



*Interview with Shri Sundeep K Nayak, MD, NCDC*

## SAHAKAR-22 FOR DOUBLING FARMERS INCOME

*In line with the Prime Minister's call for a New India, SAHAKAR-22 has been launched to double the farmers income. The focus is on primary cooperatives which have a bigger role to play in the post-pandemic era economic boost.*

### **Q What are the aims and objective of the NCDC?**

National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) is the foremost development financing institution for the cooperative sector. It has been set up under an Act of the Parliament in 1962. It provides assistance to almost all types of cooperative societies as per mandate given in the Act of the Parliament.

Activities of NCDC cover the complete value chain from “farm to shelf” including production, processing, marketing, storage, cold-chain, for agricultural and allied produce besides other inputs such as fertilizer, seeds banking etc. and other sectors such as energy, rural housing and forest produce. It also provides assistance for capacity building and upgradation of skills of personnel involved in the cooperatives.

NCDC functions under the over-arching principle of Sahakar-22 for a New India and for Doubling the Farmers Income. The benefits flowing from activities of cooperatives flow ultimately to the individual members, small and marginal farmers.

Beginning with a meagre disbursement of Rs.2.36 crore in 1963, the year of its formation, NCDC disbursed Rs.27699 crore in 2019-20 and the cumulative release as on 31.03.2020 stood at Rs.152590 crore most of which has taken place in the last six years accounting for 70% of total disbursements.

**Q What are the criteria for the NCDC assistance?**

NCDC assistance is geared towards development of cooperatives based on viable business plans. The assistance can be short or long term in the form of investment loans for infrastructure, margin money, working capital and capacity development. Well laid out and transparent eligibility norms determine sanction of loans to cooperatives either through direct funding route or through the State Governments. Quantum of assistance depends on viable business plans. There is no minimum and maximum limit for assistance.

**Q How can one apply for the assistance?**

A prospective applicant cooperative society can apply to any of the 18 regional offices of NCDC spread across the country or to the head office. The details of NCDC schemes and pattern of assistance, eligibility norms, general criteria for availing NCDC funding, Common Application Form etc. are available on NCDC website [www.ncdc.in](http://www.ncdc.in)

**Q How NCDC is promoting the primary level cooperative?**

Aligned with Hon'ble Prime Minister's call for a New India, mission mode activities titled SAHAKAR-22 have been launched by NCDC for cooperatives for achieving the goal of doubling the farmers income. The focus is on primary cooperatives which play a critical role in the economy of the country. In the ongoing pandemic era and the years that would follow, primary cooperatives have to play a bigger role. NCDC has embarked upon an interim target of reaching out and nurturing 1 million

**NCDC FUNCTIONS UNDER THE OVER-ARCHING PRINCIPLE OF SAHAKAR-22 FOR A NEW INDIA AND FOR DOUBLING THE FARMERS INCOME. THE BENEFITS FLOWING FROM ACTIVITIES OF COOPERATIVES FLOW ULTIMATELY TO THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS, SMALL AND MARGINAL FARMERS.**



members in 5000 primary societies a year, targeting 5 million primary cooperative society members in the coming years. NCDC officials have already visited in person, 4911 primary cooperatives to assess their needs, aspirations and capacities. Some of the newly launched schemes of NCDC such as YUVA SAHAKAR, similar to Start Ups in the corporate world, are focused on primary cooperatives. Under the stewardship of NCDC, Co-operative Sector Exports Promotion Council (COOPEXCIL) has been recently set up with the membership of different stakeholders to give a boost to exports by cooperatives.

**Q What kind of steps is taking NCDC to promote the training for farmers and agri industries?**

NCDC has a dedicated network of capacity development infrastructure under its institution, the Laxmanrao Inamdar National Academy for Cooperative Research and Development (LINAC) headquartered at Gurugram, Haryana. LINAC along with its six regional training centres spread across the country, designs and delivers need-based programmes for key functionaries of cooperatives. A highlight of such capacity development programmes has been the focus on farmers, fishermen/women, dairy sector, livestock sector, value chain based processing etc.. LINAC has covered about 25000 persons in 900 programmes so far. In the

pandemic period, LINAC has been conducting online video based programmes for cooperatives and NCDC personnel.

**Q How much loan has been disbursed by NCDC in 2019-20 and what are the future targets?**

Beginning with a meagre disbursement of Rs.2.36 crore in 1963, the year of its formation, NCDC disbursed around Rs. 27700 crore in FY 2019-20. The cumulative disbursement by NCDC since its formation, is around Rs.152600 crore at the close of FY 2019-20. During the last six years about 70% of the cumulative disbursements, have taken place. NCDC aims to play a key role in the contribution to the economy by assisting the cooperatives.

**Q Bad Debts are posing big threat to banks but NCDC has a different story, how NCDC has managed their loan?**

NCDC has a ZERO NET NPA status. It is an ISO 9001:2015 certified organization. We adopt meticulous, stringent, needs appropriate and transparent processes for our appraisals, sanctions, disbursements, monitoring and evaluation of projects. Working closely with the cooperatives with a human touch has been the guiding philosophy of NCDC. We initiate timely corrective action for laggard projects. We have a multipronged mechanism for recovery of overdues. Our recovery rate is above 98%.

**Q What are the new schemes of NCDC for the young generation?**

NCDC has launched the YUVA SAHAKAR- Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme. The scheme aims at enabling Start-Ups in the cooperative sector covering all types of activities with liberal financing modes. The scheme aims at encouraging newly formed cooperative societies with new or innovative ideas. It is more liberal to cooperatives in Aspirational Districts identified by NITI Aayog, cooperatives with 100% women / SC / ST/ PwD members. Another new scheme, apart from the facilitative role through the Co-operative Sector Exports Promotion Council (COOPEXCIL) is SAHAKAR MITRA, targeted at professionally equipping educated youth to take up a career in cooperatives through paid internships.