

**Proceedings in brief on the webinar, “The Producer Cooperative Ecosystem: Collaborative Approaches by MoFPI and NCDC” held on 12.06.2020 at 11.00 AM.**

A webinar on “The Producer Cooperative Ecosystem: Collaborative Approaches by MoFPI and NCDC” was organised by NCDC on 12 June 2020, anchored by Dr. K.T. Channeshappa, ED, NCDC. Shri Sundeep Kumar Nayak, MD, NCDC welcomed the participants while committing the resolve of NCDC to play a key role in food processing area by cooperatives in the context of “Atmanirbhar Bharat”. He stated that NCDC with its pan India network of Regional Offices, The National Academy (LINAC) and Regional Training Centres is ready extend help to MoFPI for implementation of schemes as Nodal Body for Cooperatives.

2. Dr. Manoj Joshi, Additional Secretary, MoFPI thanked MD, NCDC for organizing the webinar at an appropriate moment and made a presentation on “Formation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises” (FME) scheme. He spoke about the objectives, features, financials, beneficiaries and the proposed role of NCDC in FME scheme. He added that focus is (i) to modernise and enhance the competitiveness of the existing individual micro-enterprise and ensure their transition to formal sector (ii) to support FPOs/SHGs/ Cooperatives for value chain and for upgrading manufacturing, backward and forward linkages, packing and creation of marketing infrastructure etc. The scheme would work on cluster approach, wherein, states will identify One District One Product (ODOP). The scheme envisages to provide incentive in the form of subsidy on capital investment to individual units, SHGs, FPOs, Cooperatives, state agencies linked to credit.

3. Addl Secretary, MoFPI also stated that considering the strength of NCDC in financing cooperative developmental projects, with pan India presence, MoFPI would be happy to partner with NCDC in identification of district specific products, processing infrastructure required with project approach and preparation of DPR. He further stated that NCDC can take lead in training and capacity building of the societies in taking up primary processing and value addition activities. He indicated that scheme would be launched in a month’s time, however, before releasing the detailed scheme guidelines, comments of NCDC would be sought.

4. Shri J.P.Meena, Former Secretary MoFPI and Senior Adviser, NCDC mentioned that the food processing sector had organised companies as well as un-organised micro and small enterprises. He stressed upon the need to formalise these un-organised enterprises, which would help in creating employment locally and utilise local produce. He also stated that, due to lack of backward linkages in this sector, direct benefit of processing was not transferred to farmers and quality of products were not assured to consumer. He opined that one of the main reasons for low intensity processing was on account of the fact that farmer grew products only for table purpose and which was not suitable for processing. The aspect of backward integration to orient the farmers to grow crop varieties suitable for processing be looked into while

promoting projects to ensure sustainability. He further stated that in India 95% of the farmers were linked to cooperatives and hence could play a significant role in promoting food processing activities. He strongly felt that NCDC must lead in capacity building of stakeholders by designing courses and organising training for cooperatives.

5. Intervening in the discussion, MD, NCDC stated that NCDC had entered into an MoU with ICAR and has Sahakar Bharati as a vibrant partner and these could be leveraged. He stated that NCDC employees from 18 Regional Directorates had visited almost 5000 primary cooperative societies in the last financial year (2019-20) to assess their strengths, weaknesses and needs. NCDC had been focussing on aspirational districts, SC/ST and woman cooperatives to ensure inclusive growth. Cooperative Sector Export Promotion Council (COOPEXCIL) led by NCDC could be utilised to further link cooperatives to international market.

6. During discussion, RD, Lucknow, RD, Patna, RD, Thiruvananthapuram, RD, Bhopal and RD, Hyderabad informed about major agricultural and allied produces that could be taken up for value addition and processing by cooperatives. MD, NCDC stressed upon the need to work closely with the State Governments to identify ODOP policy and assist in formulation of projects under FME scheme for which one had to wait till the guidelines were notified.

7. Dr.K.T.Channeshappa summed up the proceedings. Shri K.K. Choudhary, ED, NCDC presented vote of thanks.





