

**Hon'ble Union Agriculture Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar launches "सहकारमित्र" (SAHAKAR MITRA), Scheme on Internship Programme as a step towards आत्मनिर्भर भारत (Self Reliant India) by NCDC**

Hon'ble Prime Minister has given the nation a clarion call for आत्मनिर्भर भारत (Self Reliant India) emphasizing the importance of local for vocal. While launching the scheme, "सहकारमित्र" (SAHAKAR MITRA): Scheme on Internship Programme (SIP), Hon'ble Union Agriculture Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar said that the unique cooperative sector development finance organization, National Cooperative Development Corporation, NCDC has embarked upon series of initiatives in the cooperative sector entrepreneurship development ecosystem through capacity development, paid internship to youth and assured project loans on liberalized terms to young cooperators on start-up mode.

The Minister said that NCDC has been proactive in delivering innovative solutions for the cooperative sector. In the series of initiatives by NCDC, the new scheme will provide the young professionals an opportunity of practical exposure and learning from the working of NCDC and cooperatives as a paid intern. NCDC has also introduced a complimentary scheme to promote start-up cooperatives ventures. **Sahakar Mitra** would also provide an opportunity to professionals from academic institutions to develop leadership and entrepreneurial roles through cooperatives as Farmers Producers Organizations (FPO).

**Sahakar Mitra** scheme is expected to assist cooperative institutions access new and innovative ideas of young professionals while the interns gain experience of working in the field giving confidence to be self-reliant. It is expected to be a win-win situation both for cooperatives as well as for the young professionals.

Under the scheme, professional graduates in disciplines such as Agriculture and allied areas, IT etc. will be eligible for internship. Professionals who are pursuing or have completed their MBA degrees in Agri-business, Cooperation, Finance, International Trade, Forestry, Rural Development, Project Management etc. will also be eligible.

NCDC has earmarked funds for Sahakar Mitra paid internship program under which each intern will get financial support over a 4 months internship period. **Online application portal for internship application available on [www.ncdc.in](http://www.ncdc.in) was also launched by the Hon'ble Union Agriculture Minister.**