norm, Recovery

performance of ARDBs - General causes for poor recovery (Major issues), Rescheduling/ restructuring, Compromise settlement/OTS - Salient features of Model Recovery Policy, Mobilisation of deposits - Guidelines - Provision of BUDS Act, 2019, Provisions relating to TDS and tax exemptions, Stress Management, Utilising Legal system for recovery - Risk profiling, Setting targets, etc. and on Framing of loan policy - Strategies to increase outreach - Cluster based group lending, Converting PCARDBs into Multi Service Centres, etc. were presented by trainers/professionals.





AGRICULTURE NEWS

Rabi onion sowing falls by 10-15% in main producing regions

Sowing of rabi (winter) onions has fallen up to 20% in some main producing regions in Maharashtra and Karnataka till the first week of January amid erratic rainfall in the last few months, lower reservoir levels, and restrictions on exports. While there are a few days still left before the sowing window draws to a close, industry experts said there could be a 10-15% drop in the acreage of onion this season. This could push food inflation to higher levels around March-April. Onions have 0.6 % points weight in overall inflation and 10 % points in the vegetable basket.

Govt. to hit retail market with 'Bharat rice'

The government is likely to start sale of subsidised grain through retail outlets under the Bharat rice initiative soon. Around 0.45 million tonne (MT) lakh tonne of non-fortified rice available with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) will be offered for retail sales by agencies such as farmers' cooperative NAFED, National Cooperative Consumers Federation (NCCF) and Kendriya Bhandars. Currently, the scope of the "Bharat rice" initiative including pricing and pack sizes for retails sales is being finalised. A formal launch of Bharat rice is expected in a few days. The plan is designed to cool the retail prices of mass consumption rice varieties, which have remained stubbornly high despite curbs on certain exports and open market sales by the FCI. At present, the government is selling Chana dal and Atta (flour) at subsidised rates of ₹60/kg and ₹27.5/kg respectively under Bharat Dal and Bharat Atta initiatives. The food ministry said that the domestic prices of rice are at elevated levels despite a record output, ample stocks with FCI in the pipeline and various restrictions and duties imposed on grain exports. By examining the issue of high rice prices, Bharat rice initiative may have some impact on inflation. There has been a lukewarm response to open market sale of surplus rice to bulk buyers by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) at subsidised rate of ₹2900/quintal, below the economic cost of grain for 2022-23 at ₹3,537/quintal.

GM crops will make edible oil cheaper : Govt.

The Supreme Court on 18.01.2024 said it only want what is good for India even as the government argued that growing Genetically Modified (GM) crops such as mustard will make quality edible oil cheaper for the common man and benefit national interest by reducing foreign dependency. "Mustard is the most used edible oil. GM oil has been used in India for decades now. What we are trying to do is make edible oil cheaper for the common man by growing oil seeds indigenously. 50 to 60% of edible oil is imported. Interests which are against India gaining food security and reducing foreign dependence are behind these PILs [public interest litigation petitions] against GM Mustard." Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, for the Centre, submitted in the Supreme Court. Mr. Mehta

submitted statistics of the Directorate of Economic and Statistics of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare to prove an increasing demand for edible oil with a burgeoning population. The government said the total edible oil demand of India was 24.6 million tonnes (2020-21) with domestic availability of 11.1 million tonnes (2020-21). Mr. Mehta and Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati said while the PIL petitioners had highlighted environmental damage allegedly caused by the open field testing of GM crops, the court had to consider the government's duty to take care of the people's right to food. Edible oil is a daily food commodity used in the country. The PIL petitioners are depending on some half-baked study done 14 years ago to raise concern about environmental damage. The court should look at the fundamental right of people to access basic food consumed every day at a cheaper price. The open field testing of GM crops were allotted in eight sites of 600 sq m each. GM seeds were sown in six of the sites. It is not that acres of open fields are used for testing. The testing is done in controlled circumstances and strictly according to statutory regime under expert guidance." In India, annual economic losses of crops due to weeds is 11 billion USD, ie, ₹1 lakh crore. Annual value of herbicide currently used in India is ₹4,500 crores. India imported about 55,000 MT of Canola oil largely from GM canola seeds. Similarly, nearly 2.8 lakh tonnes of soybean oil is imported annually. Most exporting countries like Argentina, U.S.A, Brazil and Canada cultivate GM soybean. Globally around 80% of soybean growing is GM soybean.

Mustard output seen at record 13 MT

With record sowing this season, the production of mustard seed is likely to touch an all-time high of 13.14 million tonne (MT) in 2023-24 season, boosting domestic supplies of edible oils. This may force the government to review the import duty relief for edible oils like palm, soybean and sunflower. Last month, the import duty relief for the three edible oils was extended to March, 2025. Weather conditions have been favourable so far and there are no reports of any disease like white rust in the standing crops. Mustard production this year would be a record if weather remains conducive during the next four to six weeks. According to the agriculture ministry, mustard this season has been sown in a record 9.88 million hectare (mh), 2.2% more than last year. However farmers fear that due to bumper output and higher imports, the prices are likely to fall below the minimum support price (MSP) of ₹5650/quintal announced for the 2023-24 season. The harvesting of new crop is likely to commence from the end of February. The agriculture ministry has estimated mustard seed production at a 12.64 MT in the 2022-23 crop year (July-June). Area under mustard in the current rabi season has been reported at a record 9.8 million hectare (MH) which is 64% more than last five years' average sown area of 6.4 MH. In the 2021-22 season, mustard sown areas



stood at 9.1 MH. Average area under mustard for the last five year has been 7.3 mh. Currently, Rajasthan (40%), Madhya Pradesh (14%), Uttar Pradesh (9%) and Haryana (7%), have 70% share in the country's mustard seed production. India imports about 58% of the total annual edible oil consumption of around 24 to 25 MT. Share of domestic edible oil includes mustard (40%), soyabean (24%) and groundnut (7%) and others. India's import of edible oils – palm, soybean and sunflower – rose 17% on

NEWS & NOTES

Govt. providing Benefits up to ₹30k to small farmers every month : Modi

Prime Minister Sh Narendra Modi has underlined the efforts being made by his government for the welfare of farmers, with benefits worth around ₹30,000 accruing to each small farmer through PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, Primary Agricultural Credit Society and Farmers Producer Organisation, setting up to more storage centres and the impetus to the food processing industry. He said the government will procure Tur dal at MSP and the scheme is likely to extend to other pulses soon. In a virtual interaction with beneficiaries Modi discussed the progress of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, emphasising that when the poor, farmer women and youth are empowered it strengthens the whole country. If Indian farmers grow more pulses, the government will save funds now being invested buying pulses from other countries. "Our effort is that the money we send abroad to buy pulses should be available to farmers of the country," he said.

PM : Govt working to make co-ops strong aspect of rural life

Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi on 27.12.2023 said his government is working to make cooperatives a strong aspect of rural life, asserting that they are being scaled up in fisheries and different sectors of agriculture after making a mark in dairy and sugar industries. In a virtual interaction with beneficiaries of the 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra', he batted for protecting the interests of small farmers saying they are forced to sell their produce at low prices due to a lack of storage facilities and his government will boost it. "We have to build lakhs of such storage facilities," he said. With the yatra seeking to cover those so far left out of his government's flagship schemes, he said the change in the lives of crores of beneficiaries in 10 years has been a story of courage, satisfaction and dreams. Modi said it has been a great source of satisfaction for him to see the self-confidence of people when he interacts with them. It has been not even 50 days since the yatra began and it has covered 2.5 lakh villages, he said. During the yatra, he said one crore people have been given 'Ayushman' card, a health insurance scheme run by the government for the poor, 1.25 crore people have undergone health check-ups while more than 70 lakh inspected for tuberculosis.

Nafed feels the pulse, ropes in private retailers to sell subsidised grains

For the first time, the government subsidised foodgrain in

year to a record 16.47 MT in the 2022-23 oil year (November-October), helped by lower import tariffs of only 5.5% on crude oil imports. The government has extended the lower import duty structure for palm, soybean and sunflower oils till 31.03.2025. Due to large import of edible oil, the retail inflation in oil and fat category had been in the negative zone since February, 2023 as global prices softened. Inflation in cooking oil declined by 15.03% in November on year.

consumer packs have become available to consumers through private retail channels. Government agency Nafed launched the pilot of selling subsidised pulses under the Bharat Dal brand through Reliance Retail and Big Basket. It plans to soon begin sale of Bharat Atta through the private retail channels, confirmed Nafed officials. Reliance has started selling Bharat Dal from end-October and has been getting increasingly good response. At some of the Reliance stores, the sale of Bharat Dal is about 50% of the total sale of Chana dal at that store. Although subsidised Chana dal is competition to their own private labels, private retailers have agreed to sell Bharat Dal as they get good volumes and because of government pressure. The availability of Bharat Chana dal is more in north and west India where Nafed is getting the Bharat dal processed. There was not much difference in the quality of Bharat dal and the private label dal as both get Chana from Nafed, the only agency in India which has stocks of Chana. Bharat Chana dal is cheaper than the lowest priced dal sold by these retailers by over 40%.

India likely to emerge as top producer of lentils globally

India is likely to emerge as the world's largest producer of masoor (lentil) in the 2023-24 crop year (July-June) with the projected output of around 1.6 million tonne (MT), consumer affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh said on 12.01.2024. If the projection comes true, the country's lentil output would be highest since the 2017-18 crop year when it produced 1.62 MT of pulse variety. In the 2022-23 crop year, lentil output was 1.55 MT. Higher output is likely to reduce the country's import dependence on pulses as domestic consumption of lentils is estimated around 2.6 MT. "Our lentil production this year we believe would be the highest in the world," said Mr. Singh after a programme organised about the hosting of Global Pulse Conference in the country next month. He said that a sharp increase of 26% in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of masoor from ₹5,100/quintal in 2020-21 to ₹6,425/quintal in 2024-25 (marketing year), is one of the key reasons for the renewed interest of farmers towards growing lentil. Current market prices of lentil at present is somewhere around ₹6,100-6,125/quintal, which is below the MSP. The crop condition looks encouraging and weather during next one month would be crucial for the crop yield. According to agriculture ministry data, lentils have been sown in a record 19.09 million hectare in the current rabi season, about 5% higher on year.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Primary level Indian Labour Co-op, ULCCS stands 3rd in ranking

The Uralungal Labour Contract Cooperative Society (ULCCS), based in Kerala, has secured the third position in the Industry and Utilities Co-operatives sector rankings. This accolade places ULCCS just below Corporation Mondragon of Spain and Andel Group of Denmark. The ranking is determined by the turnover-to-Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita ratio. Published by the International Cooperatives Alliance, the World Co-operative Monitor recognizes ULCCS as a primary level Indian Labour Co-operative. The Industry and Utilities category encompasses cooperatives in industrial sectors, excluding the food industry, and those engaged in utility-related economic activities. This section includes worker cooperatives in construction and user cooperatives in utilities, focusing on the management of public service infrastructure. Notably, four Indian cooperatives, namely IFFCO, GCMMF, Kribhco, and ULCCS, are featured in the sectorial report. ULCCS, established in 1925 in Vadakara, Kerala, with an initial capital of 6 Annas, became the first Primary Co-op Society to gain membership in the

International Cooperatives Alliance in 2019. Normally reserved for national apex bodies, ULCCS earned this recognition based on its impressive 98-year performance. Originally formed with 14 members, ULCCS prioritized the welfare of daily wage laborers, evolving into the largest cooperative society in Asia. Committed to uplifting the underprivileged, ULCCS remains a model cooperative in India, engaging in activities that not only provide immediate employment but also create long-term opportunities. Maintaining a futuristic outlook throughout its 98-year history, ULCCS has navigated political changes during the struggle for independence without being swayed by political interests. The World Co-operative Monitor annually produces a comprehensive database highlighting the economic significance and global impact of the cooperative business model on members and communities.

(Source: Indian Cooperative)



NEWS FROM MEMBER BANKS

Gujarat SCARDB



Dr. V.M. Chaudhari

Gujarat Vidyapith awarded Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) to Shri V.M. Chaudhari, Joint Managing Director Gujarat SCARDB for his thesis "Performance Evaluation and Impact Analysis of Credit Disbursed by Agriculture and Rural Development Bank in Gujarat State (Kheti Bank)"

J & K SCARDB

Secretary Cooperative Department, Smt. Babila Rakwal, on 15.01.2024 reviewed the functioning of Jammu & Kashmir State Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Bank Limited (J & K SCARDB) branches operating across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir at Civil Secretariat, Jammu. The meeting was also attended by the Director Finance Cooperative Department, Administrator, MD and other officials of J&K SCARDB.



West Bengal SCARDB

West Bengal SCARDB held SLIC meeting regarding 'Computerization of ARDBs' on 16.01.2024 at their Head Office in Kolkata.



Editor : Shri K.K. Ravindran, Managing Director

Printed, Published & Owned by : **National Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks' Federation Ltd.**, A-703, BSEL Tech Park, 7th Floor, A-Wing, Opp. Railway Station, Vashi, Navi Mumbai - 400 703. • Ph. (022) 27814114, 27814226 • E-mail : nafcard.org@gmail.com • Website : www.nafcard.org