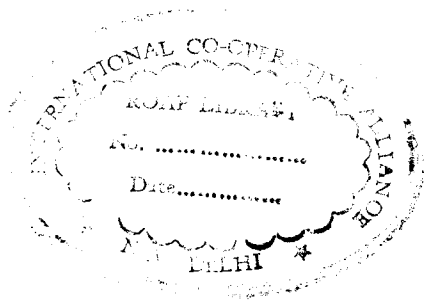


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ASIA-PACIFIC COOPERATIVE NEWS

Issue No.1

January-March 1991

International Cooperative Alliance, New Delhi

ICA REGIONAL OFFICE NEWS

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33rd Meeting of the ICA Regional Council Chiang Mai (Thailand)

The 33rd meeting of the ICA Regional Council, which was scheduled to be held in Osaka in February last, will now be held at Chiang Mai (Thailand), 10-14 June 1991. The meeting is being hosted by the Cooperative League of Thailand, a member-organisation of the ICA.

The agenda of the Council, among other items, includes 3 year Development Plan 1991-94 of ICA ROAP; follow-up of Sydney Conference 1990; progress regarding Cooperative Minister's Conference 1992; and Cooperatives and Environment.

ICA Regional Director's visits to Thailand, Nepal in India and Nepal

Mission to Thailand : 11-16 February 1991

The Mission was undertaken to attend the Regional Expert Consultation convened by FAO RAPA which was followed by a meeting of NEDA. The meeting was inaugurated by the new ADG of FAO, Mr.A.Z.M. Obaidullah Khan, who joined the FAO from 1st January 1991. Mr. Khan was twice Minister in the Government of Bangladesh. He assured to visit ICA ROAP office on his next visit to Delhi.

The important decision in the meeting of NEDA was to prescribe US\$ 5,000 annual subscription for the members. This, however, will not be applicable to ICA.

The Regional Director also met Chairman and Director of CLT. They agreed to host the Regional Council Meeting at Chiang Mai where better facilities will be available at less cost. The CLT also agreed to hold a National Workshop on Follow-up of Ministers' Conference.

We have a new name

The ASCON has been given a new name as **ASPACON** - Asia Pacific Cooperative News. This has been suggested by member-organisations in view of the renaming of Regional Office as ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. We thank the members for this suggestion and for having keen interest in the ASPACON.

- Editor

Mission to Madhya Pradesh, India : 3-8 March 1991

A National Consultation on Identification of Action Research Areas in Cooperative Sector was held at Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh in India, on 4th and 5th March 1991 jointly by the Indian Society for Studies in Cooperation, Pune, National Federation of State Cooperative Banks, Bombay and Madhya Pradesh State Cooperative Bank Limited (Apex Bank), Bhopal.

Dr. M.P. Saxena, Vice-Chairman, Indian Society for Studies in Cooperation, observed in his welcome address that from genesis to date, cooperative structure in India was greatly conditioned by the collective views and judgments of various Expert Committees. There was a little evidence of internal and self-initiatives, expression of concerns or red signals for change emanating from within the movement itself. In a cooperative environment heavily shadowed and surcharged by Expert Committees recommendations, research and action research were monopolized by external think-tanks. This resulted in total indifference by cooperatives to academic research. In such a scenario, research never comes to be adopted as an important management tool.

Mr. G.K. Sharma, who presided over the consultation, emphasized the need for self-initiatives and voluntary efforts for generating a new management culture in Cooperatives which should be member-oriented.

On 6th March the Regional Director presided over the inaugural function of the training programmes of PROs of cooperatives arranged by the Makhanlal Chaturvedi National University Institute for Journalism which has been promoted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh, with Vice-President of India as its Chancellor. The Madhya Pradesh Minister for Cooperatives, who inaugurated the event expressed more concern as to how to ensure that cooperatives are not misused for non-cooperative purposes. Mr. G.K. Sharma also addressed the Public Relations Society of India on the subject of "Public Relations in Cooperative Sector".

Mission to Kathmandu : 27th January-1st February 1991

His Majesty's Government took the following decision on the 16th November, 1990 in connection with the formation of Nepal National Cooperative Federation :

1. Dissolve the Cooperative Federation Adhoc Committee organized in accordance with the decision of 9th March 1989.
2. Form a National Cooperative Federation Advisory Committee in order to submit a report to His Majesty's Government on the policy and approach along with recommendations, taking into consideration of the smooth functioning of cooperatives in the present context.

The Advisory Committee visited India in middle of January 1991 and requested the Regional Director to assist them in finalization of their recommendation and draft bye-laws of the proposed Federation. Similar request was also received from CTA of ILO/DANIDA Cooperative Project.

Accordingly, Regional Director, Mr. G.K. Sharma, visited Kathmandu from 27th January to 1st February, 1991 and had detailed discussions with the members of the Advisory Committee jointly and individually as also helped them in finalization of the proposed draft bye-laws of the Federation.

The proposed Federation will be a promotional-cum-trading Federation. Its membership will be open to the District Unions as also strong primary cooperatives. It is expected to be fully autonomous and democratic in character. At present the Managing Committees at lower level are not democratically elected.

Senior Development Advisor Contacts Coops

Mr. Karl Fogelstrom went on mission to some states of India, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The following information from his reports.

Visit to Maharashtra : 3 - 11 January

His visit to the State of Maharashtra included visits to a large number of cooperatives of various kinds and sizes and national institute of cooperative management and others.

Mr. Karl Fogelstrom observed in his report that the visit to the three ICA Member Organisation in Bombay was very much appreciated and ICA officers whenever possible should pay visits to the ICA members when visiting places where there are member organisations. It is good PR and something useful may come out of it.

There are quite considerable resources vested in the Indian cooperative banking structure. The staff training programmes are quite elaborate. The National Cooperative Agriculture & Rural Development Bank (NABARD) has a newly established institute in Bangalore which could be of interest to ICA. The training in this institute is mainly for senior executives and leaders - a target group which is very relevant in ICA's exchange programmes.

The Indian cooperative banking structure is quite unique compared with most countries in the region. There are two separate structures; one for short-term credit and another one for long-term. The funds for onward lending are provided by NABARD which is a government institution. There is little accumulation of savings in the primary level societies and they are basically lending out and recovering agents for the District and State Cooperative Banks. The recovery rates are disastrously low especially after the decision to write off loans amounting to Rs.10,000 or less.

There are, however, urban cooperative banks which appear to be more genuinely cooperative. One such bank was visited in Pune. It was formed by women and virtually all 170 employees were female except for a few debt collectors. This cooperative bank had 20,000 members of which around 70% were women. A legal requirement in Maharashtra stipulates that at least 25% of the members must be men. When asked if there was a corresponding provision regarding women members the answer was : No !

Pravanagar Sugar Cooperative : The visit to Pravanagar Cooperative Sugar Factory and to the Pravanagar Institute of Research and Education in Natural and Social Sciences was both interesting and encouraging. The history leading up to the establishment of the cooperative sugar industry is an illustration of how established interests, i.e. in this case "Sugar Barons" living in Bombay, can be swept away by common farmers led by strong and unselfish leaders. The transformation of the rural area with the help of resources directly and indirectly generated from the sugar industry is impressive. Irrigation has changed the previously arid area into lush farmland. Schools, higher learning institutions, medical care are now available to the population.

The experience and the achievements in Pravarnagar and Maharashtra are well worth sharing with other cooperative movements in the region.

VMNICM : The Vaikunth Mehta Institute has excellent physical facilities which are also well maintained. VMNICM is well placed to be a focal point for an ICA/INDIA regional programme as regards the "academic" part of such a programme. The VMNICM has a long experience of offering training to senior executives in developing countries.

Mission to the Philippines

The CUP, NATCCO and the Sugar Cooperative Development Institute and the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) agreed to hold the Follow-up workshop on Sydney Minister's Conference combined with the Cooperative Development Forum 6-9 June, 1991.

CUP is very keen on getting support for the project proposals regarding the setting up of COOP-TECH Consultancy Unit in or associated with the CUP. CUP also has a Proposal on Desk Top Publishing Unit at the CUP.

The ILO/DANIDA project on Rural Entrepreneurship : After considerable delay this project is now starting up. There are certainly possibilities for linkages with both CUP and NATCCO.

Mission to Thailand

ICA/Japan Management Training Course, Project Proposal Appraisal Session.

This was a very useful exercise. Out of 74 projects 14 have been fully or partly implemented since the start of the programme in 1987. Most project proposals aim at raising the income of the farmer members through investments, increasing productivity and creating value-additions. The rate of implementation was significantly higher where the projects primarily were based on internal/domestic resources as opposed to project proposals with high reliance on external/foreign resource input. Mr. Fogelstrom suggested that in future at least some (major) components in the project proposals would be based upon internal/domestic resources thus facilitating that in every project some components would be implemented.

National Follow-up Workshop of Sydney Ministerial Conference : Mr. Karl Fogelstrom also met with the CLT Director

Mr. Marong Marukatut and the Director, Cooperative Promotion Department, Ms. Wannee Ratanawaraha regarding the holding of a follow-up workshop in Thailand. It was agreed that such a workshop would be held in the last week of August 1991.

Mission to Sri Lanka

In his mission report of Sri Lanka (18-28 March 1991) Mr. Karl Fogelstrom made following important observations.

The NCC is in financial difficulties as the traditional main source of income, the Cooperative Fund to which the primary societies contribute a certain percentage of their net profit, has dried up as a result of the decentralization of the government ministries to the provinces. The Canadian Cooperative Association is assisting it since November last year.

The Consumer Cooperative Federation is improving its performance. The membership is now 206 out of 286 MPCs, up from 72 in May last year. The share capital now stands at 3.5 million Rupees as against 0.8 million in May 1990. The sales have increased very rapidly. The staff is now 25 as against 7 last year in May. The COOPFED had a net profit of 3.5 million Rupees in its first financial year.

Missions Undertaken by Consumer Cooperative Development Advisor

Malaysia : There are more than 240 consumer coop. societies in Malaysia nowadays. But only a handful of them are considered successful in term of management and profit-making; the majority of them are not efficient.

Main problems affecting the ineffectiveness of coop operations are : Absence of a National Consumers' Federation that could supply goods on wholesale basis and assure steady supply to the member consumer coops, stiff competition with private sector, inefficient management.

Malaysian Consumer Cooperative Movement needs: Establishment of a National Cooperative Federation, More research and study on consumer cooperatives in Malaysia, Consultancy services on improvement of existing consumer cooperative management. Strengthening the role of Malaysian Cooperative College in Cooperative member education and training. More technical and financial support from ICA ROAP in study and research, modernizing management and leadership development.

Philippines : In the Philippines, government has given more attention to develop credit and agricultural cooperatives. Very little attention is given to consumer cooperatives. Most of consumer cooperatives are organized in and around Manila and a very few outside of Manila. The progress of consumer cooperatives is very slow because of lack of funds, knowledge, proper training and lack of will to develop consumer cooperatives. During the last 2 years only 5 consumer cooperatives could be organized in the country. It is also very difficult to run and develop them in the absence of any suitable mechanism. This year the Law has opened up the new path

for expanding consumer activities within credit cooperatives. So, credit society is moving towards multi-purpose cooperative.

Republic of Korea : South Korea has many lines of consumers coops, such as by Trade Union, Credit Union, christian and citizens movements, distributing essential daily commodities to members. The relevant ministries are supervising them as the consumers coop law is not yet established. South Korean agricultural coops have supplied consumer goods to farmers and cooperative members since 1961. There are 1,428 primary agri. cooperative societies in South Korea.

The National Agricultural Cooperative Federation (NACF) operates the Coop. Chainstore Department in order to support management of Chainstores of its member cooperatives. And the Coop. Chainstore Department runs a central consumer goods supply centre and 6 provincial consumer goods supply centers throughout the country. The operation of coop chainstores have produced great effects. Farmers have bought their necessities at coop chainstores much cheaper than at other private shops. According to the results of a survey, member farmers' paying prices to coop chainstores were lower by 14% on average than those to other shops last year. It is calculated that coop chainstores gave profits to farmers amounting to 70 billion won on national basis during the year. Besides the direct effects explained above, there are lots of indirect effects. Firstly coop chainstores have contributed to stabilize rural consumer prices through their supply of goods with cheaper prices. Secondly, they have contributed rationalization of farm household's consumption lives by supplying necessities with good qualities. And lastly, through the operation of village shops and circulation sales, agricultural cooperatives have helped farmers save their time, money and labour.

Japan : Japanese farmers since 1960 have used a lot of chemicals in agricultural production which later on contaminated agricultural products creating the imbalance of environment. Therefore, the Japanese Coop. Movement has developed the so-called "Producer-Consumer Direct Transaction Activities" or (PCDT) to improve the environment and safety for consumers as follows :

1. PCDT means that consumers purchase agricultural and marine products direct from the contracted producers through consumer coops. Consumers, together with the producers, take a positive stance to produce the food they consume.
2. Agricultural production has become commercialized by using more chemicals and new distribution techniques which became contaminated and wasted. Thus, consumers become estranged from the place of production while producers, on the other hand, also become detached from the consumer's requirements and needs.

The PCDT system aims to bring back and reconstruct the close relationship between producers and consumers and/or coops on a contract basis.

Problems faced

The PCDT system is developing under the cooperation of the producer and the consumer, but there are many problems concerning pricing, stable supply and quality, gap between demand and supply and imported products.

Various efforts have been made to overcome the problems, and the following are some of the examples:

- i. The members are informed before hand that fish and perishable vegetables may sometimes not be supplied as planned, in order to respond flexibly to fluctuations in quality and quantity;
- ii. Some coops and producers' organizations have jointly established a fund for price guarantee in order to respond to the risks involved in price fluctuations; and
- iii. Either jointly with agricultural or fisheries cooperatives, or the co-op on its own, have established physical distribution and/or processing facilities for the adjustment of supply and quantity.

Mission Undertaken by Agricultural Coop Development Advisor (ACDA)

The ACDA visited Bangladesh. He reported that an IDACA/ CUAC Re-union Programme was conducted jointly by IDACA, BJSU and ICA ROAP from 31st January to 8th February 1991 in Dhaka, Bangladesh, which was the second IDACA Re-union Programme in Bangladesh since 1983. Mr. Shiro Futagami, Managing Director and Mr. Y. Abe, Programme Coordinator, IDACA. Mr. Md. Serajuddin, Additional Secretary in-charge of Rural Development and Cooperative Division of the Cooperative Ministry Bangladesh and 25 ex-participants of IDACA seminars and Mr. Guo Yong Kang attended the Re-union Programme. Mr. Futagami and Mr. Abe. gave a lecture on Recent Developments and Situation in Agricultural Cooperatives in Japan. Mr. Guo made speech on Present Situation of Agricultural Cooperatives in the Region and next 3 year project plan of ICA ROAP Agricultural Cooperative Development. The ex-participants reported their usefulness of IDACA training and experience in their field of activities and decided to organize IDACA Ex-participants Committee under the coordination of BJSU.

ICA Regional Workshop on Waste Resource Recycling, Shanghai (China)

A Regional Workshop on Waste Resource Recycling was held in collaboration with the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives (ACFSMC) and Shanghai Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives (SFSMC) from 25th March to 4th April, 1991 at Shanghai, China. Seven participants from five countries , i.e. India, Philippines, Sri Lanka, China and Thailand attended the workshop. The ACFSMC/SFSMC hosted the workshop. The workshop was conducted by Mr. Guo Yong Kang, Agricultural Cooperative

Development Advisor of the ICA Regional Office for Asia and Pacific, New Delhi.

The main objectives of the workshop were :

- i. To develop awareness among the member-countries on the relevance of waste resource recycling and utilization in the conservation of the natural resources including man and the society;
- ii. To develop and strengthen the bonds of cooperation, understanding and unity among the member-countries/cooperative societies in the region;
- iii. To share wisdom, experiences and technology among the member-countries;
- iv. To avail the services and technology of SFSMC/SRRUC on waste recycling and utilization applicable and economically feasible in the participants respective countries; and
- v. To avail of the financial support of other member-countries through ICA for the implementation of the project in each participating country whenever feasible.

Mr. Yang Deshou, Secretary General of ACFSMC specially came to Shanghai to attend the opening ceremony of the workshop. The method adopted for attaining the above objectives was first a briefing of all participants by ACFSMC, SFSMC and SRRUC (Shanghai Resource Recovery and Utilization Company) on the cooperative structure and the activities of waste resource recycling in China which covered many types of waste resources, e.g. steel, plastic, paper, ferrous metal, precious metal and rubber. Then followed by field visits to all the processing plants and collecting stations.

Cooperatives and Environment

The realization that environmental issues concern each and every one is fast gaining ground. The ICA ROAP in its 3-year development plan for the years 1991-92 - 1993-94 has incorporated environment among its objectives and priorities, declaring:

- to promote awareness among the cooperative organisations of the importance of an environmentally sustainable development, and
- to create an awareness among cooperative members on the protection of environment and encourage the cooperatives to play a positive participatory role.

The ICA ROAP is also planning to carry out a regional research programme focusing on the role of the cooperatives in protecting the environment. The aim of this research programme is to create awareness and to stimulate member organizations to come out with concrete action plans as to how they would be able to contribute towards an improved environment. The study to be carried out during 1991-92 will cover five countries of the region viz., India, Indonesia, China, Thailand and the Philippines. The study is expected to suggest local, national and regional plans of action.

Your contribution to Protection of Environment

In its message issued in conjunction with the 68th International Cooperative Day (1990), the International Cooperative Alliance, a worlds confederation of Cooperative Movement, called on its 600 million individual members "to continue the battle to protect the environment, by supporting their societies environmental campaigns and sustainable development programmes, lobbying local governments to adopt environmentally-friendly policies, boycotting products which are harmful to the environment, recycling reusable items and informing themselves and educating their children about nutrition and the environment".

In order to provide support and encouragement to member-organisations of the ICA and the cooperative populace, the ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, New Delhi, had issued an awareness material entitled A PLACE TO LIVE in November 1990.

In the same context, the Canadian Cooperative Association, had organized an Asian Regional Conference on Environment and Sustainable Cooperative Development in Thailand in 1990.

The topic of Environment Protection was also keenly discussed at the ICA Central Committee meeting held in Madrid in 1990. The Asian Confederation of Credit Union has also published a listing of points which one should keep in mind while dealing with environment. A cooperative journal in the Philippines had brought out a special supplement entitled "Caring for the Environment- Doing Bit".

We, at the ICA ROAP, are trying to document all such efforts. We ask you the following questions:

What steps have been taken by your organisation in this sector?

Which sector of your cooperative movement is more actively involved in the protection of environment?

Which brochures/articles have recently been produced and published by your organisation in this sector?

Has the topic " Environment and Cooperatives" been discussed formally at the highest forum of your organisation e.g., the Board of Directors/Governing Council for the annual general body meeting, and what were the main decisions/recommendations?

- The Editor

Asia-Pacific Cooperative News

ICA Head Office News

Message issued by ICA Consumer Committee on the occasion of International Consumer Day : 15.3.1991

At its Central Committee Meeting in Madrid last September, the International Cooperative Alliance focused its attention on the Environment. The ICA thus recognized the imminent importance of the Cooperative community's contribution to efforts in repairing and safeguarding our natural Environment.

Consumer co-operatives represent both a large popular movement as well as an important business sector. The consumer cooperative movement within the ICA alone comprises more than 132 million members.

Consumer cooperatives are concerned with the distribution of good quality products at reasonable prices.

However, all facets of the consumer machinery, be it the production, the transport, or the consumption of goods have contributed and continue to contribute to the Earth's ecological imbalance.

From their role in the conception of a product through its development, its production, its distribution, its exposure to the customer and finally its disposal, consumer cooperative can make an important contribution in nursing the Environment back to health by using all the means at their disposal.

And by joining forces with other cooperative sectors in their quest for a better environment, the consumer cooperative movement can play a vital role in cleaning up and maintaining the Environment. Not only for their members, but for all mankind.

This fundamental concern for the quality of their members lives together with sensitivity to their demands underlies the consumer cooperative movement's environmental goal.

Cooperative-Government Relationship

As part of ICA's on going efforts to promote an improvement in the relationship between cooperatives and governments in developing countries, Mr. Bruce Thordarson, Director of ICA, has contributed a short article to this year's Yearbook of Cooperative Enterprise, published by the Plunkett Foundation. Copies may be obtained from ICA ROAP, New Delhi

New Regional Director for ICA Moshi Office

New Appointment : The ICA Regional Council Executive Committee for East, Central and Southern Africa has endorsed the appointment of Vincent Lubasi as Regional Director of the ICA Office in Moshi. After he has officially accepted the offer, it is planned that he should take up his appointment on 1st July 1991.

News from the Region

AUSTRALIA

Mr. G. Ayres addressed the formation meeting of the Asia Pacific Cooperative Centre on 10th January 1991. He said that the Centre is not an ordinary co-operative organisation that is being formed. It will have a profound influence in the further development and relations of cooperatives in Australia and Asia Pacific.

The Centre will be a tremendous step forward for the Australian Cooperative Movement in its endeavour to become dynamic and vibrant sector of the Australian economy. At the same time it will enhance and cement the links and role of the Australian movement in the Asia Pacific region.

INDIA

Kurien elected Vice President of IDF

The Chairman of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), Dr. V. Kurien was unanimously elected Vice President of the International Dairy Federation (IDF) by its executive committee meeting held in Brussels on March 7.

Dr. Kurien had earlier been elected member of the executive committee of the IDF.

Seats for Women in Cooperatives

Keeping in with the decision to reserve 30 per cent seats for

women in the State Legislature and Local Bodies, the Maharashtra (a State in India) Government decided to reserve seats for them in the cooperative sector also.

Announcing the decision in the State Assembly, Chief Minister Sharad Pawar stated one seat will be kept reserved for women against 9 members in sugar cooperatives.

Draft Law on Co-operative Societies Mooted

A model cooperative societies bill, drafted by a Planning Commission committee, seeks to remove colonial approach and character of existing laws and meet the norms of governance of a people's autonomous movement, eliminating politicisation.

Among other things, the approach of the draft law is to "minimize" government control and interference to enable cooperators and cooperative develop self-reliance and self-confidence with power of decision making.

The draft law, according to the Planning Commission, fulfills the aspirations of 150 million members of cooperatives and is in conformity with the vision of the late Prime Minister, Jawahar Lal Nehru, who wanted to "convulse India with cooperative movement."

Export Promotion Unit within Coop Sector Urged

The Government should set up an export promotion agency within the cooperative sector to enable cooperatives to participate effectively in the export trade, an official document suggests. A paper on revitalization of cooperatives prepared by the Union Ministry of Agriculture calls for specific recognition of the role of cooperatives while formulating the export-import policy every three years.

Experts Laud Cooperative Bank Proposal

The proposal to set up a "national cooperative bank of India" to pool the resources of the cooperative sector was widely hailed by experts as a step in right direction. The new apex-level bank is proposed to be fully owned by the cooperatives.

Rid Coops of Politics

The Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Mr. Mohan Dharia strongly pleaded for delinking cooperative institutions from politics.

Inaugurating a two-day conference on National Cooperative Bank of India (NCBI), Mr. Dharia said the trend over the last couple of decades of using cooperative as "spring-boards" for political power was rather "unfortunate".

Stating that well-developed cooperatives could lead to true decentralization of economic power, Mr. Dharia said that "a strong cooperative movement is an essential pre-condition for revitalization of national development".

KRIBHCO's new Marketing Director

Dr. S.N. Pandey, 55, has taken over as Marketing Director in the cooperative giant, KRIBHCO. Earlier he was working as general manager (marketing) in KRIBHCO since 1985. Dr. Pandey has brilliant academic career and performance in KRIBHCO.

KRIBHCO Video Film gets FAI Award

KRIBHCO's video film entry "Beyond Green Revolution - Challenges of 90s" has been awarded the second prize in current year's video film competition organized by the Fertilizer Association of India as part of their Annual Seminar.

The film depicts the national scenario, development of Indian economy, agricultural growth and the role of cooperatives giant KRIBHCO in meeting the challenges of the next decade.

KRIBHCO Expert Wins FAI Award

An article entitled "increasing the Production of Sesamum and Sunflower" by Mr. R.K. Gaur, M.Sc (Agril Extn), currently working as Sr. Area Manager, KRIBHCO, Jaipur, has won the first prize from FAI.

Evaluation of Impact of Coops

Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) sponsored a Study on "Development of Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism Impact of Cooperatives at Member's Level".. The study covered all the 11 member countries of CIRDAP. Dr. M.P. Saxena, presently Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Madhya Pradesh State Cooperative Bank, presented an overview of the study. The study contains comprehensive information relating to primary cooperatives and suggest measures to improve their efficiency.

INDONESIA

Aquino and Suharto Promoters of Cooperatives

President Corazon Aquino of the Philippines and President Suharto of Indonesia see cooperatives as playing a major role in their countries' economies.

"I see cooperatives as a way my country can develop from within said Mrs Aquino. New legislation governing cooperatives was recently adopted in the Philippines in March after the President signed it into law in March 1990.

"I prefer working through cooperatives rather than through private sector of the government initiative." President Suharto told visiting cooperators from Canada. He has three main policies emphasizing agricultural production, family planning and cooperatives. He told the visitors he "sees cooperatives as the way to economic democracy". (*News Service CCA*).

JAPAN

Regional Director's Fraternal Greetings to JCCU

Mr. G. K. Sharma, Regional Director, ICA ROAP has sent the fraternal greetings on the occasion of Annual Congress of Consumer Cooperatives to JCCU.

Cooperative Basic Values Discussed at Tokyo International Symposium

The International Symposium on basic Values of Consumer Coops in Industrialized countries was held in Tokyo on November 6 and 7, 1990. The primary goals of the symposium were to stimulate discussion and debate among cooperatives in Japan and contribute to the formulation of the JCCU standpoint concerning Basic Values, which will be the main theme of the 30th ICA Congress to be held in Tokyo, 1992.

National Consumer Co-op Congress Held

JCCU held the 24th National Consumer Cooperative Congress in Sendai, located in northeastern Japan, on November 14, 1990. At the Congress, which adopted the theme, "The Co-op and Community Life", 1,400 Coop members came from all parts of Japan to give presentations and exchange information on recent cooperative activities.

More Coops Conclude Friendship Agreements with Overseas Coops

The number of coops working towards establishing stronger friendship ties with overseas cooperatives had been increasing. Recently three cooperatives (Osaka Izumi, Okayama, and Hiroshima) have established friendship agreements with overseas cooperatives.

Osaka Izumi Citizen Coop (180,000 members) began sending working level delegation to Leningrad, a sister city of Osaka on May 1990 with the aim of establishing a friendship agreement with Leningrad Consumer Coop Union and to conduct initial discussions on ways to promote friendship between the two coops in the future. The following september, President Kawashima of Osaka Izumi Citizen Coop led a delegation to the Soviet Union to sign a friendship agreement with Leningrad Consumer Coop Union President V.G.I Rushof. Future plans call for a May 1991 visit of delegation from Leningrad to Japan, to be followed by periodic exchanges of working level study delegations.

As preparation for the establishment of friendship ties with the Union of Danish Consumer Coops (FDB) of the Odense District, Okayama Coop (132,000 members) sent three delegations to Denmark to begin planning arrangements. This culminated in October 1990 with the conclusion of a friendship agreement between the two coops. It was signed when FDB President K. Sloa came to Japan with an FDB delegation at the invitation of Okayama Cooperative.

Coop Hiroshima (136,000 members) first sent a delegation to the Soviet Union in 1988 to pursue friendship ties with a cooperative in Volgograd, a sister city of Hiroshima. Coop Hiroshima visited Volgograd State Consumer Coop Union and later welcomed a delegation from the Russian coop in Japan same year. In april 1990, Coop Hiroshima sent a working level delegation to Volgograd to assist in the opening of a Japanese Restaurant. These exchanges led to an additional October, 1990 visit by a Coop Hiroshima delegation to Volgograd, led by Managing Director Tomita, which was highlighted by the signing of a friendship agreement.

The Japanese consumers cooperative movement involving more than 13 million members actively promotes the voluntary activities through neighborhood groups caring for person to person relationship which is highly evaluated by the ICA (International Cooperative Alliance). This it is making a great contribution to the world cooperative movement.

In particular, it has promoted the peace and campaign against nuclear weapons and sent more than 200 cooperators to New York City to attend the 3rd UN Special Session on Disarmament. recognizing such initiatives, the UN has given the title of "Peace Messenger" to the JCCU (Japanese Consumer Cooperative Union).

When the Gulf war broke out, the JCCU's Board released the Statement seeking peaceful settlement of the Gulf War while collecting urgent signatures addressed to the Japanese Government. And it is proposing the co-operators to undertake fund raising for Gulf Crisis Relief Fund to in response to the UNICEF's appeal."

ZENCHU set up a Study Council on Cooperative Basic Problems

On 18th December 1990, ZENCHU set up a "Study Council on Basic Problems of the International Cooperative Movement" in readiness for the ICA Tokyo Congress, set for autumn in 1992. This study council is designed to enable Japanese agricultural cooperative movement to make the ICA Tokyo Congress a significant event through positive participation, as one of the host organisations, in the discussion of the main theme for the Congress, and at the same time, to promote deep understanding toward cooperative ideas and principles.

The council is composed of 16 members from primary agricultural cooperatives, prefectural federations of agricultural cooperatives, and national federations such as ZENCHU, ZENNOH (National Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives), ZENKYOREN (National Mutual Insurance Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives) and the Norinchukin Bank (Central Cooperative Bank for Agriculture and Forestry).

At the first meeting of the Study Council, Mr. Sadayuki Tamoto, Executive Director of ZENCHU, was elected to chair the Study Council. At this meeting, various opinions were voiced by those present from their respective standpoints as active cooperator.

For example, some stressed, "agricultural cooperatives exist to rectify the contradictions of capitalism. This must be the starting point of our ideas on the cooperative movement". Others emphasised, "the cooperative movement, which 30 years ago aimed to emancipate the farming population from poverty, has changed today. Thanks to the economic development, we are now in the era of affluence. The task for the cooperative movement to tackle today is to emancipate the people from environmental damage and uncertainties about the food safety in this era of affluence".

Some also opined, "agricultural cooperatives, which give priority to non-economic activities which contribute to regional community, are successful after all". To this, others countered, "at present there has been a general trend disapproving any excessive community activities. Cooperative activities, carried out at a comfortable distance from community activities, are important today. With this mind, we have changed the method of translating the concept of mutual help into action".

As regards the acute problem currently facing agricultural cooperatives, it was pointed out that the volume of cooperative business utilised by member farmers operating on a large-scale has decreased and that smaller-scale member farmers are growing increasingly dependent on agricultural cooperatives. In this way, various interesting views based on past experiences were expressed at the meeting.

The study Council is scheduled to complete its studies on the basic problems by the time the ICA Tokyo Congress in October 1992.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Following are the new Office Bearers of National Federation of Fisheries Cooperatives (NFFC):

- Chairman and President : Mr. Lee, Bang-Ho
- Executive Vice President : Mr. An, Jung-Choul
- Research Dept. Manager : Mr. Jang, Sang-Han
(Liaison Officer to ICA)

MALAYSIA

Cooperative Development in Malaysia

In 1963, Malaysia was established, comprising the Federation of Malaya, Singapore, Sabah, and Sarawak. But in 1965, Singapore opted out and chose to be an independent country. Sabah and Sarawak have had a shorter exposure to the Cooperative Movement. Sarawak was first introduced to the Cooperative Movement in 1939 with the Cooperative Societies Ordinance while Sabah abided by the Cooperative Societies Ordinance No.3 1958.

Types of Cooperatives

There are many types of cooperatives in Malaysia mainly multipurpose, School, Consumer, Credit, Housing, Transport, Industry, Land Development, Investment, Social Service, Associations and Insurance but popularity in terms of numbers of members would be Multipurpose and Credit Cooperatives which had more than 700,000 members each. School cooperatives enjoyed membership of 590,741 members in 1988. This information is derived from the booklet by the Department of Cooperative Development in Malaysia. In 1988 total number of cooperative members amounted to 3,227,600 for 2,927 Societies.

The formation of ANGKASA

In 1966 a Congress of Malaysia Cooperatives was held in University Malaya. The concept of establishing a National Union to unite all cooperatives from different sectors in one movement was discussed to maximize success. The end result was ANGKASA (National Cooperative Organisation of Malaysia) which was formed in 1971. ANGKASA's main function has been educational. It holds special courses for cooperative officials, board members and ordinary members.

ANGKASA also organizes seminars and conferences on current cooperative issues and problems mostly through its Functional and State Liaison Group and collaborates with other agencies and organisation whether national or international.

PAKISTAN

Change of Address

Mr. Ihsanul Haq Piracha
Managing Director,
Mercantile Coop. Finance Corporation Ltd.,
House No. 32, St. No. 20
F-7/2, Islamabad, Pakistan.

PHILIPPINES

Guidelines on Tax Exemption

All types of cooperatives qualified under the law, may now avail of value added tax and import duties exemptions, the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) recently announced.

Under the code, cooperatives with accumulated reserves and undivided get savings not exceeding P10 million are not subjected to taxes in their business deals with their members and enjoy exemptions from payment of import taxes of equipment and machineries not available in the country including the payment of value added taxes.

The Omnibus Cooperative Code and the law creating the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) were signed by

President Aquino. This ushered in an era when a group of people could initiate legislation which get adopted into law.

COOPTRADE

The Coop Trade International Philippines has been organized to help out cooperatives with potentials of exporting their products abroad. While awaiting approval of its registration, it has started small-scale operations as its base at the CUP.

CUP 11th Annual General Assembly

The Cooperative Union of Philippines (CUP) held its annual general assembly from September 28-29 at the TUCP Training Centre in Diliman, Quezon City.

The theme for this year's assembly is "Decade for Sustainable Development Through Cooperative". The general assembly proper was preceded by a seminar forum on public policy on cooperatives- cosponsored with the UP Law Center.

SINGAPORE

Singapore Teachers' Coop Starts a Child Care Centre

The Singapore Teachers' Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society has started its own Child-Care Centre.

The Society encouraged by the SNCF to start this project has spent two years studying details like, site, viability, community needs, staff recruitment and other requirements before it set up its Centre. The Centre commenced operation on 1 February, 1991.

SRI LANKA

THE MAHAWELI FARMERS COOPERATIVE PILOT PROJECT : It is a unique experience in grass roots' level approach to cooperative development.

It is the largest single multi-purpose irrigation scheme in recent history in Sri Lanka. Under this project the longest river, the Mahaweli river, has been diverted into the dry zone to irrigate large areas of land. Farm families from all over the country have been settled in the area. Each family has been given one hectare of low land mainly for irrigated paddy cultivation and 1/8 of a hectare for home gardening purposes. Thus, previously uninhabited dry land has been transformed into productive farm land for thousands of families who previously had only little or no land at all to cultivate.

Based upon the recommendations in the study the Mahaweli Cooperative Pilot Project was started in 1988. The project is implemented by the National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka in collaboration with the Mahaweli Economic Agency and funded by the Swedish Cooperative Centre.

The Mahaweli Cooperative Societies started business operations in 1988. By mid 1988 13 societies had been registered

with a membership of 268. One year later the membership had grown to 1191.

Special Features

Perhaps the most prominent quality of the project is the massive training and education programmes for all the key groups making up a functioning cooperative society; members, committee members and staff. The training programmes have created an exceptionally high degree of awareness and positive motivation amongst the members and the staff. *In fact no new member is admitted unless he/she has undergone a predefined basic training in cooperative principles and practices.* In addition to this a prospective new member must have had business transactions of Rs.3,000 with the society before admitted. Another special feature is the relatively high value of one share - Rs.100.

Cooperative Members' Participation Programme (CMPP)

The National Cooperative Council (NCC) and the ICA ROAP organised a pilot seminar on CMPP last year. The CMPP introduces a new methodology for cooperative members active participation in their society activities. The methodology aims at activating the members to start up activities which can be implemented with existing resources. The ICA ROAP has developed a Manual on the CMPP Methodology. 90% of the proposed projects made in the CMPP seminar were being implemented. Among them was a simple paddy processing device used by women to earn some extra income for their families.

Activities

The Mahaweli Cooperative Pilot Project Societies provide their members with various types of agricultural inputs like; pesticides, fertilisers, packing materials, etc. The members can obtain loans for cultivation purposes. About 95% of these loans are given in kind. The societies have also started savings schemes. The societies are marketing the members' produce, mainly paddy and chilies.

VIETNAM

New Models of Agricultural Cooperatives

Cooperatives play an important role in the fields of production of goods, distribution and social service activities in the countryside of Vietnam. Radical changes have taken place after the Government's efforts to revitalizing and restructuring of the cooperatives. Farmer's active participation in the innovation process has brought about three different forms of agricultural cooperatives viz., those (1) formed on the basis of voluntary funding between farmer households or between the cooperative and farmer households; (2) based on signing contracts with the present agricultural cooperatives for handling their business establishments; (3) existed for many years now, and which still have an influence on farmer households and rural affairs that others will not be undertaken.

The cooperative is still a major organisation to provide services for all households. The operating cost of the cooperatives deprived from (a) deduction from the output of the cultivated area leased to every household; (b) interest from services; (c) rents for hiring facilities of cooperatives; and (d) contribution from farmers. The money is spent according to an annual budget plan passed by the cooperative members congress.

Cooperative funds are earmarked for the following social activities:

- a. to build electricity supply system, wire broadcasting network, kindergartens creches, health care centers, schools, road, etc.,
- b. to provide financial support to farmers associations, women's union and the like; and
- c. to provide partial support for the activities related to culture, art and sports, dissemination of information, primary health care, and relief.

Now the budget of the village administration, particularly the direct contributions of the community to specific activities, is on increase. The cooperatives have now assumed greater responsibilities to provide necessary help and support services to the poor in the countryside.

(source ; CIRDA Newsletter-Dhaka No-42, December 1990)

Swedish Cooperative Centre (SCC) Moves Office

The following is the address of the Swedish Cooperative Centre (SCC) effective 18-19 February 1991:

New address : Box 20080
S-104 60 STOCKHOLM

Visiting address : Tullgardsvagen 12, 7th floor,
Stockholm.

New telefax No : 702 1890
New telephone No. : 702 5100
Telex No. : 13 280

Obituary

Mr. Tapeswar Singh, Ex-president of NCUI, NAFED, NCCF and member of ICA Central Committee for more than a decade expired on 27th February 1991 in Patna due to heart failure. The Prime Minister, Mr. Chandra Sekhar, and many other dignitaries attended his last rituals. The Regional Director, Mr. G.K. Sharma, also attended the last rituals and conveyed condolences on behalf of the ICA.

A Select List of ICA Cooperative Publications

1. **Women in Development Through Fishery Cooperatives in Asia** - Report of the ICA/CCA Planning Mission covering Bangladesh, India and the Philippines. Rs.150/US\$25.
2. **Facilitation of Effective Cooperative Legislation in Selected Countries in Asia** - A Study Report. Rs.100/US\$15.
3. **Present Situation, Problems and Future Tasks of Agricultural Cooperatives** - Study reports from Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Philippines and Sri Lanka. Rs.300/US\$ 50.
4. **Cooperative Ministers' Conference-Sydney, Australia - Conclusions.** Rs.20/US\$3.
5. **Cooperative Ministers' Conference-Sydney, Australia - Report and Country Papers** - a comprehensive document on **Cooperative-Government Collaborative Strategies for the Development of Cooperatives.** Rs.400/US\$60.
6. **Facilitators' Manual on Cooperative Member Participation Methodology** - HRD Series 02. Rs.300/US\$45.
7. **Cooperative Values and Relations between Cooperatives and the State** - Working Papers. ICA Working Party on Cooperative Research Planning and Development. Rs.200/US\$30.
8. **Methodology for Cooperative Member Participation** - Report of a regional seminar. Rs.100/US\$15.
9. **A Place to Live - Role Cooperatives can play in Protecting the Environment.** Rs.20/US\$3.
10. **Asia in ICA** by Dr. R.C. Dwivedi. Paper back : Rs.300/US\$45. Hard bound : Rs.400/US\$60.
11. **Fishing Industry and Fishery Cooperatives in Selected Asian Countries** - A Regional Review Paper by Mr. Daman Prakash. Rs.50/US\$8.
12. **Development of Consumer Cooperative Movement in Bangladesh** - Workshop Report of the ICA/BJSU National Workshop held at Dhaka - compiled by Mr. W.U. Herath. Rs.50/US\$8.
13. **Housewives in Consumer Coops** - Report of the ICA Regional follow-up Workshop on Housewives Involvement in Consumer Coops, Osaka, Japan - by Mr. W.U. Herath. Rs.100/US\$18.
14. **Agricultural Cooperatives in Japan : The Dynamics of Their Development** by Mr. M.V. Madane. Paper back : Rs.150/US\$25. Hard bound : Rs.200/US\$30.
15. **Cooperative Democracy vis-a-vis Members' Participation** by Mr. Daman Prakash. Rs.120/US\$15.

16. Perspective and Project Planning for Agricultural Coop Sector, Gansu Province, China. Report of ICA Study Mission - compiled by Mr. Guo Yong Kang. Rs.150/US\$25.

Prices quoted are inclusive of postage charges. In India publications can be sent per VPP. Special trade discounts are also available. Please ask for a free complete catalogue of ICA cooperative publications.

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ASIA-PACIFIC COOPERATIVE NEWS



Issue No.2

April-June 1991

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE

ICA HEAD OFFICE NEWS

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69th International Cooperative Day

Saturday, July 6, 1991

Message from the International Cooperative Alliance Solidarity with Eastern & Central Europe

As countries in Eastern and Central Europe are slowly and painfully, but resolutely, making the transition to the market economy, cooperatives in these countries are having to fight for their existence in an atmosphere charged with prejudice and misconceptions.

Unfortunately, the name co-operative has, in many minds, become inextricably linked to the political and economic system based on totalitarianism and the planned economy. While it is true that the cooperative movements in the former Eastern Block adapted to these regimes managed to survive by helping to serve state objectives, their roots, in fact, date back to the turn of the century.

Now that cooperatives no longer have to serve state objectives, they are able to revert to their more legitimate purpose of serving the interests of their members. Co-operatives in Eastern and Central Europe wish to return to their roots and also catch up with the cooperative movements which have evolved in a democratic political environment. They are looking to their co-operative colleagues in the rest of the world for models of efficient and democratic co-operative management.

But although the new emphasis in the region is on the capitalist free market the Eastern European countries should not slavishly copy every thing in the West. They should be able to learn from previous experience, thereby avoiding the excesses of the free market system. The co-operatives themselves should be wary in order to avoid some of the problems encountered by the western cooperatives in recent years.

The cooperative movements in Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the eastern part of the Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania and the USSR can look to the ICA Cooperative Development Programme for Eastern Europe and Central Europe for support in their efforts to adapt and expand in their new political and economic environments. The Programme also aims to promote the development of mutually beneficial contacts between co-operatives from the east and west, many of which have already begun.

The Programme seeks to achieve these aims through the organisation of regional and national training seminars on issues of importance to the region's co-operatives, by creating a data bank and acting as a

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clearing house for information, and by providing advice to organisations and governments wishing to promote co-operative development in the region.

ICA encourages its world-wide membership to help the movements in Eastern and Central Europe by exchanging experience with them at meetings of ICA's Central Committee and its Specialised Organisations, by increasing commercial and training agreements with cooperatives in Eastern and Central Europe, and by supporting the ICA's own Cooperative Development Programme.

ICA is deeply convinced that the cooperative movement can help these countries return to democracy and build a society which is both economically efficient and socially just.

Restructuring of ICA

ICA Structure Committee has finalised its report. The proposed new structure for ICA will be considered by the the Central Committee at its meeting in October in Berlin.

Preparations for the 39th ICA Congress in Tokyo in 1991

The Organising Committee consisting of representatives of nine ICA affiliated national cooperative organisations of Japan

reported to the ICA, Executive Committee, the progress of preparations made for hosting the next ICA Congress at Tokyo. The Committee is busy in taking various measures, including bringing out a number of publications on this occasion, to make the event a great success. It will be first Congress in Asia.

International Year of Cooperatives, 1995

The Government of India has agreed to present a motion proposing the designation of such a year by the United Nations, and other countries will be asked to provide support.

Membership

Membership applications were accepted from the Union of Workers' Productive Cooperatives in Bulgaria, the Hangya Alliance in Hungary, and the Central Union of Rural Cooperatives in Iran. The BFG banks in Germany and Switzerland have withdrawn from membership following changes in their ownership.

Agriculture and the Environment from 15-19 April

The FAO Committee on Agriculture has proposed an 11% increase in the 1992-93 budget in the FAO People's Participation,

Rural Co-operatives and NGO's Programme.

A symposium was scheduled to be organised in Brussels, in June, for women, entitled 'Consumers in the EEC Internal Market - In particular, the Contribution of Women in Co-operatives'. Not only is it expected to have repercussions for EEC countries but also countries in Eastern and Central Europe, as well as EFTA members. Ms. Turid Strom, Chair of the ICA Consumer Committee was to make presentation on Consumer Policy in the EFTA countries. With the help from EUROCOOP, the Women's Committee has been successful in obtaining the support of prominent members of the European Parliament and Commission's officers and have been granted financial help towards their hotel accommodation.

A two-day conference looking at worker co-operatives in Eastern and Western Europe in the run up to 1992 is to take place on 15 and 16 April in the UK.

Mr. Jaromir Svoboda, Vice Chairman of CICOPA and ICA representative to UNIDO, is to make a presentation on the Czechoslovak Experience. Mr. Ivan Fidler, is also on the programme to make a report on the tremendous changes which have taken place in Czechoslovakia over the past two years.

ICA REGIONAL OFFICE NEWS

Meeting of the ICA Regional Council

The 33rd Meeting of the ICA Regional Council for Asia & the Pacific was held at Chiangmai, Thailand, on 11-12 June, 1991 under the Chairmanship of General A.S. Lozada. It was attended by Messrs. Ray Ison, Australia, Geoff Ayres, Australia, Liaquat Ali, Bangladesh, Shahid Ullah, Bangladesh, Yang Deshou, China, Liu Xing, China, Eddiwan, Indonesia, Mohammad Reza Bankian Tabrizi, Iran, Mehdi Mahdavi, Iran, Sadayuki Tamoto, Japan, Won Ho Suh, Korea, Datuk Hamzah Haji Yatim, Malaysia, Tuan Haji Mohd. Yusof bin Mohd. Esa, Malaysia, Lionel

Samarasinghe, Sri Lanka M.G.S. Silva, Sri Lanka, Anan Chamnankit, Thailand, Alexander Starych, USSR, Alexander Leukhin, USSR Bruce Thordarson, Director, ICA, Claes Thorselius, Dy. Director, ICA, and J.M. Rana, Sr. Development Adviser.

Mr. Shiro Futagami, Managing Director, IDACA Mr. Yves Regis, Chairman, CICOPA were special invitees.

Mr. L. Mohabeer, Mauritius, Mr. R. Seeruttun from Mauritius, Mr. Kazuo Tsukada, and Ms. R. Watarai from Japan,

Mr. Narong Marukatut from Thailand, Ms. L. I. Dedicatoria from Philippines participated as observers.

Welcoming the Councillors, Mr. Jamnien Sasibutr, the Deputy Governor of Chiangmai Province, said "I am very proud to let you know that the cooperative activity in Chiangmai is quite successful because its services are relevant to the needs of the people. To supplement this statement, Majaem Land Settlement Cooperative Ltd. in Chiangmai Province just has been awarded by His Majesty the King as the

best performance and settlement cooperative for 1991. However, it does not mean that we do not have any problems in our cooperative development effort. We still need guidance and support in order to meet with new challenges you would have a chance to visit some of our cooperatives.

Gen. A.S. Lozada, Chairman, ICA Regional Council, said: "The ICA in its mandate that has been transmitted by the Congress in Moscow in 1980 and the Central Committee Meeting to draw up a policy guidelines on cooperative development. We were indeed happy to respond to these policy enunciated by the ICA. We feel in the Regional Council that it will bring about lot of changes which it has done for the past 3-4 years in this region. This shows our capability to respond to this ICA Policy on Cooperative Development without minimizing of course the accomplishments in other fields. In the Regional Council I am happy to report in the course of time we have lot of developments that would make us proud as a member of the council here. This Council has 4 years term. We should be proud that during this period of time we were able to create awareness among functionaries of the government, among movements and also the international agencies.....On behalf of the Council and on behalf of the delegates here I would express my thanks and gratitude and welcome you to the 33rd Regional Council Meeting."

Mr. Bruce Thordarson, Director, ICA said: "I would like to share with you one or two observations about the current trends and developments within the cooperative movement. It is always difficult to generalize about cooperatives because they are decentralized. Throughout the world, in countries where one had least expected there is a development towards market economy. When we look at the history of cooperatives of last 150 years, I think that the cooperatives are the most successful when they have responded to the wishes of the members. Under conditions of economic liberation and political pluralism, in the world today, I think we must as cooperatives also be aware of the trend to regionalisation of economic activities, including regional trading cooperation. We as a cooperative movement need to be responsive to all these trends.

"The next Central Committee Meeting and the Executive Committee would be proposing changes to the ICA's own regional structure. We have, I believe, an efficient,

well-structured and strong Regional Office In Asia and Pacific. The Singapore Consultation of 1988, the Sydney Ministerial Conference in early 1990 were the key steps in setting the future direction of the cooperative movement. In the absence of plans of this sort and consensus it is very difficult to martial our forces. Next year in October the ICA would be holding its Congress in Tokyo which is first ever held in Asia. Not only to the cooperative movement of Japan, but to the cooperative movement of all the Asia-Pacific region, this will be an opportunity for cooperative leaders around the world to see for the first time some of the developments that are taking place in this region..."

Mr. G.K. Sharma, Regional Director, said: "In recent years, the ROAP has witnessed a spectacular entry of a variety of Cooperative Movements in its fold e.g., China, Vietnam and the USSR and re-entry of Afghanistan, Iran and Fiji. This provides a good opportunity for the ICA to bring all shades of national economies together and to help the movements to learn from each other.

"ICA's endure is to help its member movements in learning from each other's experience. We also want that the movement-government should have a constructive understanding and collaborative relationship so that each other can play a contributory role in promoting socio-economic progress. Convening of Cooperative Ministers Conference periodically is a step in this direction.

"As a follow-up of the Sydney Cooperative Ministers Conference, we have planned a number of national workshops to effectively implement the recommendations and the next Ministers Conference will be held in Jakarta in February 1992." "Historically, our development programmes have been supported by Sweden followed by Japan. In recent years, this support has been extended by Canada and Australia also. However, it appears that the financial support from outside the region, which was the major source of funding, may be reduced in the years to come. In fact, even in the current year this contribution has been reduced. This was a matter of concern to us as we were afraid this may affect our development activities. However, fortunately we are getting encouraging response from our member organisations in supporting the development programmes. So far, Singapore, South Korea, China, Australia and India

have come forward to sponsor regional activities. In the years to come, we will have to depend more and more on mutual support and cooperation."

Mr. Anan Chamnankit, Chairman, Cooperative League of Thailand, said: "The CLT has selected Chiangmai as a venue of 33rd meeting because Chiangmai is one of the most charming and old cities in Thailand and also because the cooperatives in the province constitute major part of the cooperative movement in Thailand with 141 cooperative societies and 115,773 membership covering all types of cooperatives in the country.

Mr. Boonluen Boonreung, the Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, who presided over the inaugural function expressed "the government of Thailand believes that cooperatives will enable farmer to help each other in increasing production and quality as well as reduce their marketing problem. Hence, the cooperative sector had been adopted as a strategic tool in our national economic and social development plan to reduce poverty and uplift the standard of living of the poor".

As for the cooperative development in this region, he felt that cooperatives have played a vital role in socio-economic development of the people of the region. There is also great potential for further development of this sector. He appreciated the initiative of the ICA in its role on coordination of cooperative development efforts in this region.

The Council observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect to the memories of two Regional Councilors, viz. Mr. Augustin Kilyako, Philippines, and Mr. Tapeswar Singh, India.

The Council paid special tributes to Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India, a friend of the Co-operative Movement and who lost his life while championing the cause of democracy.

Member presented briefly developments in Cooperative Movement in their respective countries.

AUSTRALIA

Cooptrade Australia has successfully searched rural hardware products for a consumer co-op in New Zealand, arranged the supply of sporting goods to a customer in Malaysia after an introduction by **Cooptrade Malaysia**, handled the distribution and agency for a Tongan manufactured Light Emitting Diode device, and acted as a sourcing agent for several other co-operatives.

The Government Minister responsible for co-operatives in the State of New South Wales has been especially supportive of cooperative development and is encouraging the determination of a strategy that will focus on all issues relevant to cooperative development, but will pay particular attention to the following areas:

- the need for much greater education of the community generally about the benefits of cooperation.
- the development of strategies designed to increase the volume and extent of value added production carried out by cooperatives in NSW.
- the opportunities for much greater international trade between Australian and overseas cooperatives, particularly in the Asia Pacific region.
- the opportunities for cooperative banks, both within Australia and the Asia/Pacific region.
- the possibilities for strategic cooperative formations as a result of the reviews into statutory marketing authorities and other Government enterprises.

The Asia Pacific Co-operative Research, Training & Development Centre Limited held its formation meeting on January 10, 1991. Its mission is to sponsor institutions to undertake research, education, training and development activities for the advancement and development of cooperatives in Australia, the South Pacific and Asia to achieve the goals of their business and social activities, on the basis of the sixth cooperative principles of the International Cooperative Alliance.

With the assistance of a grant from the New South Wales Education and Training Foundation, the AAC, in conjunction with the University of Western Sydney, is to develop the curriculum for the Australian

Co-operative Management Certificate Course. The course will consist of four strands, Legal, Financial, Marketing and Administration and each strand will consist of three subjects. The course will be offered from early 1992 and will have accreditation from the University of Western Sydney."

There is no national legislation for cooperatives in Australia. Each of the six States have independent laws governing cooperatives. In the last report to Regional Councillors, advice was given of legislative changes in New South Wales and Victoria. This report is now occurring in all States. AAC has been invited to participate in a working party of Attorneys General to assist with the development of common legislation that will apply in all States of Australia.

The National Board of AAC has decided October 2, 1991, will be promulgated as Cooperative Day in Australia.

BANGLADESH

Number of societies has been decreased including one national society, ten central (secondary) level and 7,463 in primary societies. The main reason for decrease in number of societies is cancellation of registration of non-functioning societies by the government.

Membership in primary societies has been decreased to the tune of 265,286. This happened mainly due to cancellation of registration of the societies with their members.

Share capitals have been increased at all the three levels; at the national level to an extent of Tk 66.65 lacs at the central level at Tk. 318.59 lacs and at the primary level to Tk 806.82 lacs.

Savings deposits have also been increased; at national level to an extent of Tk. 818.87 lacs., at central to Tk. 746.35 and at primary level to Tk. 1058.28 lacs.

Reserve fund have been increased at national level to an extent of Tk. 450.83 lacs and at central level to Tk 300.63 lacs but at the primary level the reserve funds has gradually decreased to an extent of Tk. 609.88 lacs. Total assets of the cooperatives have been increased to an extent of Tk. 322.20 lacs.

The Government reconstituted the committee for administration of Co-operative Development Fund excluding the representation of BJSU. The BJSU protested the action of the Government. The

Government then revised the reconstitution and included the BJSU in the committee.

New Government decided to exempt the farmers from repayment of agricultural loan to an extent of Tk 5000/- each including the interest accrued. This will of course, relieve many of the agricultural cooperative members from payment of loan to their societies but the societies will suffer from the decision if not compensated by the Government.

BJSU made an appeal to ICA to come forward to support the BJSU for survival at the event of its on going financial constraints.

The BJSU has made another appeal to ICA and through ICA to all its members movements to come in aid to the victims of unprecedented cyclone of April 29, 1991.

CHINA

Primary marketing cooperatives are developing very smoothly. Turn-over of the marketing cooperatives in 1990-91 is about 73 billion US Dollars. Supply & Marketing Cooperatives of China exported commodities worth 1.3 billion US Dollars. Share capital 10 billion US Dollars. Last year, achieved sales net profit 300 million US Dollars. Compared with other years, last year's sales is not enough.

High interest of the bank and because of the transportation- taxation from the government - 1 billion US Dollars - government interest on loan and transportation would be lower- economic development is not balanced in the certain part of China. Policy to support local cooperatives. At present there are 32,000 primary marketing cooperatives.

Primary cooperatives are responsible for the service to 7,000 farmers. It is very difficult for the primary cooperative to deliver service in each village and to give guidance to the farm households.

In the next 2-3 years service centers would be established throughout every village - 100 million dollars to support this proposal. International collaboration between China and other countries is being encouraged. Supply and Marketing Cooperative has established more than 100 joint ventures. Unfortunately upto now joint venture collaboration are with foreign partners and with private companies. Collaboration with USSR and Vietnam on border areas is taking place.

April this year, All-China Federation organized a Trade Fair in Shenzeng and signed contracts with private companies worth 80 million U.S. Dollars. It was a successful exhibition.

Any project from the region seeking support, the ACMSF will extend its full support. It is not clear as to what kind of support is needed from us. We invite delegates to visit China. Asia-Pacific region belongs to developing countries.

Economic development level is same in most of the cases.

ACMSF is willing to support the Waste Recycling Project in the Philippines with economic and equipment support for this project. The total cost of the project is U.S. Dollars 500,000. ACMSF is willing to give 50% support i.e. U.S. Dollars 250,000 with matching contribution from the Philippines.

INDONESIA

In 1990-91 cooperatives also were stimulated to operate cooperative credit banks (KBPR) beside the private credit banks (Bank Perkreditan Rakyat, BPR) that have flourished earlier.

In 1990 the Government issued a policy to compulse banks to issue at least 20% of its extending loans to small business (including cooperatives). Results of this policy as for 1990-91 were still below the expectations."

Early 1991, the Parliament of Indonesia announced a draft on a new law on banking and also a new law on insurance. The Indonesian Cooperative Council has composed 2 (two) special teams to formulate proposals for inputs to these 2 drafts.

The Cooperative Bank of Indonesia (BUKOPIN) has to face serious problem since early 1991, since 80% of delinquency loans were in hands of private business.

The DEKOPIN has instructed its 27 branches all over Indonesia to monitor the number of agricultural cooperatives (KUD), their farmer members and their real need of fertilizers to avoid failures.

The Ministry of Education and Culture has issued an instruction to teach cooperation in schools, colleges and universities. School, College and University Cooperatives have organized themselves into a national youth cooperative: The Koperasi Pemuda Indonesia (KOPINDO) with 55 primary cooperatives.

Youth Cooperatives have been organized into a national federation.

Youth Cooperatives are considered as "practical training institution" for future cooperative leaders, cooperative members, as well as managers.

The Indonesian Cooperative Council (DEKOPIN) has special arm to promote women participation in cooperatives, known as the Coordinating Body for Women Cooperators (BKWK), at the national as well as at Provincial level.

In March 1989 the coordinating body of cooperative tours and travel agencies has been developed into Cooperative on Tourism and Travel called BUPARKOPIN (Badan Usaha Pariwisata Koperasi Indonesia).

IRAN

Rural and Agricultural Cooperatives are active in three forms in Iran: Rural Cooperative Societies, Agricultural Cooperative Societies, (in different specialized fields) and their Cooperative Alliance thereof, are

under control and supervision of Central Organisation for Rural Cooperative which is affiliated to the Ministry of Agriculture. These cooperatives have covered more than 57,000 villages through out the country, by their 4000 agricultural and rural cooperatives societies with 4.7 million memberships. The capital and reserves of rural cooperatives and alliances were over than - Rials 123,342,478,771 (about \$ 1,718,645,538) at the beginning of the year 1991 which was increased averagely 17%, in comparison with the last year.

For the new year (from 1991 March) with the approval of the Economy High Council, a guaranteed price is determined for most of the agricultural products and buying the excess of products which are about 15 kinds is also guaranteed.

The exportation of agricultural products is another activity of agricultural and Rural Cooperatives, network which is carried on by their Alliances in different provinces and also central Alliance for Rural Cooperative.

In the training fields, new and significant steps are taken to improve the quality of agricultural cooperatives' activity from the year 1990 by activizing two centres for training cooperation in OROMIEH and AHVAZ- (the center of a south and a north west province of the country) in order to train the human force required by the cooperatives- network at the associate of arts level.

A memorandum is signed between the Islamic Republic of Iran's post office and

CORC and the preparation of establishing 400 post offices in the location of consumer cooperative stores of rural cooperative societies are provided.

The establishment of agricultural bank's branches in rural cooperative companies is predicted for 500 rural cooperatives in this year to take the limit reserves of rural cooperatives members and use them in order to give supplementary loans.

In order to provide credential facilities in this year (1991) the amount of RIALS 173,000,000,000 is specified for fulfilling the goals of agricultural cooperative societies.

To provide professional and living needs of rural cooperative members, about 10,736 oil, selling centers of rural cooperatives societies are undertaken the main distribution of oil products for the agricultural machinery fuel, water pumps's engine fuel and etc.

About 50% of all insecticides and 100% of all fertilizers required, by the agricultural sector are distributed by rural cooperatives, the fertilizer "ferro-secosterin" and other kinds of agricultural needs such as : Carbunat-Potas powder, cover paper for citrus and nylon are provided and distributed by rural cooperatives network.

In order to facilitate the supply of life and professional requirements of the members of the cooperative societies, a union of rural cooperation was gradually organized in all the cities of Iran with membership of all the rural cooperative societies of that city, which provided the entire requirements, goods and services, of the members of rural cooperative societies. At present 189 unions of rural cooperative societies are rendering services all over Iran.

One of the actions taken under the coverage of rural cooperative companies was formation of production assisting groups which began its work with the aim of lowering the production expenses and in agriculture and animal husbandry, and rendering services and presentation of the facilities of public sector to these groups have priority.

JAPAN

Wholesale market of rice under control of the government started. Influence of the liberalization on beef and orange since this April. The U.S. hardliners against Japan and Japanese export industries to the U.S. made rice a symbol of

trade friction between Japan and the U.S. Japanese agricultural cooperative movement is maintaining the stance of a stop rice import firmly and requesting it to the Diet and the government more strongly.

To promote the reform of agricultural cooperative structure towards the 21st century, the draft resolution of the 19th National Congress is now being prepared. The following three pillars are being considered :

- (a) Innovation of agricultural production,
- (b) Restructure of 3 level organizational system,
- (c) Promotion of changes in the consciousness of cooperative officers.

The policy of "reduction of production cost" and "promotion of 3H agriculture, healthy, high-quality and high-technology" worked out in the 18th Congress. The policy on promotion of "agriculture which can conserve national environment" and "organic farming and less/no pesticide farming" will be much more emphasized.

The target of amalgamation is to be 1,000 agricultural cooperatives in the year 2000. Now, there are some 3,500.

Japan's agricultural cooperative organisation has now 3 levels as primary, prefectural and national level. However, it is being considered that prefectural federations would be abolished and 2 levels system as primary and national level be made in the future. Though, prefectural unions would be retained.

Re-establishment of corporate identity on cooperative movement will be carried out. The movement will be called JA for short. It means Japan's Agriculture.

The Central Cooperative College is now a specialized college, which is not registered at the Ministry of Education. It will be registered and renamed to International Cooperative College, which name be tentative for the time being. An acceptance of students from overseas countries is being considered.

The ICA Congress, which will be held in Asia for the first time, will be held at Shinjuku Keio Plaza Hotel in Tokyo from October 27 to 30, 1992. The number of participants including foreigners is expected at 1,000.

ICA Training Course for Strengthening Management of Agricultural Cooperative Movement" which was started in 1986 as a five years programme is scheduled to finish in 1990. However, ZENCHU had requested the MAFF of Japan to extend

this programme. As a result, the Ministry approved to continue it.

ZENCHU had made approaches to the Ministry to provide a training course for rural women in Asia. As a result, the Ministry agreed to provide fund for special ICA Project starting in 1991.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Dr. Ho-Sun Han became the first Chairman & President of NACF in its history for four years tenure through the direct vote by 1470 presidents of member cooperatives according to the amendment of Agricultural Cooperative Law.

Adoption of counter-measures to cope with Agricultural Import Liberalization.

Establishment of the Korea Coop Trading Co. Ltd. on 7th July, 1990.

Establishment of the Agricultural Technology Cooperation Co. on 7th May, 1991.

Formulation of the Agro-Processing Business Development Plan.

Taking over of Namhae Chemical Corporation shares to give member farmers better services including lowering the price of fertilizers, ensuring a stable supply of fertilizers and returning the profits to member farmers by joining the management of the corporation.

Opening of the Rice-Cake Sales Centre on 10th February 1990 to expand the rice consumption and to regenerate the traditional dietary life culture.

MALAYSIA

Revalue of Cooperative Investment in CCB - revaluation has been done over certain period of years determined by the Cooperative Development Department.

Amendments of the Cooperative Act 1948. The new Act (the Cooperative Act 1990) will be tabled in Parliament in June.

The Government after considering the views and suggestions from the National Consultative Economic Council is now preparing another Economic Plan to replace the MEP.

PHILIPPINES

The most significant events of the century were the enshrinement of co-operatives in the Constitution, the signing into law by the President of the Omnibus Cooperative Code of the Philippines, under Republic Act 6938 and Republic Act 6939

creating the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) on March 10, 1990. The CDA commenced operations on August 1, 1990 after 7 cooperative leaders from different parts of the country were appointed to the Board of Administrators of the CDA. First Anniversary Celebration of the signing of the Cooperative Laws.

National Partnership for Cooperative Development - The tri-sectoral team involving the government, the cooperative sector and non-government organisations organized on 5th February 1991 has been active in addressing various issues on cooperative development.

Organisation of the Cooperative Trade International Philippines, Inc. or CTIP under the auspices of ICA Cooptrade Project.

The Central Bank of the Philippines and the CDA have given the go signal for the organisation of 15 more cooperative banks in the provinces.

-The Central Cooperative Distribution Centre Project of the Metro Manila Federation of Consumers Cooperatives, Inc. has commenced operations. Despite low operating capital, the CCDC has been doing small scale buying-selling activities of basic consumer goods such as rice, sugar, flour and cooking oil. The MMAFECCO membership has also expanded to 19 from its original 15 member cooperatives.

Linkage of CUP and the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS) on Dissemination of Marketing Information.

Establishment of the Technology Transfer Programme for Cooperatives (TTPC).

A memorandum of agreement tapping the CUP in the transfer of technology to the rural folk was formally signed at Malacanang between CUP officials and key representatives of five government agencies and an inventors' group.

SINGAPORE

From 1990, SNCF in conjunction with ICA has offered technical assistance to cooperative movements in the developing countries in the Asian, Pacific and African regions under the Singapore International Cooperative Technical Assistance Programme (SINCOTAP).

SNCF noted a remarkable increase of approximately 80% of SNCF individual membership from 248,000 in 1987 to 480,000 in 1990. SNCF has also increased its affiliates from 54 in 1987 to the present 58.

SNCF played a significant role in cooperative development as it spearheaded the formation of 5 cooperatives for the period 1987 to 1990, viz. computer cooperative, a travel cooperative, two school cooperatives and a credit cooperative league.

SNCF will be spearheading cooperative welfare projects to care for the elderly, retirees and the disabled.

SRI LANKA

The Ministry of Food and Cooperatives has drafted the National policies of the cooperative sector in Sri Lanka and these policies were explained to the Presidents and Boards of all eight apex unions and 284 Multipurpose Cooperative Societies at a general meeting.

Special emphasis is laid on development of knowledge and participation of youth and school children in the cooperative activities of the country.

The National Co-operative Council with assistance from the Canadian Cooperative Association is taking a keen interest to develop a national level Cooperative Women's Organisation inclusive of women representatives from all sectors of cooperatives in the country.

The restructuring of the National Cooperative Council, the apex cooperative union in Sri Lanka is now completed.

The COOPTRADE Project has opened a new sales centre within the premises of the head office of the NCC.

THAILAND

As of January 1, 1991 there were total 3,163 primary cooperatives with a total membership of 3,309,075 families.

In addition there are 11 national Cooperative Federations with membership of 1,020 cooperative societies and 74 Provincial Cooperative Federations with total membership of 1,060 cooperative societies.

Recently the Ministry of Finance had increased from 19.50% the Interest rate charged on loan of the financial institution from 19.50% to 21% and the interest rate on deposit increased from 16% to 18%.

The Cooperative Promotion Department CPD has been trying to promote the establishment of cooperatives among the people of various sectors according to the needs of the group of people who shared common interest, especially the establishment of single purpose cooperatives such as dairy cooperatives in order to serve the

government policy in promoting nutrition food of the people. This type of cooperative has a bright prospect due to the increasing market demand.

The Cooperative Auditing Department (CAD) has completed its plan for setting up its own provincial auditing offices. Besides the auditing services to the cooperative and farmer groups, the CAD also provided training courses relevant to financial management and book keeping for the cooperative staff.

The bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC) has started its plan to give loans through only the farmer institutions. A pilot project is now launched in Chiangmai province to group the BAAC direct clients and register as a multipurpose Cooperative.

The Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT) has prepared its first 6 years perspective plan for the development of CLT 1991-1996 in which the roles of the national cooperative organisation has been included. One of the most important strategies of this plan is the establishment of CLT branch offices.

USSR

The Soviet consumer cooperatives of today present in fact multipurpose cooperation engaged in trade, public catering, purveyance of agricultural products, processing of foodstuffs, etc. Consumer cooperatives united in Centrosoyus account for about 27% of the countrywide commodity turnover 35% of the bread and baking output, considerable share of potatoes and other vegetables laid in around the country and wild fruits and berries.

Restructuring going on in the USSR provoked certain interest and attention of government bodies to the capabilities of cooperation.

One of the main problems being faced is the transformation of enterprises owned by consumer cooperatives into truly independent organisations which perform their activities not to the satisfaction of management hierarchy but to the benefit of cooperative members.

The most significant steps taken to solidify the financial status of the consumer cooperative organisations include enhancement of the turnover of their activity resulting in the augment of the income, increase of the self generated circulating assets, imposing of rigid measures to cut the spending,

attracting of surplus resources through the share holders payment intended for predetermined purposes, issue of shares and other securities etc.

The new economic and social environment promotes to rearrange the organizational structure of the consumer cooperative system first and foremost in vertical direction. It is appropriate to note in this connection that the process of decentralization initiated by grassroots cooperative structures in the interests of their shareholders met with Centrosoyus approval.

Centrosoyus encouraged establishing of relations with our foreign counterparts in the mutual exchange of experience and professionals, in organisation of training courses for Centrosoyus employees in cooperative system bodies abroad, promotion of cooperative trade and tourism.

MAURITIUS

There are about 675 Co-operative Societies of various types operating in Mauritius, ever since the Movement started in 1913 covering activities in both the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors.

In the Agricultural Sector, small planters and breeders, fishermen have grouped themselves in Co-operatives and carry out activities in the sugar cane, tea, fish, Horticultural and Apiculture Sectors. These cooperatives cater for the majority of producers and are responsible for the bulk production in Mauritius and Rodrigues namely in the Tea Industry, Pig Industry, Fishing Industry, Onions, Potatoes, Vegetables, Bee-keeping.

In the non agricultural sector, Consumer Cooperatives, Handicraft Cooperatives, Transport Cooperatives, Housing and other types of service oriented cooperatives operate. In the field of Thrift and Savings, manual and intellectual workers, rural and urban dwellers have joined forces in Credit Unions and Saving Societies to mop up savings and provide members with short term and medium term finance thus removing them from the grips of unscrupulous money lenders.

The Mauritius Co-operative Fish Federation Limited provides for cold storage facilities for the pelagic fish and market the whole catches of the primaries.

The Mauritius Pig Marketing Federation Ltd besides responsible for providing credit, animal feed, piglets to breeders, buy their members produce and operate a meat

processing plant and canning chain at Terre Rouge.

The Mauritius Agricultural Federation acts as fertilizer suppliers for all cooperatives. It also sells minor tools and equipment.

The Mauritius Cooperative Agricultural Marketing Federation acts as an agency for sale of produce of Marketing Cooperatives, provide them with pesticide, herbicide etc, seeds besides looking for land from sugar estate for growers to plant potatoes.

Recently the MCU has diversified its activities by undertaking some income generating activities in order not to rely too much on Government in years to come.

Changes in Regional Membership

The Regional Council admitted the Sindh Government Employees Cooperative Housing Society Ltd of Pakistan and the Central Union of Rural Cooperatives of Iran as its new members.

Mr. Won Ho Suh, Member from Korea, said that some measures should be worked out to induce and encourage active participation by member organisation from North Korea.

Reports on the activities of the Specialized Committees

Mr. Shiro Futagami, Managing Director, Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia, gave some additional information about the training programmes planned for 1991-92.

The Training Course for Counterparts on the Agricultural Cooperative Development Project in Thailand has been cancelled as the agreement between Thailand and Japan is going to be over in July this year.

Instead of the above course, the Japanese Government, JICA and IDACA will organize a one month training programme for 10 persons from China. This is in accordance with the Japanese Government agreement. Participants are coming from government institutions.

6th ICA Training Course for Strengthening Management of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia: The Japanese Government has approved the holding of the 6th ICA Training Course.

The Japanese Government has also approved additional funds to the ICA to organize a training programme for rural women leaders for a period of one month for six persons. Details of the countries to

be invited and other details are yet to be finalised between ICA, MAFF and CUAC.

The next *IDACA Reunion and follow-up* programme of ex-participants of IDACA will be held in India in 1992.

Mr Karl Fogelstrom, Senior Development Advisor, informed the Council that a three-year *Cooperative Development Plan* (1991-1994) has been developed taking into consideration the following:

- i) discussions at the Regional Council meetings,
- ii) suggestions given by the member organisations,
- iii) discussions held at the various national cooperative conventions in the Region,
- iv) the recommendations of the Sydney Conference of Cooperative Ministers and
- v) the experience and observations of the technical officers of the Regional Council. The main focus is on creating a favourable environment for cooperatives and governments working together to achieve a uniform and balanced development of cooperatives.

Evaluation of ICA ROAP activities

Mr. Bruce Thordarson, Director, ICA, informed that there will be some changes proposed at the Berlin Central Committee meeting which will affect the ICA structure. The ICA Executive Committee has set up a Structure Committee to examine the overall functions of the ICA and the EC has approved the general direction of the Structure Committee Report at its last meeting. Promotion of greater regionalisation over the structure and the activities would be done. He said it is being proposed to the next Central Committee and then to the Tokyo Congress. The current Central Committee will meet not every year but rather every second year, and that in the intervening years there will be a new body created which would be called a Regional Assembly. The name of the Central Committee will be changed to General Assembly which will be highest controlling body of the ICA. The Regional Assembly would in effect be a part of the ICA governing structure. The current Regional Council is only an advisory body to the RD. It was constituted under the ICA Rules, but what is being proposed is a new Regional Assembly with decision-making authority within the ICA structure,

to make recommendations and pass resolutions for consideration of the General Assembly. It would ultimately be responsible for approving the work programme and priorities in the region.

Each Regional Assembly would nominate one Vice President to the ICA in order to ensure that at the central control level i.e. Executive Committee or Board of Directors, each of the regions of the ICA is strongly represented at the top policy level. It seems logical that cooperative movement should respond to this worldwide trend towards regionalisation.

If these proposals are accepted at the Berlin Central Committee, then at the October 1992 Tokyo Congress new rules would have to be drafted for the new assembly and to consider whether RC would continue to exist in its present form or in a different form. These decisions, according to the Structure Committee should essentially be made by cooperatives in the region. There will be four regions - Asia-Pacific, Africa, the Americas and Europe. The Asia-Pacific region will remain as it is. These forthcoming changes could have significant effect on the way the region operates.

Follow-up of the Sydney Conference, 1990 & Progress regarding Cooperative Ministers Conference, 1992

It is expected that the President of the

Republic of Indonesia will inaugurate the Ministers' Conference. A central cooperative agency, called the Cooperative Development Authority, has been set up in the office of the President of the Philippines. The main objective of the CDA is to centralize the registration and development of cooperative institutions in the country, which were until recently placed under various departments and ministries. The CDA has three main functions: regulatory functions, developmental functions and quasi-judicial functions.

Four- to five such national follow-up workshops will be held before the holding of a regional consultation meeting which will prepare for the February 1992 Ministers Conference.

Cooperatives and Environment

It has been decided to carry out an intensive research study on the subject in five countries of the region, namely, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines and Thailand. The principal objective of the

study is to document the areas in which cooperatives have played their role in increasing pollution, in which way the cooperatives are the culprits, areas in which cooperatives have played a good role and to make out some kind of recommendations and plan of action for implementation at the local level as well as national level.

The five national consultants or short-term consultants will be recruited to write comprehensive documentation for each country. The documentation will then be analyzed by the Regional Consultant and combined into one study which will be called Regional Study on this subject.

The idea is to come out with a preliminary report by the end of January '92 for the February 1992 Ministers' Conference. The result of the study will also be a contributory material for the ICA Congress to be held in Tokyo in October 1992.

Venue and date of next meeting

It was decided to hold the 34th meeting of the Council along with the Cooperative Ministers' Conference in Indonesia in February 1992.

Creation of a Regional Cooperative Development Fund

The Secretary explained to the members that at present the preparatory work in

connection with the Cooperative Ministers' Conference is being financed out of the resources of the SCC, CCA etc.

However, in the long run it cannot be taken for granted that these funds would be available. It was, therefore, desirable to explore the possibility of creating some fund out of which preparations for the Ministers' Conference can be financed. That is the reason why this proposal has been mooted.

The Council agreed that the proposal may be included in the agenda of the forthcoming Consultation to be held in Manila in November 1991.

First Five Years of ICA Management Training Project for Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia

Following an agreement between the International Cooperative Alliance and the Government of Japan, the ICA Japan Management Training Project for Agricultural Cooperatives was launched on July 1, 1986. During these five years, the Project has ushered in an era of international collaboration between a donor government and a non-governmental international organisation (NGO). The activities during the five years of this collaboration not only aimed at translating the main objectives of the Project into meaningful and result-oriented management development programmes, but also succeeded in establishing certain norms for future activities on similar lines. The Project also symbolises the active and positive role played by the ICA member organisation in Japan, the Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives (CUAC) in facilitating the funding of this activity by the Government.

Project Objective

The overall project objective was to help strengthen and improve agricultural cooperative performance in the Asia/Pacific Region in order to bring about a qualitative improvement in cooperative services to member farmers at the grass-root level. The overall aim is to help increase member's income, help improve his standard of living and ensure active member participation in agricultural cooperatives.

The First Five Years of Phase One of the Project:

Beginning on July 1, 1986, the ICA Management Training Project for Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia has almost completed the five years of its activities and on June 30, 1991, the first phase of the Project will come to a close. During the span of five years, viz. from 1986-87 to 90-91, the Project has introduced in the Region a significant change in the training concept for managerial personnel and has established a meaningful linkage between the training activities and the development initiatives in a very concrete form at the grass-root level.

Project Output:

The project output can be measured by the following important indicators in the Asia Region:

- i. A cadre of seventy five well trained managers responsive to the needs of cooperative farmer members and with improved capabilities to practice result-oriented management of agricultural cooperatives;
- ii. Seventyfour viable and bankable cooperative development projects covering wide ranging commodities and services for cooperative members. About ten of these projects are either operational or are in pipeline awaiting clearance and approvals;

- iii. Voluminous documentation based on grass-root level studies and management practices;
- iv. Over hundred case studies of agricultural cooperatives in different regional countries;
- v. Individual publications by ICA and other institutions collaborating in the training programme.

Project Appraisal Session in Bangkok

One of the most important components of the training programme which emerged as a major factor in determining the level of impact of the training proved to be the Home Country Assignments undertaken by the participants of all the five courses. During these assignments all the participants prepared cooperative development projects most suitable to their areas and based on locally grown commodities.

A survey of the project situation in late 1990 resulted in the flow of considerable feedback in the ICA ROAP. The picture which emerged after analysing this information was that of an optimistic trend indicating the determination of the past participants and their organisations to pursue project implementation in order to bring added value to primary produce and to ensure better services to farm households in their respective countries.

Recognising the need for further strengthening the efforts needed for project

implementation and also realising the importance of bringing them to the notice of United Nations and its Specialised Agencies (such as UN ESCAP, FAO, ILO) as well as government aid giving organisations in different countries (such as SIDA, ACDI, FES, DANIDA, FINNIDA0, the ICA Regional Office decided to organise in Bangkok, during February 1991, a Project Appraisal Session in which representatives of the agencies mentioned above were invited to attend as also other organisations interested in such projects. The exercise of holding the Project Appraisal Session in Bangkok proved to be of great value in bringing all these projects to the notice of the participating agencies and organisations. The confidence generated in the ICA and among participants and their organisations has been further strengthened and it is hoped that many of the projects will succeed in getting support

from funding agencies both from within the respective countries and abroad.

Beginning of the Second Phase

The Government of Japan, in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) has already approved the project budget for the sixth year (1991-92) in order to enable ICA to continue the project activities. It is also hoped that the project activity will be continued beyond the sixth year with the support of the Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of the Government of Japan.

During the past five years, the ICA has received excellent cooperation from the Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives in Japan, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of the Government of Japan, the ICA member

organisations viz. the National Cooperative Union of India and the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India; the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives; the National Agricultural Cooperative Federation and other member organisations in the Republic of Korea; the Cooperative League of Thailand and other member organisations in sponsoring countries of the region.

The training institutions collaborating in the conducting of the project activities were the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia in Japan (IDACA); the Indian Institute of Management and the Vaikunth Metha National Institute of Cooperative Management in Ahmedabad and Pune in India; and the Agricultural Junior Cooperative College in the Republic of Korea.

Report on the Data Bank Workshop held at ICA ROAP, New Delhi on 14-15 May 1991

ICA Data Bank Workshop was organised at ICA ROAP on 14 & 15 May 1991 with the following objectives :-

- i. to ascertain the prospects and possibilities of establishing computerised data banks at MO's level in commensuration with the policies and planning of ICA HQ.
- ii. to introduce PC File Software to the participating MOs from India and have on the spot analysis regarding uniformity in the Software applications.
- iii. to crystalize the concept of Data Bank networking inter-alia the long term planning of Data Bank operations.

Following cooperative organisations from India attended the Workshop :-

1. National Co-operative Union of India Ltd.
2. National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation of India Ltd.,
3. Indian Farmers Fertiliser Co-operative Ltd,
4. Krishak Bharati Co-operative Ltd.,
5. National Co-operative Housing Federation of India Ltd.,
6. National Federation of Urban Co-operative Banks & Credit Societies Ltd.
7. National Co-operative Agricultural and Rural Development Banks Fen. Ltd.,

8. All India Federation of Co-operative Spinning Mills Ltd.,
9. National Co-operative Consumers Federation of India Ltd.,
- 10 Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd.

In his inaugural address, Mr Sharma, Regional Director, ICA ROAP strongly

emphasised the need of data management in the cooperatives and its effective dissemination within the cooperatives and outside too. He also narrated his personal experiences concerning collection and dissemination of vital cooperative statistics in the Region. The participating organisations presented their views and perspective action plan.

Mission Reports

Mission Report on Visits to China, Thailand & Singapore

The Agricultural Co-operative Development Advisor made a Study Mission to Thailand and Singapore from 19th March to 4th May, 1991. The report of the mission is reproduced below:

ICA Workshop on Waste Resource Recycling

The workshop was conducted in close collaboration with All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives (ACFSMC) and Shanghai Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives (SFSMC) during 25th March to 4th April 1991 in Shanghai, China, It was the first regional training programme hosted by

ACFSMC in China as well as the first training course on the above subject. Seven participants from Sri Lanka, India, Philippines, Thailand and China attended the workshop. another three selected participants were unable to attend the workshop due to flight problems.

The objectives of the workshop were:

- i. To develop awareness among the member-countries on the relevance of waste resource recycling and utilisation in the conservation of the natural resources including man and the society;
- ii. To develop and strengthen the bonds of cooperation, understanding and unity among the member countries/cooperative societies in the region;

- iii. To share wisdom, experiences and technology among the member countries;
- iv. To avail the services and technology of SFSMC/SRRUC on waste recycling and utilisation applicable and economically feasible in the participant's respective countries; and
- v. To avail of the financial support of other member-countries through ICA for the implementation of the project in each participating country whenever feasible.

Mr. Yang Deshou, Secretary General of ACFSMC specially came to Shanghai to attend the opening ceremony of the workshop. The method adopted for attaining the above objectives was first a briefing of all participants by ACFSMC, SFSMC and SRRUC (Shanghai Resource Recovery and Utilisation Company) on the cooperative structure and the activities of waste resource recycling in China which covered many types of waste resources, e.g. steel, plastic, paper, ferrous metal, precious metal and rubber. This followed by field visits to all the processing plants and collecting stations. For every plant and station visited, briefing and orientation supported with video presentation on plant operations, technology, staffing and other relevant information were conducted before the actual observation on installations and plant processing. After the observation, discussion which again followed were participants questions and queries on areas of their interest were entertained.

All the participants presented their country papers on situation of environmental protection. After the observation and discussions the workshop adopted the following conclusions and recommendations.

- 1.1 SFSMC/SRRUC should provide the participants with the requirements for the feasibility of the project (investigating form);
- 1.2 Participating organisations/countries should conduct the actual survey/investigation and fill up the forms correctly and honestly;
- 1.3 Participating organisations should make consultations with and secure clearance from their governments as to the establishment of the project and the importation of the equipments and technology from Shanghai;
- 1.4 When clearance is secured, participating organisations shall send the result of their survey/investigation to

SFSMC/SRRUC for the latter to conduct preliminary evaluation and investigation. (This step should be done not later than one week before 10th June, 1991). A copy of the communication should be furnished to ICA ROAP as a guide on what action to be taken on their part;

- 1.5 SRRUC should send investigation team to the participating organisation/country, with board and lodging to be borne by the latter. At this stage, the experts of SRRUC can decide and advise the organisation/country about the feasibility of the project. If found feasible, SRRUC and the organisation can decide on the kind of cooperation they may adopt;
- 1.6 Plans will be finalised and the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) will be concluded with ICA collaboration for funding of the project;
- 1.7 Installation of the plant;
2. ICA ROAP should assist participating countries in the attainment of the objectives of this action plan upon presentation of the project proposals on the following:
 - Waste rubber recycling
 - Waste plastic recycling
 - Waste ferrous/non-ferrous recycling
 - Waste precious metal recycling
 - Waste paper recycling
3. ICA ROAP should take favourable action on this matter seriously to avoid environmental hazards and to preserve the eco-system of the region; and
4. ICA ROAP should consider this project as one of the top priorities within three years period.

All the participants felt that the workshop was well-planned, well-prepared, well-coordinated, very effective and highly successful, ACFSMC and SFSMC contributed Yuan 80,000 (US\$ 15,000) to cover the local costs of the workshop. Mr G.K. Sharma, Regional Director, participated in the Evaluation Session.

China Study Mission to Thailand and Singapore

The Study Mission consisting of six senior officers of ACFSMC visited Thailand and Singapore during 12th April to 1st May, 1991. This project was funded by SCC (Swedish Cooperative Centre) and coor-

inated by ICA ROAP. The main objective of the Study Mission was to learn the experience from Thailand and Singapore cooperatives on wholesale and retail business management.

The China Study Mission in Bangkok on 12th April according to the plan ~~and~~ held discussions with Chairman of CLT, Director General of Cooperative Promotion Department, Director of Cooperative Auditing Department and visited some agricultural cooperatives and consumer cooperatives. The Mission also discussed the plans of exchange programme with CLT. It was agreed that the Chairman of CLT will lead 10 senior cooperative leaders to visit China in June 1991 and ACFSMC will meet all the local costs for CLT delegation. In October 1991 one delegation from ACFSMC and Ministry of Light Industry will be visiting Thailand to assess possibilities for future coop trade.

In Singapore the China Study Mission held discussions with the Chairman of SNCF and visited Fair Price Cooperative and wholesale market, super market and retail shops. Senior Officers of Fair Price Cooperative gave lectures on wholesale and retail business management.

Mission report on visits to Manila, Jakarta, Singapore and Bangkok

Dr. Daman Prakash, Development Planning and Coordination Advisor visited Manila, Jakarta, Singapore, Bangkok from March 30-April 13, 1991. The main objective of the mission were

- i. Preparations for the Ministers Conference, 1992
- ii. Preparations for Follow-up Workshops
- iii. TCDC Programming
- iv. Environmental Study

In Manila dates for Sydney Minister Conference follow-up dates were finalised as also other working arrangements.

In Jakarta, Indonesia (April 3-7), the Ministers Conference dates would be during 18-22 February 1992. Indonesia will participate in the ICA ROAP's proposed study on environment and cooperatives.

In Singapore (April 7-10, 1991) discussions with Chairman of the SNCF, Mr Lim Ho Seng and the Chief Executive of SNCF Mr. Dennis. Visits to INCOME, COMFORT and Polytechnic Coop. The following points emerged:

Singapore does not intend to organise a national follow-up workshop on Sydney

Conference before August 1991. The situation will be reviewed after July 1991.

The SNCF will provide the ICA ROAP with a written documentation on the follow-up activities undertaken on the recommendations of the Sydney Conference.

The SNCF will contribute a paper/note to the proposal to carrying out a study on environment and cooperatives.

The SNCF has promised to write success stories on three-four cooperative ventures in Singapore e.g., the FAIRPRICE, IN-COME, COMFORT, Security Services and Computer Society.

The SNCF will conduct the SINCOTAP programme for TCDC participants with effect from 28th October, 1991.

Bangkok, Thailand (April 10-13)

The following points emerged:

- a. The follow-up workshop on Sydney Conference recommendations will be held during the last week of August.
- b. CLT will participate in the Environment study.
- c. ILO's Mr. Mogensen will participate in follow-up workshops wherever possible.

Regarding Cooperative Development programme in Vietnam, and ICA's Study Missions visiting to Vietnam, Mr. Mogensen suggested if the ICA study mission could meet him in Bangkok, whenever possible. He would like to receive ICA mission reports on Vietnam studies. ILO is planning to undertake some sectoral review missions to Vietnam.

Mission Report on visits to Manila and Bangkok

Pradit Machima, Consumer Advisor, made visits to Manila and Bangkok from 29th March-10 April, 1991.

National Skills training for Consumer Cooperative Leaders in the Philippines and Training on Roles of Cooperatives in Community Development and Environment Conservation, Bangkok, Thailand.

The National Skills Training on Consumer Cooperative development for cooperative leaders in the Philippines was great success. 19 persons participated in the training activity and enthusiastically. They realised that training, especially a good training is a key to success. They need

more training programmes similar to this in the near future.

The training on "Roles of cooperatives in community development and environment conservation" at Kasetsart University Bangkok, Thailand was a failure one. It was poorly planned and poorly organised. Only 8 participants out of 20 from four colleges attended the programme.

Main subjects covered during the 3-day training were:

1. Cooperative planning
2. Individual presentation of identified problems/needs of respective consumer cooperatives;
3. Market Intelligence gathering;
4. Wholesaling/warehousing and procurement;
5. Retailing;
6. Salesmanship;
7. Member Relations & participation;
8. Group discussion and report; and
9. Exercise.

The outcome was very good. The participants enjoyed the training. They had learned a great deal and had also been inspired by this training. They would like to learn more and want to see more similar training programmes throughout the country in future.

Thailand

Recently the Department of Cooperatives, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Thailand realised that the "basic values of cooperatives" in general has been going down. So, it wants to do something to uplift the understanding and the basic values of cooperatives among the public in general and cooperators in particular. Hence, the training programme on "Roles of Cooperatives in Community Development and Environment Conservation" was planned.

20 participants from 4 colleges, who teach cooperatives and allied subjects, were invited to join the training. But, unfortunately only eight came.

The outcome was poor. Participation was low, inactive and unenthusiastic. However, I have told the organisers and the participants that there is a great need for this kind of training. They should not be discouraged. They should try to improve it and do it again in the next summer. I have

promised to help them to make a good programme.

Mission Report on visits to Thailand, Japan and Republic of Korea

Mr. Pradit Machima, Consumer Advisor, visited Thailand, Japan and Republic of Korea between 09-22 May, 1991. The main objective of the mission was to deliver a talk on "Consumer Cooperative Movements in Asia" at a symposium arranged by the Nagoya Consumer Cooperative Society on 17th May, 1991 and visits to concerned organisations in Thailand, Japan and Republic of Korea in order to discuss certain consumer cooperative development programmes with them, especially with the Chairman of JCCU and his staff. The outcome was very good and positive.

Mission Report on visits to Madras, Coimbatore, Bangalore, Mangalore and Bombay

Pradit Machima, Consumer Advisor visited, Madras, Coimbatore, Bangalore, Mangalore and Bombay from 28th April to 4 May, 1991

Consumer cooperative movements in many parts of India, such as Madras, Coimbatore and Bangalore are facing many difficulties like shortage of operating funds, running at a loss, over staffing, poor management, government intervention and lack of good leadership. However, many consumer cooperatives in Mangalore and Bombay are running well. This means that consumer cooperative in India can be improved if proper measures are taken and implemented, especially in the case of Mangalore and Bombay.

University cooperatives and students cooperatives in Mangalore are doing quite well. This is because of effective management and strong leadership provided by Board of Directors. Therefore, it has been decided to organise a "self-financed workshop of University Cooperatives" in Mangalore in October 1991. The University Cooperative of Mangalore University may be a model University Cooperative in Southern India.

Cooperative Leaders in Bombay have decided to hold a "self-financed workshop on development of consumer cooperative of Maharashtra at Bombay on 22-24 August, 1991. Mission decided to build up some strong consumer cooperatives in Maharashtra as model shops for India.

Objective

Objectives of Mission were

- To collect first hand knowledge of consumer cooperative situation in the Southern and Western region of India;
- To assess results of their operations;
- To find ways and means of improving consumer cooperative operations in the areas visited;
- To look for a place where a model shop and model university cooperative can be installed.

Mission Report on visits to Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Thailand

Pradit Machima, Consumer Advisor, visited Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand from 27 May -21 June, 1991

Malaysia

ANGKASA

1. The study on the present situation of Consumer Cooperative Movement in Malaysia by local experts will be commenced in July, 1991.
2. Upon the completion of the two studies-one, on "problems faced by the Consumer Cooperative Movement in Malaysia" which was already done by Mr. Wijesinha from Sri Lanka in

February, 1991 and the second one on "Present situation of Consumer Cooperative Movement in Malaysia", a "National Seminar on Consumer Cooperative Development in Malaysia will be held on a self-financing basis in March, 1992.

3. Malaysian Cooperative College will give full support to ANGKASA on study & research and education and training in Consumer Cooperatives etc.
4. Malaysian Cooperative College agreed to initiate the teachers/professors exchange programmes among Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia. This programmes also will be on the self financing basis.

The outcome of the visits and the discussions were:

- 1) In the meeting held with DEKOPIN, Training Centre and Deptt of Coops it was agreed that the National Seminar on Consumer Cooperative Development in Indonesia with 30 participants (Govt. officials, Cooperative Leaders and others) will be held at PUSLATPENCOP on 21-23 November, 1992.
- 2) A Regional Seminar of University Cooperatives in Indonesia comprising of 6 countries (Indonesia, Malaysia,

Singapore, Sri Lanka, Brunei, and Bangladesh) will be held at IKOPIN (Institute of Coop Management of Indonesia) in Bandung or Brawijaya University in Malang between 21,23, or 28 & 30 January, 1992.

- 3) The ILO/Swiss Cooperative Management Project in Jakarta is going to develop a consumer cooperative activity in Indonesia. They would join in the National Seminar on Consumer Cooperative in Indonesia in November, 1991.

Thailand

- (1) Consultancy of consumer coops in Bangkok, Chiangmai and Sakol Nakorn (NE Thailand) will be conducted between 26 August and 7 September, 1991;
- (2) The National Seminar on Consumer Coop.-cum- AGM will be held in Pattaya on 19-21 August, 1991.

Also assisted Kasetsart University, Bangkok to organize a seminar on "Development of Thrift and Credit Cooperatives among Factory Workers in Bangkok on 14 June, 1991.

Mr. G.K. Sharma also delivered a key note address at the meeting. Around 160 leaders from 151 cooperative societies attended the meeting. The outcome was also very good.

NEWS FROM THE REGION

AUSTRALIA

A success story from Western Australia: From jam factory to supermarket

Such is the record of Preston Producers' Co-operative Limited, situated in Donnybrook on the South Western Highway, 205 Km from Perth in the centre of the state's fruit growing industry, an important agricultural and timber producing area first settled in 1842.

The Co-operative started business in the early part of the century in an old jam factory employing just two people. From this small beginning, with a turnover of under two hundred and fifty pounds a year, the business grew slowly. A butcher's shop was purchased in 1972 followed

thereafter by the acquisition of a draper/mercery business.

The co-operative progressed and continued to expand acquiring other buildings and eventually extending to a hundred meter frontage which by this time included furniture and electrical departments. Throughout its life the co-operative has had long serving directors always looking to the future and new opportunities for expansion. Initially the main income was from farm requisites and the emphasis changed with prevailing circumstances. Progress was not achieved without

management problems and with wages from 4 to 8 per week perhaps not surprising. There were many changes between 1942 and 1936 some of the appointees lasting only weeks. However, 1931 marked the beginning of a new and steady period and it was the stability and dedication of the staff that laid the foundation for the co-operative to weather the depression of the nineteen-thirties and enabled the business to expand. The secretary/manager appointed in 1931 reigned until 1949 and his successor, Bill Jordan, until 1979. During the latter period the turnover, which had reached 50,700, increased three-fold. Also a tribute to his management is the loyalty and dedication of the staff, many of whom were employed for thirty years or more, and this real co-operative spirit continues today.

In March 1989, the latest extension to the now modern premises was opened and

there is a large open light area well laid out with a wide range of goods which include a Supa Valu franchise, hardware, drapery, household and garden requisites. There is ample parking space within easy access to the shop and, still with an eye to the future, an area for future extensions. In 1988 total sales exceeded \$ 2.5m, an increase of 17% over the previous year. As can be seen it is the intention of the present directors to continue the policy adopted from the start, under the present forward thinking manager, Pat Brodison,

to always look to the future and seek ways and means of improving the services for Donny brook and the surrounding area.

A further aspect to their success is that the co-operative has the interests of the community at least and this is illustrated by their support for local community projects which include provision of a bus service once a week for the use of senior citizens from within the town enabling them to use the co-operative as a focal point and meeting place.

in this part of the world governments have been promoting and facilitating the progress of development of cooperative institutions in order to provide relief to the poor and to enable people to solve some of their common social and economic problems. The governments have not only provided encouragement and logistic support to cooperative institutions by way of enactment of cooperative legislation and cooperative credit, but have participated in cooperative business in the form of capital and management. However, over a period of time the governments overlooked the finer points of cooperative principles and tended to manage the cooperative institutions which changes the basic character of cooperatives.

Carpet wools co-operative filling: Important market need in Australia

The West Australian Carpet Wools Co-operative Limited was formed in 1985 to provide an orderly means of marketing and promoting carpet wools in WA. There are now one hundred and forty farmer shareholders located in the high rainfall coastal strip in the south west of the state.

Carpet wool production in Western Australia is an interesting story, particularly in view of the large imbalance in Australia's terms of trade. Australia, imports millions of dollars of carpet wool from New Zealand, the UK, and to a lesser extent, from Pakistan to the value of approximately forty million dollars. This wool is processed in to carpet yarn by Albany Woollen Mills.

Locally produced carpet wools only provide enough fibre for three to four days production per year, which represents approximately ten thousand sheep. Self-sufficiency requires one and a half million sheep.

There are two types of sheep which produce wool suitable for carpet yarn:

- a. the British long wool sheep such as the Romney, and
- b. the "hairy" or medullated sheep which has been imported from New Zealand, e.g. the Drysdale or Tukidale.

Each of these sheep has its own breed associations, but because the wool is an oddity amongst Australia's famous fine wool industry, the established wool brokers have little interest in promoting it.

This is where the co-operative has become a vital link in the manufacturing chain.

All wool sold to manufacturers is sold "clean" or scoured which means organising all the different wools into suitable processing lines ready for scouring and then selling by sample.

The Co-operative structure is the ideal vehicle for this, and the members derive much satisfaction from being closely involved in their industry.

The International Cooperative Alliance, a world confederation of Cooperatives representing nearly 700 million individual co-operators in 77 countries, through its Regional office for Asia and the Pacific had organized in June 1988 a regional consultation on the issue of Cooperative-Government collaborative strategies in Singapore. The Regional Consultation suggested that a top-level discussion on the issue was necessary. It was recommended by the Consultation that a cooperative ministers conference be organized to discuss the entire issue of relationship. The Ministers Conference held Sydney, Australia in February 1990 took note of the recommendations of the Consultation and made a set of recommendations with a plan of action for the 1990. The main theme of the recommendations was that the cooperatives and governments should work together to promote and develop genuine and self-supporting cooperative institutions which should provide the needed services and support to cooperative members. The conference had also assigned specific roles to the government, cooperatives and international organizations and recommended that a follow-up report on the recommendations be placed before the next conference of cooperative ministers. In order to take stock of situation and follow-up measures taken in Fiji, the Cooperative Union of Fiji and the Government of Fiji in the Ministry of Cooperatives have organized this follow-up workshop.

The Regional Office of the ICA for Asia and the Pacific has 54 national level cooperative organisations in its membership from 19 countries of this region. The total cooperative population of this region is

FIJI

Message from Regional Director ICA ROAP

Fiji Co-operative Movement had conducted a national workshop on 'Co-operative/Government Collaborative Strategies'. Mr. G.K. Sharma, ICA Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific has sent a message felicitating the m. The text of the message is reproduced:

"It is a matter of great satisfaction for me to learn that the Cooperative Movement of

Fiji in collaboration with the Government of Fiji is organizing a national level workshop on the important topic of "Cooperative-Government Collaborative Strategies". This activity is a follow-up of the recommendations made by the Cooperative Ministers' Conference which was held in Australia, February 1990. For quite some time

Continued on column 3

440 million (68% of the world cooperative membership). The Cooperative Union of Fiji is one of the member organisations of the ICA.

The ICA ROAP encourages cooperative movements in this region to improve their business operations while respecting the cooperative principles and provides the movements with technical support, assistance and guidance in various ways through its technical assistance programmes.

On behalf of the International Cooperative Alliance Regional Office for Asia & the Pacific, and on my own, I congratulate the Fiji Cooperative Union and the Ministry of Cooperatives on their initiative in following up the suggestions and recommendations made by the Cooperative Ministers Conference.

INDIA

Nehru Memorial IFFCO lecture

To make cooperatives highly successful and responsive to the needs of the people a three pronged strategy like nurturing and promoting grass root cooperative organisations like dairy cooperative, horticulture, tree farming etc., fostering cooperation among individuals even without the formality of constituting a cooperative and organising cooperatives on joint partnership basis will be ideal and effective in giving a fillip to cooperative movement in our country. This was stated by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, an eminent agricultural scientist while delivering Seventh Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Lecture on Cooperation organised by IFFCO.

Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru's recipe for a happy India still holds true. His two pronged strategy consisted of making the village cooperative the hub of economic activities and village Panchayat the seat of democratic decision. The two together can confer the Gram Swaraj which Gandhiji advocated. Gandhiji, however, warned that "Cooperation which is not rooted in the soil, will not succeed."

Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) has been organising these lectures since 1983 in recognition of Pt. Nehru's pioneering role in India's cooperative movement.

Dr. Swaminathan in his lecture illustrated the relevance of a new form of coopera-

tives in two nationally important fields viz., child survival and development and organisation of conservation cooperatives. Hunger could be overcome by keeping infant Mortality Rate (IMR) below 50 per 1000 births. But other indicators of human development would have to be deployed alongwith IMR for improving the quality of life.

Model bill on cooperatives

A model bill on cooperatives seeks to take away the rule-making powers of the Government and loosen the hold of the Registrar over cooperative bodies.

The Bill, called the Model State Cooperative Societies Bill, was presented to the Planning Commission Deputy Chairman, by the Chairman of the Committee.

Drawn up by a committee, set up by the Planning Commission, it aims at eliminating politicization of the Cooperative sector, said an official release.

The draft law thus removes the colonial approach and character of existing laws and meets the norms of governance of a democratic autonomous enterprise in the country.

The Bill prohibits cooperatives from accepting funds from the Government by way of equity and makes the Board of Directors accountable for timely conduct of elections and regular convening of meetings managing committee and general body. The Board has also been made accountable for the timely conduct of the audit of the books of account.

The approach of the model law is to give a genuine character to cooperatives, to facilitate building of an integrated cooperative structure so as to evolve a cooperative system, and make the federal organizations at various levels more responsive and responsible towards their members.

It seeks to minimize Government control and interference to enable cooperators and cooperatives to develop self-reliance and self-confidence with the power of decision making and to eliminate politicization.

The procedure for registration of a new cooperative is simplified and all artificial restrictions by way of area of operation, economic viability are removed.

While giving no rule-making powers to the Government, the law itself lays down the broad parameters necessarily to be observed by cooperatives and leaves all other matters relating to constitution, management and business of the society to be conducted in accordance with its bye-laws, the official release said.

The model Bill gives no power to the Registrar of the Government to order supersession of the Board of Directors, compulsory amalgamation or division of societies, compulsory amendment of the bye-law, veto/rescind/annual the resolution or issue directives.

The cooperative federations or unions are to assume greater responsibility towards member cooperatives.

The role of the Registrar under the model Bill has been confined to the registration and liquidation of cooperatives, conduct of inquiry and in case of default to conduct elections, audit and to convene general body meeting.

The Bill prohibits officers of the Government to work in a cooperative.

It provides for the constitution of a cooperative tribunal for settlement of disputes, including appeals on matters relating to the constitution, management and business of a cooperative and to take cognizance of any offence under the Bill.

The Planning Commission, member-secretary, Mr. A.N. Varma, Dr. R.C. Dwivedi, a member of the committee, and Mr. M.V. Pavate convener of the committee, submitted the report to the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission.

National Dairy Development Board

Tasks for the nineties

Under Operation Flood I/II, NDDB was directly involved in organising dairy and in certain places, oilseeds cooperatives. Now that the cooperative unions, both under the oilseeds and the dairy projects, are in a position to organise the cooperatives themselves, the NDDB under Operation Flood III reviewed its role to the extent of organising cooperatives. The review emphasised

Member participation and control which was often less than what was necessary to ensure success. The review suggested an

integrated strategy for cooperative development in which the members participation, cooperative leadership, paid and elected management should recognise their respective role, duties and responsibilities.

Villagers cooperate to save forests

In the Dediapada, Sagbara and Valia blocks of Bharuch district, adjacent to the ravaged forests of Fulsar, tree growers cooperatives have been doing a commendable job of developing degraded revenue, panchayat as well as public lands.

Income Generating Scheme

The programme, started in 1985 as an income generating scheme for the villagers, today covers 11 villages. Teak, bamboo, eucalyptus and acacia catechu (Khair) are grown as the most suitable commercial species, sevan and subabul for the fuel and fodder needs of the people and tamarind and pithocolobium as fruit species. The final choice is that of the villagers.

744 hectares of land have been planted and protected by the villagers themselves. Where the soil is not too rocky, the trees are 6 to 15 feet tall. In addition, the cooperatives have taken on the responsibility for protecting 175 hectares of the adjoining forest plots.

The 11 villages, on the basis of their afforestation and other income generating programmes now have a saving of Rs.7 millions. In a year's time, the trees on the first of the plots that the villagers planted are to be harvested. This is generating a great deal of excitement.

Having initially employed watchmen to protect their plantations in most villages, now voluntary squads of 5 to 10 villagers have been formed for round the clock vigil of their minuscule forests. The villagers apprehend all timber thieves and, if a local person is involved, the fine is higher.

Cooperative Decides:

Each village cooperative works out the fine and the punishment for these thefts. In Pingot village, there is even a fine on each buffalo or cow entering the protected plan-

tation. The watchman's payment is withheld and a fine of Rs.5 per buffalo and Rs.4 per bullock has to be deposited. At this village, cattle have been apprehended twice and the fines had to be paid. The villagers of Pingot have been guarding the forest areas in their charge equally zealously. Twice a villager who cut trees from the forest area under their protection was warned. Earlier this month, he cut a tree again. This time, the other villagers complained to the police and the forest officers and a case was registered against him for illicit felling.

In plantations on revenue land, the fines are slapped on by the village panchayat. At Ambakhadi village half the fine of Rs.100 was given as reward to the vigilant patrol squad and the rest was deposited with the gram vikas mandal, an apex body of the village cooperatives.

The plunder of Fulsar forest has made the villagers more determined to protect their plantations on revenue and other public lands. They say: "Our blood has turned into water nurturing these forests. They are like our agricultural fields, nursed by the sweat of our brows. How can any one else harvest them?"

Programme doing well:

Since the rural support programme includes bunding, soil conservation, plugging of gullies and development of catchment areas, the purely rain-fed peoples' forests are doing well. The growth on the protected forest lands which have a rich root stock is, however, better. With the village economy perking up, the mass exodus of villagers to Ankleshwar, Netrang and other areas for jobs eight months in the year has dropped to a minimum.

PHILIPPINES

Coops seen on top of exploding social volcano

Noting that the social volcano in the Philippines has erupted, Cooperative Union of the Philippines (CUP) Secretary General Arcadio Lozada pinpointed four major obstacles which the cooperative movement has to hurdle to pursue this year's cooperative month celebration theme: sustainable development through cooperatives.

Speaking before coop leaders and officials of the recently formed Cooperative Development Authority during the kick-off ceremony in celebration of the cooperative month last Oct.16, retired General Lozada warned:

"The Social volcano has erupted. We must do something now and fast enough before we get caught in the quagmire of chaos and broken dreams"

He called on leaders of the cooperative sector to put their acts together to meet the challenges of a country in crisis. Focusing on the problems faced by the sector, he pinpointed four major development constraints confronting coops:

1. the absence of formalized and centralized cooperative finance system, or in simple terms, the absence of a nationwide cooperative banking system.
2. slow capital build up among coops,
3. the absence of national supply and marketing system, and
4. fragmentation of the cooperative movement.

Secretary Lozada recalled that the government has repeatedly attempted to set-up a banking network in support of cooperatives but barely dented the problem. The latest government attempt to establish cooperative rural banks ended with 29 survivors.

He also pointed out that although over 2,000 coops are credit unions engaged in lending to their members, these represent only 12 percent of cooperatives in the country.

The absence of credit facilities has been identified as one of the biggest problems in the rural areas, particularly among farmers and small businessmen.

The second problem, slow capital build-up among coops, Lozada added, is closely tied up with the absence of credit available to them.

The third major problem is the absence of a cooperative system of linking producers and suppliers of goods to consumers. This stands out like a sore thumb in the grains industry where farmers from Pangasinan to Cotabato complain of depressed palay prices while consumers protest over high prices of rice in major cities and population centres. He recommended the aggressive implementation of a CUP initiated perspective plan for five

years to solve this problem. Under the plan drawn with the help of the International Cooperative Alliance, multipurpose coops will have to be organized at village levels. Above these are provincial marketing unions and regional marketing cooperative federations.

They must be supported with storage and processing facilities partly provided by the government.

On the fragmentation of the cooperative movement, the CUP has been in the forefront of uniting warring federations while the CDA has adopted the settlement of their internal conflict as one of its first priorities.

The yearly celebration of Cooperative month October 16 to November 15 was initiated to spread the idea of cooperative organizations as a viable alternative economic system to push the country towards progress.

Lorejo reelected CUP President

Incumbent Cooperative Union President and Chairman of the Board Glicerio E. Lorejo, Sr. was recently reelected into office during the recently held national assembly of affiliates from cooperative unions and federations from different regions of the country.

He will serve for another year as president of the apex organization of majority of cooperatives in the Philippines.

Elected as his vice presidents were Pacito N. Nefulda of Central Luzon to represent the whole of Luzon, Manuel P. Alonzo of Region VIII for the Visayas and Filomeno A. Bautista, Jr. of Region X for Mindanao.

Felix A. Borja was elected as director and corporate secretary while Modesto P. Lopez got reelected as director-treasurer. Romy Martin was chosen public relations officer and also a member of the board.

Five other elected directors included Jaime Asuncion from the Cagayan Valley, Cresente C. Paez from Region VII, Renato Yanez from XII, Josefina E. Gaerlan of the Philippine Federation of Women in Cooperatives, Felipe Fronda of Region I Arturo Garcia representing Bangkoops, Manuel Arcinas of Region IV and Abdulajij Amsawa of Region IX

The election committee was composed of Ariosto Llamas as chairman, Moises Santos and Orlando Calilung as members.

Besides electing a new set of officers, the CUP national assembly also finalized and approved an annual program for the Union.

Technology-Transfer Base for cooperatives (TTBC)

The cooperatives among farmers, fisher folks and small producers will receive a big boost with the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement on the Technology - Transfer Base for Cooperatives (TTBC) in Malacanang on April 3 to 3:00 p.m. among the leaders of the following organizations and government agencies who will provide the various types of services, expertise and technologies needed:

1. Cooperative Union of the Philippines (CUP)
2. The Filipino Investors Society, Inc. (FIS)
3. Cooperative Development Authority (CDA)
4. Department of Education, Culture & Sports (DECS)
5. Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)
6. Department of Agriculture (DA)
7. Department of Science and Technology (DOST)

Under the principle of subsidiarity, the Cooperative Union of the Philippines (CUP), an apex organization of national federations of cooperatives and regional cooperative unions with network throughout the country, initiated a Memorandum of Agreement among the parties concerned who found the need to coordinate their activities to maximize their efforts, time and resources in order to translate to reality the transfer of technology and expertise of the various agencies (government and private) to cooperatives and improve the service delivery system to the farmers, fisher-fold and small producers involved in cooperatives. This is in line with the program of the Government pursuant to the mandate of the 1987 constitution and the new cooperatives laws RA 6938 (Coop Code) and RA 6939 (CDA Law)

Under the TTBC Program covered by the Memorandum of Agreement, the CUP with

its network of regional, provincial and city cooperative unions as well as national, regional and provincial cooperative federations will undertake the initiative and provide the leadership to institutionalize the transfer of technology and expertise of the various agencies concerned to the people in cooperatives. Specifically, the various agricultural, fishery, home industry and trade-vocational schools under the Bureau of Technology and Vocational Education of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports numbering 332 throughout the country as well as the Agricultural Training Institute Training Centres of the Department of Agriculture and other government facilities, will be tapped or utilized to achieve the objectives of the TTBC Program.

National market vendors cooperatives service federation

(NAMVESCO) Registered August 29, 1979, KAT-026

(It is a typical cooperatives organised by the vendors, hence reported.)

Total number of Market Vendors Cooperatives Seventy(70)
 Combined Assets of the Sixty Two Vendor CoopsP350 Million
 Total amount of Loan Released to Members (12 Months Period)P 700 Million

What a Market vendors cooperative is ?

A market vendors cooperative is a credit cooperative capitalized by the individual shares of the market vendor members. It is organized principally to rescue market vendors from the clutches of the loan sharks or the 5/6 money lenders. It grants loans to members on the basis of their equity of deposit and on the strength of the guarantee of the members at an interest rate very much lower than banking rates and rates of any other commercial lending institutions. The cooperative is owned in common by the market vendors and interest is paid on the capital or share owned by the members. There are now market vendors cooperatives who own and manage their own markets.

Loaning operations

A market vendor normally gets two (2) to three (3) times his fixed deposit as loan

from his cooperative and at the end of the year he receives interest on his share capital and patronage refund and rebates which effectively lowers his cost of money to as low as 4.5%. Patronage refund are accorded to members who avail of the services of their cooperative.

Impact of market vendors cooperatives in the operations of market vendors:

1. Cessation of Loan Sharks' operations

With the organization of credit cooperatives in public markets, the operation of the loan sharks or 5/6 money lenders ceased and loaning was assumed by the credit cooperatives.

2. Reasonable prices of commodities:

The vendors who obtained their loans from credit cooperatives could offer reasonable prices for the goods they sell to the general consuming public because their cost of money was relatively much lower.

Local government sometimes use these market vendors credit cooperatives as instruments for their price monitoring programs and in the implementation of rules and regulations affecting the markets.

NAMVESCO's on-going activities

1. Organization of Markets' Vendors Cooperatives.

NAMVESCO is continuously promoting and organizing vendors cooperatives in the various public markets in the country.

2. Training and Educational Programs:

NAMVESCO is continuously holding various training and educational activities (i.e. Pre-Membership Seminars, Credit Management Seminars, Trainers' Training, etc.) for its member cooperatives.

3. Appliance Procurement Program:

In this program the cooperative provides members with their appliance needs by procuring directly from manufacturers/dealers and selling them to members on an installment basis with a very minimal mark-up. This is being implemented by various NAMVESCO affiliates.

4. Interlending Program:

NAMVESCO manages an interlending program among its affiliates. Vendors cooperatives contribute to an interlending fund from which they can borrow twice their contribution. Loans are payable in

six (6) monthly installments at 9% per annum.

5. Inter-Federation Linkages:

Linkages have been fully developed with different federations like the National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO), the Federation of Free Farmers Cooperatives, Incorporated (FFFCl) and others to strengthen cooperative interrelationship.

NAMVESCO's Five-Year Development Plan

Two other major projects are in the five-year development plan of the federation. They are:

1. To establish direct linkages with farmer cooperatives for the marketing of their farm produce.
2. To acquire warehousing/storage facilities to accommodate NAMVESCO'S bulk buying of commodities directly from the manufacturers. NAMVESCO would distribute these commodities directly to its primary affiliates who in turn would distribute to their members handling such commodities in their market business.

SINGAPORE

About SNCF

1. SNCF has 58 affiliates comprising 450,000 individual members as at 31 December, 1990?
2. Singapore has 11 types of co-operatives consisting of Thrift and Loan 29 Societies, Multi-purpose 16 societies, Consumer 5 Societies, Service 6 Societies, School Cooperative 3 Cooperatives, Housing 1 Society, Insurance 1 Society, Transport 1 Society, Medical 1 Society, Investment 1 Society, Apex 1 Society.
3. The total number of cooperative societies registered in Singapore is 65?
4. The current business activities of these cooperatives range from thrift and loan, transport, life and general insurance, supermarkets/department stores, canteens, restaurant, security service, dental surgery, school/tertiary coop shops, printing, confectionery, home appliances, computer education, travel service and radio/broadcasting?

5. The Co-operative Societies Act (Cap. 62) came into operation on 1 January, 1980; thus repealing the previous restrictive ordinance which was enacted in 1924?
6. Besides providing better control of co-operative societies, the new Act also encourages the orderly development of the cooperative movement in Singapore by, among others, the establishment of a Central Co-operative Fund (CCF) and an apex organisation for co-operatives?
7. The CCF is under the care of the Minister for Community Development with a Committee to advise him on the administration of the Fund?
8. The CCF is intended to further co-operative education, training, research and audit and for the general development of the co-operative movement in Singapore?
9. Subject to section 71(3) of the Co-operative Societies Act (Cap 62) (see para 10 in the adjacent column), every society shall contribute:
 - a. 5% of the first \$500,000 of the surplus resulting from the operations of the society during the preceding financial year to the CCF; and
 - b. 20% of any surplus in excess of \$500,000 from the operations of the society during the preceding financial year either to the CCF or to the Singapore Labour Foundation as the society may opt?
10. The Minister may at any time reduce the percentage of the surplus that every society is liable to contribute under section 71 (2) (a) so long as the difference between the reduced percentage and the amount that the society would have been liable to contribute under section 71(2) (a) shall be carried to the reserve fund?
11. The requirement to transfer the difference referred to in section 71 (3) shall not apply to a society that is required to maintain a reserve fund or any fund by whatever name it is called having a purpose similar to a reserve fund pursuant to the Banking Act, the Insurance Act or any other written law.
12. A society shall be deemed to have opted to contribute to the Central Co-operative Fund under section 71(2) (b)

NEWS FROM OUTSIDE THE REGION

Excerpts from ILO Director Generals' Report on Cooperatives

The development of Co-operative and pre-cooperative organisations as a means of contributing to employment creation, poverty alleviation, income generation and the improvement of social conditions in both the rural and the urban sectors remained the objectives of this programme.

Technical co-operation projects covered a broad range of activities, including for example: management consultancy and training for village-based co-operatives and women's groups in Indonesia; advisory and promotional services for co-operatives in Tunisia; promotion of the co-operative movement in Cameroon; computerisation of co-operative management in Mauritius; support to co-operatives and village groups in Guinea-Bissau; creation of a revolving credit fund in China; development and economic integration of co-operatives in Ecuador; and co-operative entrepreneurship for rural development in the Philippines. A joint ILO-World Bank project was

launched in Kenya to improve the management system of co-operatives.

At the regional and inter-regional levels, operational activities included support to co-operative education and training in the Latin American Region; a multi-sectoral inter-agency project in support of co-operatives to assist the social development of refugees and displaced populations in Central America; research on the potential for expanded import/export trade relations for Caribbean co-operatives; a project on co-operative financing in Africa; and the development of direct trade relations be-

tween co-operatives in Africa and Europe. Environmental issues were given increasing emphasis.

Four in-depth studies covering cereal banks, seed stores, small irrigation schemes and self-managed cotton markets were carried out to assess the usefulness of the project of co-operative support to development activities assisted by the World Food Programme (ACOPAM). The inter-regional project for the production of material and techniques for co-operative management training (MATCOM) continued in Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America, and a research project was launched in 25 African countries on the creation of conditions conducive to the development of co-operatives independent of the State.

Advisory services were provided in the field of co-operative legislation and restructuring of the co-operative movement in Bulgaria, Mongolia, Poland and the USSR.

Continued from col.3, page 18

if that society does not exercise its option within such time and in such manner as the Registrar may require?

13. A society may from time to time change its option in respect of its contribution under section 71(2) (b) by notifying the Registrar in such manner as the Registrar may require and the change in option shall apply to the contribution of the society for the financial year in which falls the second anniversary of the date on which the Registrar was notified under this subsection and to all contributions of the society thereafter until the society again changes its option?

14. The Central Co-operative Fund shall be administered as a trust fund in such manner as the Minister may prescribe in the Rules?

OBITUARY

The officers and staff of the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) were deeply shocked, grieved and stunned with the tragic news of the barbarous assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

ICA has a long and close association with the Nehru family, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had inaugurated the Regional Office of the ICA in New Delhi in 1960. Mrs. Indira Gandhi was the Hon. President of the ICA Regional Council for more than a decade and Shri Rajiv Gandhi, as the Prime Minister of India, inaugurated the ICA Central Committee Meeting held in New Delhi in October 1989 which was historical as it was held for the first time in any Asian Country. Pandit Nehru was the architect of the post-independence co-operative movement, Mrs. Indira Gandhi nurtured it and the ICA and the Co-operative Movement were looking forward for guidance and support from Shri Rajiv Gandhi to lead it in the right direction which he had assured to the ICA President, Shri Lars Marcus, personally during his meeting with him in October 1989. In his demise the ICA and the co-operative movement have lost a friend, philosopher and guide, while the democratic values have received a serious jolt.

The ICA and its 648 million cooperative members join with Smt. Gandhi and the millions of Indians in this national grief and pray that she and her family will have the courage to endure this unbearable personal loss, caused by the deepest tragedy.

Regional Director

OBITUARY

ICA was shocked and grieved at the untimely passing away of Shri Yadunath Singh, General Manager (Mktg), KRIBHCO, on 12th May, 1991.

ICA had a close association with Shri. Yadunath Singh and we had found him a very committed, sincere and honest person who was committed for the cause of others. His sudden death has really shocked all his friends and well-wishers. We have lost a good colleague and we convey our sincere condolence to the family members of Shri Yadunath Singh. We pray to God to give enough courage to them to bear the unbearable loss.

Regional Director

Some Recent Publications of ICA ROAP

- 1. Co-operative Legislation In Asia - A Study**
Part : ONE - Co-operative laws in bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand; pp.276, 1991
Part : TWO - Analysis made by National Consultants from India, Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand ; pp. 235, 1991
Price of one set of books INR 400.00/ U.S.\$ 60.00
- 2. Facilitation of Effective Co-operative Legislation In Selected Countries of Asia: A study report, by V.P.Singh**
pp. 83; 1990, Price: INR 100.00/U.S.\$ 15.00
- 3. ICA/SNCF Regional Seminar on New Technology for Co-operative Education - Singapore 02-05 April, 1990 - by Mr.W.U.Herath** pp.88,1991, Price INR 100.00/ US\$15.00
- 4. CHINA: Perspective and Project Planning for Agricultural Co-operative Sector - (Gansu Province) Report of ICA Study Mission, compiled by Mr.Guo Yong Kang** pp.121, 1991. Price INR 150.00/US\$ 25.00
- 5. Methodology for Co-operative Member Participation - Report of the ICA Regional Seminar - compiled by Mr.Terry Bergdall and Mr.W.U.Herath,** pp.119, 1990. Price INR 100.00/US\$ 15.00
- 6. ICA Working Party on Co-operative Research, Planning and Development; COOPERATIVE VALUES AND RELATIONS BETWEEN CO-OPERATIVES AND THE STATE (Working Papers of a Seminar in New Delhi - October, 1989 - pp.262, 1990. price INR 200.00/US\$ 30.00**
- 7. Facilitators Manual on Co-operative Member Participation Methodology= HRD Series 02, by Mr.W.U.Herath, 1990.**
: Price INR 300.00/US\$ 45.00
- 8. Co-operative Ministers Conference- Sydney Australia: Report and country papers,08-11 February, 1990, edited by Dr.R.C.Dwivedi; pp.383, 1990, price INR 400.00/US\$60.00**
- 9. Present Situation, Problems & Future tasks of Agricultural Co-operatives: Study reports from Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Philippines and Sri Lanka, pp.296,1990, price INR 300.00/US\$ 45.00**
- 10. Women In Development through Fishery Coops in Asia: Report of the joint ICA/CCA/SDID Planning Mission on Bangladesh, India and Philippines, edited and compiled by Mr.M.M.K.Wali, pp.147; 1990, price INR 150.00/US\$25.00**
- 11. Asia In ICA** by Dr.R.C.Dwivedi, pp.320,1989, price: Paperback 300.00/US\$45.00; Hard Bound INR 400.00/US\$ 60.00
- 12. Role of Government In Promoting Co-operative Development in Asia, edited by R.C.Dwivedi, pp.628, 1989, price: Paper back INR 400/US\$ 60.00; Hard Bound INR 500.00/US\$ 75.00**
- 13. Housewives in Consumer Coops : Report of the ICA Regional Follow-up Workshop on Housewives Involvement in Consumer Co-operatives: Osaka, Japan,12-18 April, 1989; by Mr.W.U.Herath, pp.141; 1989, price INR 100.00/US\$ 15.00**
- 14. Agricultural Co-operatives in Japan: The Dynamics of their Development, by Mr.M.V.Madane, pp 186, 1989, price : Paper Back INR 150.00/US\$ 25.00; Hard Bound INR.200.00/US\$ 30.00**

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ASIA-PACIFIC COOPERATIVE NEWS

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International Cooperative Alliance

ICA REGIONAL OFFICE NEWS

Cooperative-Government Collaborative Strategies for the Development of Cooperatives

National Follow-up Workshops Held

Workshop-I : Fiji

A national follow-up workshop called "National Consultation on the Recommendation of the Asian Regional Cooperation Ministers Conference" organised by the ICA in Sydney (Australia) in February 1990, was held in Suva, Fiji, July 17-19, 1991. The three day National Consultation-cum-Follow-up workshop was organized jointly by the Fiji Cooperative Union Ltd., a member organisation of the ICA in Fiji, and the Department of Cooperatives of Fiji, in close collaboration with the International Cooperative Alliance, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ICAROAP), New Delhi. This was the third of the five national level Consultation Workshops to be organized by the ICAROAP in the Asia-Pacific Region to review the national follow-up of the Sydney Conference Declaration and the Recommendations.

The National Consultation was also the follow-up of a one-day consultation earlier held by the Department of Cooperatives and the Fiji Cooperative Union Ltd., on the subject on 24th April, 1991 in Suva. The one-day Consultation had taken note of the Sydney Conference recommendations and discussed issues in the context of Fiji Cooperative

Movement. The Consultation had discussed a proposal on National Cooperative Development Policy and Strategies, and issued a communique containing the summary of conclusions arrived at the one-day Consultation. Both the Consultations were of great significance for the national cooperative movement, and in accordance with the Action Plan set by the Cooperative Ministers' Conference, 1990.

The National Consultation was organized with the following objectives: (a) To review the action taken by the Cooperative Movement and the Department of Cooperatives in Fiji in the context of the Sydney Declaration, Recommendations and Action Plan for the '90s set out by the Cooperative Ministers' Conference, 1990; (b) To identify the problem areas facing the Fiji Cooperative Movement and propose action to be taken by various concerned parties to overcome those problems; and (c) To discuss and recommend a national policy on cooperative development and suggest appropriate strategies to be adopted.

The National Consultation was attended by 54 high-level participants representing the cooperative movement and the government.

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Support ASPACON, feeding with news and events in your country and organisation. We also invite your suggestions and opinion to further improve ASPACON. To ensure receipt of ASPACON, inform us of change in your mailing address, if any. - Editor

Resource persons from various agencies were also invited to support the National Consultation. The opening session of the National Consultation was inaugurated by Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources, Hon'ble Ratu William Tonganivalu, who delivered the key-note address to the Consultation. The Minister for Primary Industries and Cooperatives, Fiji, had come specially to meet the resource persons and the participants.

The presence of two Senior Level Ministers of the Government of Fiji added to the credibility, significance and meaning of the National Consultation.

The ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ICA ROAP), New Delhi, supported the National Follow-up Consultation by way of providing the needed documentation, a background paper, technical expertise and some financial back-up support. Mr. Daman Prakash, ICA Regional Advisor on Development Planning and Coordination extended the greetings of the ICA to the organizers and participants and assisted the National Consultation in its technical matters by being present throughout in Fiji.

The Australian Association of Cooperatives (AAC), Sydney, a member-organisation of the ICA, promptly responded to the follow-up Consultation in Fiji and made the services available of Mr. Derek Heelen, Manager, Cooptrade and International Affairs, to support the work of the National Consultation.

The technical and logistic support extended by Mr. Ambika P. Sharma, Director/Registrar of Cooperatives, Fiji, to the National Consultation was of great value and significance and also an indication of Government's positive attitude towards the development of a self-supporting and strong cooperative movement. He and Mr. K.B. Matalau, President of the Fiji Cooperative Union Limited, teamed together to achieve the objectives set for the National Consultation.

The workshop discussed the following topics:

- (a) Cooperative Legislation;
- (b) Cooperative Management;
- (c) Cooperative Education, Training and Extension; and
- (d) Cooperative Trade.

At the concluding session of the plenary, a set of recommendations and an action plan was adopted for implementation.

At the concluding session of the Consultation the participants were awarded with a Certificate of Participation "with appreciation" to recognize the contribution they had made to the deliberations of the National Consultation.

Workshop-II : India

A national level conference of Ministers of Cooperation of State Governments, senior level cooperative leaders, and senior level government officials was convened jointly by the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI), and the International Cooperative Alliance Regional Office for Asia and Pacific (ICAROAP) at Bangalore, Karnataka State, on September 1, 1991.

The Conference was held to review the recommendations of the Asian Regional Cooperative Ministers' Conference held by the International Cooperative Alliance Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ICA ROAP) in Sydney, Australia, in February 1990. The International Cooperative Alliance was represented at the Conference by the ICA President, Mr. Lars Marcus, and the ICA Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, Mr. G.K. Sharma.

Conference Objectives

The following objectives were set for the State Ministers' Conference:

1. Review of the follow-up action taken on the recommendations of the ICA Regional Conference of Cooperative Ministers held in Sydney, February 1990, in the context of the Indian Cooperative Movement.
2. Discuss measures to strengthen the

business operations and structural organisation of the Indian Cooperative Movement.

3. Strengthening international relationship of the Indian Cooperative Movement with international and national cooperative organisations elsewhere.

Inaugural Session

The Conference was inaugurated by Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperation of the Government of India. The Conference was attended by more than 20 State Ministers of Cooperation, and Union State Minister of Cooperation.

The inaugural session of the Conference was presided over by Mr. S. Bangarappa, Chief Minister of Karnataka State, Mr. Mullapally Ramachandran, Union Minister of India, Mr. K.H. Patil, Minister of Rural Development, Karnataka, Mr. S.R. Morey, Minister for Cooperatives and Mr. N. Chike Gowda, Minister for Agriculture, of the Karnataka State were present at the inaugural function. Representatives of national cooperative federations, Reserve Bank of India, NCDC, NABARD, NDDDB were also present, Secretaries, Registrars of Cooperative Societies of States, and Managing Directors of state cooperatives banks also participated in the Conference.

Delivering his inaugural address, Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar, Minister for Agriculture and Cooperation of the Government of India, said: "At the outset, I wish to compliment the National Cooperative Union of India and the International Cooperative Alliance for convening this Conference on Cooperation at a time when we, in the Government of India, are actively working for the revitalization of the co-operative system in the country. Strengthening of the Cooperative Movement in the country assumes special significance in the context of democratic decentralization, which we have undertaken by strengthening grass-root people's organisations like Panchayati Raj institutions and the policy of economic liberalisation to give a new thrust to the development process in the country.

“To facilitate the State Governments to introduce reformation in their respective legal system, Model Cooperative Law drafted by an Expert Committee of the Planning Commission has been circulated. The Model Law aims to restore the spirit of self-reliance and member participation in the affairs of cooperatives and the role of Government is restructured to ensure regular conduct of elections, audit and meetings of the society. We are making a detailed scrutiny of the various provisions. Copies of the Model Law have also been placed before you along with the agenda papers. We will communicate to you our views on the Model Law. The discussions in today’s meeting will help us in the appreciation of the draft.

“The steps taken by the Government of India for strengthening of the cooperatives system in the country are in consonance with the Sydney Declaration adopted by the Cooperation Ministers of Asia and Pacific Region. A Status Paper on the Revitalization of the Cooperatives and a paper on the follow-up action taken on the recommendations of the Sydney Conference is placed in your hands for your perusal and consideration.”

Mr. Lars Marcus, President, ICA the World body of cooperatives, who attended the conference observed :

“The ICA New Delhi already in existence for some 30 years, has been a success. At a time when economic development has taken place in Asia, the ICA presence helped to strengthen the cooperative sector. It is not easy to single out any special achievement but, at least, the intense and wide contacts over national borders through seminars and conferences, seem to me to be one of our contributions. I also have reason to believe that had Dr. Mauritz Bonow been alive, he would have enjoyed the increased Asian economic contributions to the ICA activities through the Regional Office. Personally, I also have had reason to enjoy the vitalization of the office under its present Director, and my friend, Regional Director G.K. Sharma. The Ministerial Conference in Sydney one and a half years ago was

prepared by him. Efforts to bring assistance to colleagues in Vietnam and Mongolia have been sponsored by him. He has spoken of Asian cooperative unity and proved his deeper understanding of its consequences by adding a young man from PRO China to his staff”.

Referring to the functioning of cooperative institutions in India, Mr. Marcus said:

“I just read that 27,000 cooperative institutions in one State had been deprived of their leadership, to be taken over by Government-appointed staff. I cannot dispute whether this was called for or not. This is a matter for National Cooperative Union of India to challenge. But I hope you understand my point of view. When I say that such a practice going on from year to year, according to the NCUI President, is completely undesirable. It should be the duty of cooperatives themselves to call for new elections in accordance with their by laws and rules. Also the practice of many cooperatives in India to postpone and delay the elections of their cooperatives is intolerable. That could be the reason for State Government’s interference”.

Referring to his recent discussions with the Prime Minister of India, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, and his interaction with the former Prime Minister of India, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, Mr. Marcus emphasised on the importance of independence of cooperative institutions. He said: “When Indian Cooperatives are given suitable conditions equal to those of ICA-majority cooperatives, the prospects for an increased and direct support from donor agencies will be there. In discussions on these matters, ICA would be prepared to participate with some of the most prominent cooperatives leaders.”

The Karnataka Chief Minister, Mr. S. Bangarappa, who presided over the inaugural session of the Conference, underscored the importance of curbing the government dominance of the cooperative movement which has led to the weakening of the democratic and

autonomous character of cooperative institutions. He said the cooperative sector should diversify into other areas of national economy, commerce and industry. The Chief Minister expressed his happiness that such an important Conference was being held in Karnataka and assured the participating ministers and others that all efforts would be made in Karnataka to make the cooperative movement in the State a model democratic movement.

Earlier, Mr. Mullappaly Ramachandran, Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Cooperation, urged the State governments not to indiscriminately supersede cooperative institutions and impose its functionaries on the cooperatives as it would destroy their basic autonomous nature. He stressed; “It is necessary to not only to de-officialise but also to de-politicize the cooperative movement.”

At the concluding session the Conference arrived at a number of conclusions. These are reproduced below:

1. The conference agreed in principle with the Declaration made at the Sydney Conference of Cooperation Ministers and affirmed of providing support to cooperatives.

2. The Conference endorsed the strategy proposed for the revitalization of the cooperatives. It was agreed that the State Governments will prepare a time-bound action programme to implement the programme of strengthening the cooperatives by undertaking the following measures:

2.1 The State Governments will undertake the comprehensive review of provisions of existing Cooperative Law to introduce the reformation in legal system on the lines of Model Cooperative Act to provide autonomy to cooperatives and to retain their democratic character. In this connection the Conference also urged upon the State Governments to restore democratic management of cooperatives by holding elections before the end of the cooperative year and not to resort to supersession en masse for extraneous considerations.

2.2 The Conference observed that Government of India should also remove the restrictive provisions such as Section 29(3) of the Multi State Cooperative Societies' Act 1984.

2.3 The Conference took note of the Draft National Cooperative Policy circulated by the Government of India and agreed to send its views to Government of India to facilitate its finalization.

2.4 The Conference agreed that the State Governments should implement the programme of Business Development Planning of Primary Agricultural, Consumer and Marketing Cooperatives with a view to render comprehensive package of economic services to their members and in the process to make them viable.

2.5 The Conference agreed that State Governments will examine the report of the Committee on organisation of Cooperatives for the rural poor and take steps for its implementation and particularly to promote self-help groups among the rural poor, to mobilise local resources, activate dormant members of the cooperatives and to generate viable projects for rural development.

2.6 The Conference took note of the report of the Committee (Pant Committee) on measures to implement the recommendations made by the Agricultural Credit Review Committee and decided that the State Governments and the concerned cooperative organisations will take necessary steps for their implementation.

2.7 The Conference noted that for revitalization of cooperatives at grass-roots level, the role of federal cooperatives at the district, state and national levels need to be redefined to provide support to PACs on cost effective basis.

2.8 The Conference noted that the major programme of water-shed development in rainfed areas is being developed by the government for improving production and productivity of farmers in dry-land areas and decided that the State Governments would encourage the primary agricultural cooperatives

to implement the programme to help the member-farmers.

2.9 The Conference noted the draft Code of Conduct circulated by the NCUI and recommended steps will be taken by the State Governments and the cooperatives to adopt the Code approximately to establish healthy and harmonious relations with the cooperatives and between the government and cooperatives.

3. The Conference noted the need for setting up of National Cooperative Bank of India to bridge systemic gap and urged upon the Government of India, particularly Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Finance and Reserve Bank of India to support the establishment of National Cooperative Bank of India by registering it and issuing licence under Banking Regulation Act. The Conference further urged upon all the State Governments to support the proposed National Cooperative Bank of India and permit the State Cooperative Banks, State Cooperative Land Development Banks and Urban Cooperative Banks to support in the equity and liquidity of National Cooperative Bank of India.

4. The Conference agreed in principle to the proposal to set up International Cooperative Development Fund for SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) countries. However, it is felt that, in the first instance, operational details may be worked out and finalised by the NCUI in consultation with Department of Agriculture and Cooperation in the Government of India.

5. The Conference endorses the view that a self-supporting National Cooperative Union of India will help in promoting cooperative ideology and in advocating the cause of cooperatives effectively. The Conference, therefore, recommends that proposal for adjusting accretion in Cooperative Education Fund under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies' Act and Rules in NCUI Corpus Fund till the later reaches at Rs.100 million be considered by the Government of India. Besides, State Governments should also support the

National Cooperative Union to build up its resources.

6. The need for evolution of appropriate personnel policies for the cooperative organisations and Cooperation Department at top and other management levels is recognised and resolved for an immediate action in this direction.

7. Professionalism in cooperative sector should embrace Cooperative Departmental officers at all levels so that top positions in organisations are filled up from incumbents within the Department of Cooperation and the movement only.

8. Resolved to request the Government of India to exempt the Cooperative Banking institutions from the purview of two provisions of the Finance Bill 1991 in respect of deduction of income tax at source from the interest to be paid to the depositors above Rs.2500/- and the proposal to levy 3% interest tax on gross interest income for Urban Cooperative Banks.

Workshop-III : Indonesia

This national cooperative workshop was held to review the follow-up of the recommendations of the Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers' Conference held in Sydney in February 1990, and also to observe the Indonesian Cooperative Day (12th July). The workshop was held at Semarang, the capital city of Central Java, from 10-12 July 1991.

The objectives set for the workshop were: (1) To make an inventory of the development, tendency, and constraints faced, policy perspectives, and programme for the future as a continuation of the 1990 Sydney Declaration in Indonesia. (2) To provide the opportunity for the cooperatives to exchange ideas and learn from the experience of various types of cooperatives in the frame-work to further develop the cooperatives.

The results of this workshop are to become inputs for the forthcoming Regional Consultation Meeting to be held in November 1991 and for the

ICA Asia-pacific Cooperative Ministers' Conference planned to be held in Jakarta in February 1992.

The workshop was attended by 68 delegates and resource persons from the Ministry of Cooperatives coordinating Ministry of Economic, Finance and Industry; Indonesian Cooperative Council Local Government; Universities; International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) and the Canadian Cooperative Association.

The opening ceremony was attended by Mr. Soedarno, Second Assistant to the Governor of Central Java; Mr. Eddiwan, Vice-Chairman of Indonesian Cooperative council (DEKOPIN); Dr. Wagiono Ismangil, Steering Committee Chairman of the workshop and Secretary-General of the Ministry of Cooperatives; Mr. Daman Prakash, Regional Advisor of ICA ROAP and all the participants. Dr. Wagiono Ismangil welcomed the participants and resource persons to the workshop.

He stated that to achieve the objectives of the workshop, the following topics should be considered and discussed: (1) The role of Government and DEKOPIN in the development of cooperatives should be synchronized with the needs and aspirations of Cooperative Movement; (2) Setting up and operation of a cooperative network, horizontal and vertical, to foster the achievement of self-reliant cooperatives; and (3) Fostering international cooperation that is sufficient and appropriate to the needs of the Indonesian Cooperative Movement and its further development.

Mr. Eddiwan, Vice-Chairman of Indonesian Cooperative Council (DEKOPIN) stressed that in the discussion and evaluation of the Sydney Cooperative Ministers' Conference, we should be honest, so that we can identify and evaluate the strengths and weakness of the role of Government, DEKOPIN and the ICA. Furthermore, the role of Cooperative Movement should be seen from the national angle, i.e., Article 33 of Indonesian 1945 constitution and the Indonesian Cooperative Law No. 12/1967.

A number of technical background papers were presented to the workshop. These were: three national papers (2 papers from the Government in the Department of Cooperatives, and one from the Indonesian Cooperative Council); 16 situation papers from the Indonesian Cooperative Movement (representing various sectors and levels of the Movement); an opening statement made by Mr. Daman Prakash on behalf of the ICAROAP; and a background paper from the ICA outlining the various steps already taken by the Movements in the region and the ICA ROAP on the recommendations of the Sydney Conference. The three national situation papers are included in this report elsewhere.

To discuss in detail the papers and to formulate the conclusions of the workshop, three working groups were constituted. The groups discussed: (1) The role of government; (2) The role of DEKOPIN & International Cooperation; and (3) The role and function of the national cooperative network. The working groups, assisted by resource persons, produced their reports. These group reports were presented to the plenary session which made additional points and adopted a set of conclusions.

The closing session of the workshop was held under the chairmanship of Dr. Wagiono Ismangil, Secretary-General of the Department of Cooperatives. In his closing speech he expressed his appreciation of the participation of the ICA in the workshop and thanked all the participants and the organising committee for their active participation and successful attainment of the workshop objectives. He commended the willingness and active association of all the resource persons who produced and presented their technical papers. The secretary-General pointed out that the recommendations of the workshop would help in chartering a proper course for the Indonesian Cooperative Movement in developing smooth operations. He mentioned that the outputs of this workshop would be a valuable inputs for the forthcoming Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers' Conference

planned to be held by the International Cooperative Alliance in Indonesia in February 1992.

As a symbolic release of the report of the workshop the Secretary-General handed over a copy of the report to Mr. Trisuko Wibowo, Chairman of the Rural Credit Cooperative Bank of Malang, who received it on behalf of the participants. On behalf of the organising committee, the Secretary-General handed over to the participants and resource persons Certificates of Appreciation and participation.

The Secretary-General and the Organising Committee placed on record the highest appreciation of Mr. Iskandar Susilo, Provincial Head of the Cooperative Department, Central Java, for extending his full cooperation, support and collaboration in the organisation and conduct of the national workshop. He enriched the content of the workshop by his full-time participation in the deliberations.

Workshop-IV : Philippines

As a national level follow-up workshop on the recommendations of the 1988 Singapore Consultation and 1990 Sydney Cooperative Ministers Conference on the subject, "COOPERATION FOR THE 90s", the International Cooperative Alliance Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ICA ROAP), in cooperation with the Swedish Cooperative Centre, sponsored a Philippine Cooperative Development Forum at the Asian Institute of Tourism, Diliman, Quezon City, on June 4-7, 1991. This Forum was co-hosted by ICA member-organizations in the Philippines, namely: Cooperative Union of the Philippines (CUP), National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO) and Sugar Cooperative Development Institute of the Philippines (SCDIP), together with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA)

Objectives

The general objectives of the Forum were: (1) to take concrete local actions on the recommendations of the Sydney

Ministerial Conference on Cooperatives; and (2) to familiarize international donors on existing situations and priority needs of the cooperative movement and thereby engender their support/assistance for the development and growth of cooperatives into self-propelling socio-economic institutions.

The specific objectives were: (1) to examine carefully the conclusions of the Sydney Conference; (2) to take stock of the existing local cooperative situation in the light of the Sydney Conference recommendations and to identify the priority areas which need to be worked on by the cooperative movement and the government; (3) to prepare national strategies and plans of actions of the 1990s to achieve the objectives and targets of the Sydney Conference and at the same time address the priority needs of the cooperative movement; and (4) to present the cooperative movement's needs to donor organizations/agencies and obtain their reactions/commitments for support.

Mr. Karl Fogelstrom, Senior Development Advisor and Mr. Daman Prakash, Regional Advisor, Development Planning & Coordination Project, represented ICA ROAP in the Forum.

Mr. Tryggve Nelke of the Swedish Cooperative Centre (SCC) assigned to the Sri Lanka Cooperative Movement but detained by the ICAROAP for the Cooptech Project of the Cooperative Union of the Philippines and Mr. William G.S. Teo, ICA/CIDB Regional Insurance Advisor were also present.

The Forum was divided into two parts. The first part consisted of (1) a review of the Singapore Consultation Meeting recommendations; (2) review of the 1990 Sydney Ministers' Conference Conclusions and Recommendations/Presentation of ICA Theme paper; and (3) presentation of national situation papers.

The 2nd part of the Forum was exclusively devoted to developing an interaction with aid-giving agencies and the Cooperative Movement of the Philippines.

The assembly was then divided into

five working groups to discuss the priority needs of the cooperative movement and to suggest national strategies and plans of action to address those needs.

The groups were to tackle the following points on every perceived need:

1. The present situation in relation to each topic; (2) the problems faced; (3) the strategies and national plan of action to overcome the problems; and (4) the roles of government, the movement and the donors.

The areas for discussion were: (1) Promotion, training and education; (2) Agricultural cooperative development; (3) Financial system development; (4) Development of cooperative marketing and cooprade; and (5) Institutional development and cooperative linkages. At the end of the Forum, a set of recommendations and an action plan was adopted for implementation.

Workshop-V : Thailand

In pursuance of the recommendations made by the Asia-Pacific Regional Cooperative Ministers' Conference held by the International Cooperative Alliance, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Sydney, Australia, February, 1990, a National Follow-up Workshop was jointly organized by the Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT) and the Cooperative Promotion Department (CPD) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of His Majesty's Government of Thailand. The National Workshop was held in August 26-28, 1991 at Hotel Majestic Palace in Bangkok. The ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ICA ROAP) collaborated with the organizers.

The Workshop had the following objectives: (i) To review the Declaration, Recommendations and Action Plan as were adopted by the Sydney Conference in the context of Cooperative Development activities in Thailand; and (ii) To take stock of the present situation and to make suitable recommendations to appropriate authorities in Thailand to fulfil the objectives laid down by the Sydney Conference.

The Workshop was inaugurated by Mr. Sangiam, Director-General of the Cooperative Promotion Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives on behalf of the Permanent Secretary of the Government. In his opening remarks the Director-General said that the Sydney Conference recommendations were timely and of great relevance to the Cooperative Movements of this region, especially to Thailand, and he commended the efforts and initiatives of the International Cooperative Alliance in stressing the importance of smooth working relationship between the Movement and the Government. The two sectors should join hands and work more closely to provide security and services to the members of cooperatives in social and economic activities. He thanked the ICA ROAP for extending its support and collaboration in the organisation of the national follow-up workshop.

In his remarks made at the opening session the Chairman of the Cooperative League of Thailand, Mr. Anan Chamnankit, thanked the Director-General of the CPD for inaugurating the Workshop, and said that the Cooperative Movement of Thailand was now showing trends of diversification of its activities, growth, professionalisation and consolidating its base. In the context of increased business activities and the growing need to compete with other business enterprises, it was felt necessary that the existing laws, government policies and procedures should undergo some review and revision. Since the aims and objectives of the government and cooperatives are similar it is also necessary that greater collaboration and understanding should be enhanced between the two sectors in order to provide socio-economic services to the members without compromising on cooperative principles and practices.

The CLT Chairman appreciated the efforts of the ICA Regional Office in fostering greater collaboration between the Cooperatives and the Government. The ICA-sponsored Cooperative Ministers' Conference in Sydney (1990) was a good step and most relevant to

the existing condition of cooperatives in this Region. He supported the idea of continuing such an exercise of holding regular consultations and conferences of Ministers and Cooperative leaders.

Mr. Daman Prakash, Regional Advisor (Development Planning and Coordination) of the ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, while thanking the CLT and the CPD, in organizing follow-up workshop said that the Declaration, Recommendations and Action Plans, as adopted by the Sydney Conference, were timely and of great relevance to improve the status, good will and characteristics of Cooperative institutions in the Region. In this context the Conference had specified the roles to be played by the governments, movements and the international agencies to make cooperatives as genuine, democratic and self-reliant institutions in the service of the community. He explained the strategy worked out by the ICA ROAP to encourage follow-up and monitoring the implementation of Sydney Conference recommendations in the Region.

The Workshop was attended by 25 Senior level leaders of the Cooperative Movement and Officials of the Government of Thailand.

The Workshop considered the following documents:- (a) Recommendations of the Sydney Conference; (b) Review of Sydney Conference recommendations (point-by-point); (c) National Situation Paper-Movement; (d) National Situation Paper-Government; (e) Background paper from the ICAROAP.

The Workshop discussed developments in Thailand and made recommendations on the following subject areas:- (a) Cooperative Law; (b) Cooperative Management; and (c) General Recommendation.

The Workshop recommendations were formally adopted unanimously at the plenary session of the workshop.

ICA Regional Study on "Environment and Cooperatives" Launched

A regional study on "Environment and Sustainable Cooperative Development" - on the role of cooperatives in the protection of environment has now been launched by the ICA Regional office. The Canadian Cooperative Association (CCA) and the Indian Farmers' Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO-India) have offered to actively collaborate with the ICA in this Project.

Problem Statement: Growth in population, shrinking of agricultural land, contamination of air, water and soil, and improper use of technology contribute to the degradation of environment. Healthy environment leads to: i) better standards and quality of life, ii) life support system, iii) conservation and regeneration, and iv) pollution-free environment.

In view of the limited information available on this subject in a systematic way, it is proposed that an in-depth study is undertaken in the Region to: a) identify causes and extent of pollution in the cooperative sector, b) document measures already undertaken by cooperatives to control pollution and to participate in the sustainable cooperative development process, c) developing local, national and regional plans of action, and d) suggesting measures (long-term and short-term) and activities required to implement action plans.

The main objectives of the regional study are:

1. to identify the environmental issues faced by cooperatives in various major activity sectors in the Region;
2. to take stock of the effective and visible measures already undertaken by cooperatives in protecting environmental the contributions made by cooperatives and other self-help groups;
3. to suggest methods and techniques of developing greater awareness about environmental issues among

all member-countries of the ICA ROAP hence making environment an integral part of sustainable cooperative development planning;

4. to develop programme strategies and action plans (short-term and long-term) for environmental enhancement for each participating organisation for their organisations and country; and
5. to make suitable recommendations for each country and to the ICAROAP and suggest follow-up activity required to implement and monitor local, national and regional plans of action.

Countries to be covered under the Regional Study have been identified as: Indonesia, India, Thailand, the Philippines and China. Since a lot of pioneering work in this sector has been done in Japan, information will be obtained from the Consumer Sector as well as from the Agricultural Sector of the Japanese Cooperative Movement and included in the main frame of the study.

National consultants, who would produce national situation papers, have been identified. Upon receipt of national papers, the national consultants will review, consider and produce a comprehensive documentation on the subject at a regional workshop which is planned to be held in January 1992.

The regional workshop will produce: a comprehensive regional documentation; a set of recommendations; and a set of action plans for local, national and regional follow-up. An interim report on the study would also be prepared for presentation at the forthcoming Asia-Pacific Regional Conference of Cooperative Ministers to be held in Jakarta (Indonesia) from 18th to 21st February 1992.

Training of Women Leaders of Agricultural Cooperatives

Under an agreement signed between the ICA and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MAFF) of Government of Japan, a four-week Training Course for Rural Women Leaders of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia was organised by the ICA ROAP in collaboration with IDACA in Tokyo. Six women leaders of agricultural cooperatives from Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand participated in the one month course held from 22nd August to September 14, 1991. The concluding session held on 13th September 1991, was addressed by Mr. M.V. Madane, project Director.

The training course programme included lectures in IDACA on involvement of women in their cooperatives, agricultural cooperatives in Japan and women's associations. Field study visits to agricultural cooperatives and discussions with leaders of women's associations of agricultural cooperatives in Japan were also organised during this period. The Women's Associations of Japanese Agricultural Cooperatives were closely associated in planning and the implementation of this training programme.

Mission Reports

Pradit Machima, Consumer Advisor

The mission to Pune from 28 July to 2 August was in connection with the preliminary meeting regarding "self-financed". Eleven members of the organizing Committee attended the meeting at the office of the Director of Agricultural Meeting of Maharashtra. Besides, it was also agreed that the second seminar (workshop) will also be held in Maharashtra on 2-6 December, 1991 where about 100 coop. leaders and managers and key staff of consumer coops in Maharashtra will be invited. It seems that the Government Officials and coop. leaders of Maharashtra are keen and serious in making Maharashtra

as a model and learning centre of consumer coops in India.

Consumer Cooperative operations in Maharashtra - both in rural and urban areas seem to work well because of higher employment rate, higher income of the members and strong leadership from both Govt. and the movement.

Guo Yong Kang, Agricultural Advisor

Australia: 11-31 July. The Asia-Pacific Cooperative Centre for Research, Training and Development has recently been established and operational at Geelong, Victoria. Mr. R. Mathimugan, Director of ICA Australian Project Office and myself held discussions with Australian Association of Cooperatives (AAC) AAC Victoria Council, NSW Cooperative Development League and the Asia Pacific Centre regarding the regional training programme for agricultural cooperative leaders in the Asia-Pacific Centre. It was agreed that ICA ROAP and the Asia-Pacific Centre would organize a regional seminar on Agricultural Cooperative Development at the Asia-Pacific Centre from 23 February to 22 March 1992.

Japan: 23 August-16 September. ICA/ CUAC/IDACA Regional Seminar on Perspective Planning for Regional Development was conducted at IDACA during 26th August to 13th September, 1991. The main objective of the seminar was to learn how to collect relevant information and formulate national and regional agricultural development plans based on individual farm management plans and methods of perspective planning for agricultural cooperative development initiated by agricultural cooperatives and member farmers, 17 participants from 8 countries, namely, Bangladesh, China, India, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam attended the seminar. The participants presented country reports on perspective planning and visited agricultural cooperatives in Toyama Prefecture. According to Japanese experience on methods of formulating medium and long-term perspective planning for Agricultural Cooperative Development. All the participants formulated the action plans

for implementation when they return to their countries. CUAC and IDACA covered all the local costs of the seminar and contributed additional funds to cover half airfare of the participants.

China: 21 September to 6 October.

The workshop on Perspective Planning for Agricultural Cooperatives was conducted in Gansu Province. China during 22-29 September, 1991. 15 representatives from Australia, Japan, Singapore, Thailand and China participate the workshop. Mr. Li Ping, Vice Governor of Gansu Provincial People's Government and Mr. Yang Deshou, Secretary General of ACFSMC attended the inaugural session of the workshop. The objective of the workshop was to follow up ICAROAP Perspective Planning Mission and to assist Gansu Cooperative Union to formulate long term plan as well as to identify potential areas for future cooperation between Gansu Cooperative Union and participating organisations. The Workshop adopted the conclusions and recommendations which indicated certain potential areas for future cooperation. The representatives from Australia, Japan, Singapore and Thailand expressed their willingness to assist Gansu Cooperative Union. Mr. Karl Fogelstrom, SDA and myself attended the above workshop.

In order to follow-up the ICA Regional Workshop on Waste Resource Recycling which was held in April 1991 in Shanghai, China. I contacted CLT and CUP and discussed with Shanghai Cooperative Federation to organize one delegation to visit Philippines and Thailand in January 1992 and to assist CLT and CUP to carry out feasibility study on Waste Resource Recycling. The CLT and CUP agreed to bear all the local costs for the above delegation.

Regarding the planned ICA Regional Seminar on Agro-Processing in Jiangsu Province China, I had a further discussion with Jiangsu Provincial Cooperative Union. It was confirmed that the seminar would be held in the 2nd or 3rd quarter of 1992 and the ACFSMC and JPCU would meet all the local costs of the seminar.

ICA HEAD OFFICE NEWS

ICA Launches ECEC Programme

At its recent meeting in May, 1991, the ICA Executive Committee approved the initiation of a special ICA programme of support for co-operatives in Eastern and Central European countries (ECEC). This initiative was possible due to initial financial and other contributions from ICA member organisations in Belgium, Great Britain, Israel, Japan and Sweden, and from the World Council of Credit Unions and its members.

The activities of the programme are designed to be complementary to, and supportive of the numerous efforts of ICA members, ICA will concentrate essentially on information and policy issues, both of which should support

the further development of direct bilateral contacts between co-operative organisations.

ICA's plan for 1991 are the following: preparation of regular newsletters on recent developments; preparation of individual country information notes; convening of a regional conference on privatisation and co-operative property; organisation of regional seminars on consumer wholesaling, trade and financial services in collaboration with ICA Specialized Organisations; the publication of new Co-operative Acts as passed by Parliaments in the region; and policy dialogue with governments.

ICA encourages other member organisations to provide direct support to cooperatives in the ECEC, both through the ICA programme and through bilateral arrangements. □

NEWS FROM THE REGION

AUSTRALIA

The Asia Pacific Cooperative Centre for Research Training and Development has recently been established at Geelong, Victoria (Australia). In July, 1991 Mr. Guo Yong Kang, Agricultural Cooperative Development Advisor at ICA ROAP and Mr. R. Mathimugan, Director of ICA Australian Project Office held discussions with Australian Association of Cooperatives (AAC), AAC Victoria Council, NSW Cooperative Development League and the Asia-Pacific Centre regarding the regional training programme for agricultural cooperative leaders in the Asia-Pacific Centre. It was agreed that ICA ROAP and the Asia-Pacific Centre would organize a regional seminar on Agricultural Cooperative Development at the Asia-Pacific Centre in February 1992 for a period of one month. Twelve senior agricultural cooperative leaders from this region will be selected to

attend the above seminar. The selected participants will be accommodated at Marcus Oldham Farm Management College Geelong, Victoria, in the first week of the seminar to receive the lectures on agricultural cooperative management and will be accommodated in six cooperatives for another 3 weeks to carry out research on certain subject in order to improve the participants' management level. The Asia-Pacific Centre will meet all the local costs of the participants during the seminar period.

More than two-thirds of the total population in Asia and the Pacific are farm-households and agricultural cooperatives are the major type of cooperatives in the region with almost 70% of the total cooperative membership of the region. In order to promote collaboration among agricultural cooperatives in the region, particular agro-processing, cooperative trade and

commercial cooperation, several project proposals were also discussed with Australian cooperative organisations and government agents concerned. It was agreed, in close collaboration with ICA ROAP to carry out research on the present situation of agro-processing in agricultural cooperatives in the region to identify specific areas in which new cooperatives and cooperative joint ventures would be established to produce value added products from agricultural raw materials and cooperative trade could be further promoted. ICA Project Office in Australia is mobilizing further resources financial and otherwise to support development.

At the same time, the ICA Project Office in Australia formulated a project proposal for Australia and Singapore cooperatives to develop commercial cooperation on manufacturing and marketing of agricultural products in the region. The programme of exchange delegation will be arranged by ICA Project Office in Australia to discuss the above proposals in detail.

BANGLADESH

Disaster Appeal

The Bangladesh National Cooperative Union has appealed through ICA to all cooperative movements of the world to come forward with aid for the millions of suffering victims of the cyclone and tidal wave which devastated the country last April. Donations or offers of help to the Union may be sent at the following address:

Samabaya Sadan,
9/D, Motijheel Commercial Area,
Dhaka 1000, Bangladesh.

Mr. A.M. Zahirul Haque has retired from the post of Chief Executive Officer of Bangladesh Jatiya Samabaya Union.

PEOPLE'S REP. OF CHINA

Appeal for Assistance

The National Cooperative Training Centre run by the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives

is appealing for aid to strengthen its training programmes in the form of books, training materials and periodicals, in addition to information which could be used in the production of new training materials. For extending help, please contact the National Cooperative Training Centre, 177 Jiao Tong Road, Bengbu, Anhui Province, China.

REPUBLIC OF FIJI

1. Fiji Endorses "United Nations International Year of Cooperatives - 1995"

While inaugurating the National Consultation on Cooperative-Government Collaborative Strategies for Cooperative Development" in Suva, Fiji, on 17th July 1991 Hon'ble Ratu William Tonganivalu Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources, Government of the Republic of Fiji, said "I am aware that the 1988 ICA Congress adopted a resolution proposing the proclamation by the United Nations of an International Year of Cooperatives in 1995 to commemorate ICA's centenary". The Government of the Republic of Fiji fully endorses this declaration since this will, among other things, provide the needed contribution from cooperatives as instruments of economic and social development strategies in improving the living standards of many around the globe especially those in the developing countries.

The national consultation was organized jointly by the Fiji Cooperative Union and the Department of Cooperatives in collaboration with the International Cooperative Alliance, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. The national consultation besides reviewing the Sydney Conference recommendations also worked out strategies and action plans for creating more harmonious relationship between the government and the Cooperative Movement of Fiji.

2. Cane Farmers's Cooperative Savings & Loans Association Limited (CCSLA LTD)

The CCSLA Ltd is the apex organisation of primary Thrift and Credit

Cooperative Societies. As at 30.6.90, 103 primary cooperatives and 1,297 individual (direct) members were affiliated to CCSLA Ltd. Total investment of the members amounted to \$ 484,281.00. During the year, 242 loans valued at \$576,488.00 were approved for the members, mostly for discharge of debts, farm implement and machinery and farm housing. Since its inception in 1968, this organisation has made remarkable progress.

The objectives of the Association are:

a) To raise funds from members (not necessarily cane farmers) and non-members (the latter being confined to banks and other parties approved by the Registrar); b) to finance registered cooperatives persons and institutions admitted to membership in compliance with the by-laws (At present loans are restricted to cane farmers, i.e. the original founders-registered cooperatives and institutions with predominance of cane farmers proprietors); c) to invest funds on behalf of members either individually or generally (the thought here was the formation of a separate wholly-owned subsidiary cooperative which CCSLA would manage to operate long nominee company lines, so that investors would not be affected by events within CCSLA itself); d) to provide such other financial and advisory services of which members may be in need (Assistance with taxation, Probate personal budgeting etc); e) to establish and maintain such branch and /or agency services within the area of operation as may be necessary to achieve these objects (the area of operation is defined as the Dominion of Fiji); f) to issue debentures, guarantees, mortgages and such other instruments as may be necessary in furtherance of these objects; g) to seek and arrange with persons or institutions engaged in any trade business or profession for the concession to members of such rights, privileges or other advantages of which members may be in need (if required the CCLSA could act as negotiators in a variety of ways including bulk purchases of agricultural inputs, making maximum use of its facilities and expertise); h) to purchase, lease hire exchange or otherwise such

property, machinery and plant as is necessary to achieve these objects; i) to encourage thrift, self and mutual help and cooperation generally; j) to provide management and advisory services to other registered cooperatives; k) generally to do all such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of all or any of the aforesaid objects.

3. Fiji Cooperative Union Purchases a Building

The Fiji Cooperative Union Limited has purchased a property on March 15, 1991 in Suva, the Capital city of Fiji, to set up its secretariat. Funds for the purchase have been provided by affiliated cooperative societies. The setting up of the secretariat is considered to be a major step taken by the FCUL towards self-reliance and independence in the Cooperative Movement in Fiji. Ever since its inception, the FCUL has been directly managed by the Department of Cooperatives. The acquisition of the property is a healthy sign, both in monetary terms and technical strength. In recognition of this initiative, the Government of Fiji has waived stamp duties of F\$916 on the transfer of the property from the vendor to the FCUL. The FCUL is the official voice of the Cooperative Movement in Fiji, and as a national apex organisation of the movement, is a member-organisation of the International Cooperative Alliance. The ICA ROAP congratulates the Fiji Cooperative Union on its achievement.

INDIA

1. Proposal to set up a National Cooperative Bank of India

For quite some time now discussions have been going on within the Indian Cooperative Movement to set up a National Cooperative Bank of India. A comprehensive Project Profile has been prepared by the promoters. The proposal was discussed intensively at a "National Conference on the National Cooperative Bank of India" held in New Delhi in March, 1991. A Steering Committee was set up to prepare the

bylaws of the Bank. On March 18, 1991 a promoters meeting was held wherein 24 representatives of cooperative banking structure and national level cooperative organisations participated and adopted the bye-laws. The proposal, in its final form, is now awaiting registration by the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies.

2. Motivating People for Forestry - the IFFCO Experience

The environmentalists and policy makers of the world have been educating both developing and developed countries on the impending disasters due to excessive exploitation of natural resources. Policy makers in India have pointed to the crisis that has risen due to the acute imbalance between green cover and the land. It is an undisputed fact that there should be a check on the over-exploitation of nature and the restoration process should start with intensified efforts. Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) has been successful in disseminating new farm technology to the farmers through several extension programmes. Its involvement in rural development has prompted it to launch a project on farm forestry. The project will demonstrate the viability of afforestation on waste land and will become a model for involving the people in afforestation through Farm Forestry Cooperatives.

The project has been designed and is being implemented to meet the following specific objectives.

- To promote tree plantation on waste-lands and sub-marginal lands and help in restoration of ecological balance.
- To generate sustainable rural employment and help in the economic development of rural poor.
- To promote afforestation as a people's movement and make it ongoing by organizing village level farm forestry cooperatives.
- To develop a model for promoting afforestation on the lines of integrated farming system.

People's Participation

Creation of an institutional structure for bringing the rural population together for this noble but gigantic task was undertaken. Village level cooperative institutions were organized in the project area. Up till now 33 primary cooperative societies have been organized of which 29 are already registered (see Table). The societies own capital items, create irrigation facilities (tubewells etc.), raise centralized nurseries and provide services which are common to all members. The societies will also make necessary arrangements for marketing of main produce and recovery and repaying of loans. The societies are the centres for all extension and educational programmes. The societies are also responsible for arrangement of funds.

By-laws for a multi-state cooperative society, a federation of all the primary societies have been prepared and the Central Registrar Cooperative Societies has agreed in principle to register the society.

Recognizing the scope of the role of women can play in the project activities efforts have been made to take their help.

3. The National Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks' Federation held its 59th Meeting of the Board of Management on 24th July, 1991.

The Board of Management of the Federation was reconstituted with Shri G.J. Taware, as Chairman Shri K.N. Krishnan Nair and Shri Dayashakar Bhai V. Trivedi as first and Second Vice Chairmen respectively in the elections.

4. The Cooperative Super Bazar, New Delhi, the first Department of its kind completed its 25 years of service to the nation. Expressing his feelings on this occasion the Minister of State for Civil Supplies and Public Distribution, Mr. Kamaluddin Ahmed said in his message that "Over the years Super Bazar has grown in stature to a premier cooperative institution upholding the rights of the common consumer. The

protesting of edible and other items by the Super Bazar indicates the organisation's great concern for the welfare and health of the consumer. I am glad that the Super Bazar with its wide network of branches and mobile vans is reaching essential commodities and medicines to every nook and corner of Delhi including rural areas. I am happy to learn that the Super Bazar is planning to expand its activities outside the Union Territory of Delhi also".

5. NAFED Exports cross Rs. 150 Million

Within a short span of only three decades, NAFED has achieved tremendous performance in the field of exports. During 1959-60, its exports were pegged at Rs. 2 lakh while it was increased to Rs. 150 million.

6. Rs. 36 Million fisheries projects cleared

The National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) has sanctioned an Integrated Fisheries Development Project worth Rs.36 Million for Kerala. This Project will benefit 157 villages all along the Kerala coasts generating an additional employment for 16,800 fishermen.

7. Viable Farm Coops Plans

The Government is thinking of introducing deposit guarantee scheme for primary agricultural cooperatives to make them self-reliant in resources. The Union Minister of State for Agriculture, Mr Mullappally Ramachandran said that this was being considered to enable those cooperatives to attract more deposits. He also said that in the coming year primary-level cooperative institutions would be the focus of cooperative policies, he said strong primaries were necessary for the success of the coop movement.

8. Dairy development highest on Government agenda

The Union Agriculture Minister, Mr. BalRam Jakhar, said that he was working on a scheme to bring about a "White Revolution" with ensured adequate milk supply throughout the country.

Dairy development was highest on the agenda of the Government and there were already eight million cross-bred cows to augment production. The Government was in favour of more participation of farmers through cooperatives on the lines of Gujarat experiment to augment production, Dr. Jakhar stated.

He said that the Government was considering to give more autonomy to milk cooperatives to strengthen the movement and step up milk production in the country.

9. RBI panel on coop banks

The Reserve Bank, the Central Bank of the country has constituted a committee to review the policy relating to licensing of new urban cooperative banks and other related aspects.

Among the terms of reference of the committee, while reviewing the policy are (I) Taking note of factors such as the efficacy of the present regulatory mechanism, proper geographical and spatial spread and the need to discourage mushroom growth of weak urban cooperative banks and ensure orderly growth of an efficient and viable urban banking structure; (II) To examine whether different criteria need to be laid down for organisation of banks in states which are advanced in urban cooperative banking as compared with states where the facilities have not yet developed; (III) To consider whether primary credit societies which have attained viability norms should be recognized as urban cooperative banks and if so, the conditions which should govern such recognition, and (IV) To examine whether the viability norms at present prescribed particularly in regard to capital adequacy need upward revision.

10. Dr. Jakhar's Plea to Cooperatives

The Agriculture Minister, Mr. Balram Jakhar urged Labour Cooperatives to undertake a revitalization scheme in order to strengthen the cooperative movement in the country.

Inaugurating the second All Indian Conference of chairmen and chief

executives of labour cooperatives, Dr. Jakhar said that the recommendations of the National Advisory Council on labour cooperatives should be implemented by the state government in letter and spirit which can set the pace of development of the sector.

The Agriculture Minister said that he was considering of making the National Advisory Council on labour cooperatives a permanent body so that both the Government and the cooperative movement could get constant guidance.

Greater efforts were necessary to establish cooperatives among weaker sections of the community, particularly workers and unorganized labour, he said.

11. NAFED organized a Vallabhbai Patel Memorial Lecture in memory of Shri Vallabhai Patel, who was NAFED's Vice-Chairman. In India a tradition has been set up to organize memorial lectures.

12. All Women Cooperative Bank to be set up in Bombay soon

The Cooperative Bank is being constituted at Bombay for women. The Bank's share capital will be Rs. one million and will have 2000 members. No other cooperative bank has started with such a large share capital.

A membership drive was initiated and the promoter could mobilise the capital. At least 70 per cent of the capital is subscribed by women from ex-ministers' families.

Difficulties were found in mobilizing the share capital from women mainly because "women are dependent on others".

Priyadashini Mahila cooperative bank is not the first of all women bank in the city. Way back in 1973 Ms Shalintai Patil started a cooperative bank for women - Indira Sahakari Cooperative Bank. It was at a time when Ms Vasantdada Patil was swaying high in Maharashtra.

However, in the first year of its operation itself it was found that the all-women

proposition did not work the way it was envisaged and started incurring heavy losses. The Reserve Bank was approached to allow at least 20 per cent male members and it was granted.

13. The All India Cooperative Week will commence with effect from 14th November, 1991 and conclude on 20th November 1991.

14. Dr. R.C. Dwivedi, ICA ROAP, has been appointed as Officer on Special Duty to the Minister of Agriculture and Cooperation, Government of India.

14. Plea for Single Commodity Cooperatives

Dr. V. Kurien, Chairman, the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), has said that in the cooperative sector remarkable progress has been achieved by the functioning of single commodity cooperatives like milk, sugar, cotton, and tobacco. More of Single Commodity Cooperatives should be organized.

INDONESIA

KOSTI JAYA - Indonesia Taxi Cooperative

A drivers' taxi cooperative has been functioning in Jakarta for quite some time now. The Cooperative, KOSTI JAYA, was established in 1983 with a view to providing service to the public and to generate employment potential. With an initial membership of 340 in 1983, the membership has gone upto 1421 in 1991. The Cooperative employs 118 staff members including 66 technicians to operate the business and to look after the vehicles. It took some time for the cooperative to finalize its business discussions with the BUKOPIN (The Cooperative Bank of Indonesia) and to sort out various procedural matters. The first lot of 100 vehicles was put on road in 1986. In 1988 the number went upto 290 and in 1991 there were 660 vehicles working under the banner of KOSTI JAYA. The net assets of the Cooperative in 1990 were reported to be Rp 1.6 billion (1 USD = Rp 1950). There is well equipped workshop to carry out repairs of the

vehicles and to supply spare-parts and to check fitness of vehicles. The Cooperative provides insurance covers for drivers and vehicles. Other benefit schemes are health, death benefits and housing loans.

The Cooperative has been authorized to operate within the JABOTABEK areas. The vehicles are new and of good standard and model. Most of the vehicles are Ford and Holden and are fitted with radio communication system, airconditioning and other safety devices.

So far a credit of Rp 16 billion has been granted by BUKOPIN (Bank Koperasi Indonesia). The credit is given to the member drivers for a span of 5 years upon completion of which the vehicles are fully owned by the drivers. Daily repayment to the Cooperative by the member-drivers averages between Rp 35,000 -Rp 53,000. This depends on the type and age of the vehicle in use. Normally the credit is repaid to the Cooperative within a period of three years. As at the end of June, 1991, 68 members had already become full owners of their vehicles.

Due to the goodwill created by the Cooperative among the user-public, the Cooperative has constantly been planning to expand its fleet and services. There is also continuous flow of requests from potential member-drivers to enter the membership of the Cooperative. It is, of course, not possible for the KOSTI to admit new members. There are certain norms which have been fixed by the Cooperative for the members. They should hold a valid driving licence; be within the age limit of 30-35 years with a good health record; hold a special training certificate from the traffic police; possess a valid identify card etc. After the admission of members, an intensive orientation programme is offered to the new driver-members. The main components of this programme are : courtesy to users; handling of infants and baggage; safety of vehicles; acquaintance with locations; traffic regulations; handling cash; display of drivers photograph and registration certificate in the vehicles; use of prescribed uniform for drivers; etc.

JAPAN

1. ZEN-CHU Seeks to Enhance Safety of Agricultural Products

The Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives (ZEN-CHU) has announced a new system to indicate safe, good quality agricultural products from its affiliated cooperatives. The new system will be formally decided at ZEN-CHU's national convention in October.

Under the new system, four methods of cultivation will be indicated: the combined use of organic fertilizer and chemical fertilizer; the use of only organic fertilizer; the limited use of agrochemicals; the nonuse of agrochemicals.

As well as the method of cultivation, the location of the agricultural cooperative shipping the product and the name of the producer will be also be indicated on the packaging or on an accompanying explanatory form. The producer and the cooperative responsible for the goods will keep cultivation records and make them available upon request. This is in response to consumer criticism that standards are vague.

Under the new system, organically grown products will be defined as "agricultural products grown under a cultivation method in which no chemical substances whatsoever are used for designated period of time." This standard is based on the international definition of "organic", but since economic feasibility and technology have not yet been established for organic cultivation methods, research is necessary, including study of the distribution issue.

2. ZEN-CHU Stages Large Rally to Oppose Rice Market Liberalization

The Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives (ZEN-CHU), the National Chamber of Agriculture and the National Farmers Agricultural Policies Movement Organisation Council held a large demonstration in Tokyo on July 1 entitled the Emergency National Rally

to Protect Rice. The secondary theme of the rally was "Aiming at Early Realization of a Long-Term Vision for Agriculture and Rural Villages."

About 50,000 rice farmers, representatives of affiliated agricultural cooperatives, political leaders from both government and opposition parties, citizen's groups and others participated in the rally, the largest anti-liberalization rally ever held in Japan. Afterwards, the participants staged a public demonstration in downtown Tokyo.

ZEN-CHU considers the period before the mid-July London Summit as a crucial one. They are making an all out effort in activities aimed at preventing liberalization of the rice market, and the July 1 rally was the highlight of their campaign.

3. JCCU Celebrates its 40th Anniversary

On May 9, a reception celebrating the JCCU's fortieth anniversary was held at the Hotel Okura in Tokyo. The event opened with a film, Reflecting the Seven Colours of a Rainbow. By watching the film, the guests were able to review the JCCU's forty year history.

Roughly one thousand people gathered for the occasion including 63 members from various parties of the House of Councillors and House of Representatives; people from public agencies such as the Ministry of Health and Welfare, the Economic Planning Agency, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of International Trade and Industry; representatives from sixteen different embassies, Federation of Economic Organisations, the Japan Chain Stores Association, and other economic organisations; members of agricultural cooperatives, the fishermen's cooperatives, labour banks, and other cooperative associations, participants from the Japan Housewives's Association, the Consumer's Union of Japan, and other consumer organisations; members of the Japan Seinendan Council, the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, the Japan Committee for UNICEF; and other fraternities, scholars and researchers

from various universities and research institutes, and consultants, as well as business associates such as manufacturers of cooperative products and trading firms, and the press.

Mr. Isao Takamura, President of JCCU, greeted the guests in his opening speech: "Forty years ago when we reconstructed the cooperative movement many did not have enough to eat and consumer cooperatives went through great hardships just to keep people living. JCCU spearheaded actions to reduce prices when prices were on the rise and engaged in manufacturing its own products to ensure a better quality of life and safety of food during a time of high economic growth. This was a period when economic concerns were often put before those relating to living standards. Cooperatives have grown to their present scale and standard thanks to support from various fields. Until now, Japan has placed priority on its economy and industry, but the country is now moving an age when emphasis is shifting to daily living. Regarding JCCU's role, we intend to concentrate the people's efforts to address welfare and environmental issues. Next year, we welcome the member of the world's coops to Tokyo for the ICA Congress. We will join hands with our friends from around the globe to spread and expand the cooperative movement".

The reception, attended by a thousand people from various circles, served as an opportunity to confirm anew the high expectations placed on the cooperative movement.

4. Together with our Neighbors: Problems and Future of the Asian Cooperative Movement.

On May 14, Mr. Masao Ohya, Executive Director of the Japanese Consumer Cooperative Union (JCCU) and Chairman of ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation for Asia and the Pacific met with Mr. Pradit Machima, Consumer Advisor of the ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. Their discussion covered a number of issues relevant to the consumer cooperative movement in Asia ranging from the

current operating conditions, problems and solutions relating to the promotion of cooperatives in different parts of Asia, to the role of the JCCU and the ICA in developing Asian cooperatives, as well as the future of the cooperative movement. The discussion was marked by general agreement in terms of ideology and ultimate goals, with some difference concerning methods, particularly with regard to dependence on outside assistance and the role of government in the coop movement.

5. Earth Day Festival in Tokyo

On May 12, 1991 the Earth Day Festival was held at Hibiya City, Tokyo, April 22 has been designated as Earth Day, an event which started in 1970 in the United States. Every year on earth day, people worldwide hold various events related to the environment. Japan first celebrated Earth Day last year, with 2,000 organisations participating in the festival in 150 different places. This year, the local election fell on April 22, so the festival in Tokyo was postponed until three weeks later.

It was drizzling on May 12, but more than 10,000 people including children came to Hibiya City. The festival opened with all participants picking up litter. There was a variety of entertainment and exhibitions, including a concert, open-air market, and a lecture on the environment of Asia. All events were conducted by amateur groups. Forty-nine organisations and corporations opened stalls. The main body of people that worked to hold the festival had also participated in last year's Earth Day Festival in Tokyo. Operation costs were donated by corporations (in units 300,000 yen) that agreed with the purpose of the festival.

Four Coops, Seikatsu Club Coop, E Coop, Toto Coop, and Tomin Coop took part in the Earth Day Festival. Farm fresh vegetables and environment-friendly products were displayed and sold. The electric car, methanol car owned by Tomin Coop were exhibited at the entrance.

The Earth Day Festival is an event in which anyone can participate in his or

her own way. It was a day for people of different countries and backgrounds to think about the earth together (Coop Japan).

6. For Our Green Earth Coop Products that Preserve Water Resources

Recently, people's interest in environmental preservation has become strong in Japan, and many activities including recycling of products and development of environment friendly products are advancing on both governmental and private levels. Coops have been engaged in spreading the use of environment friendly cleaning agents for nearly thirty years as part of a campaign to preserve water resources. Closely tied in with people's daily lives, the theme of the campaign has emphasized use of Coop Detergent.

The campaign was first developed in 1960s. Washing machines had already become commonplace in households at that time, which promoted widespread use of detergents. But detergents then contained ABS (Sodium alkylbenzenesulfonate), a surface active chemical which does not degrade easily. Rivers into which laundry water drained became polluted with suds and bubbles. "Bubble pollution" became a serious social problem. After tragic death which resulted from someone accidentally drinking the detergent.

(ABS), people became increasingly uneasy about the detergent, and the issue of toxicity of ABS has taken up at the Diet in 1962. Coop members strongly felt there was a need for a safe cleansing agent; this led to the development of Coop Detergent.

At first there was only one product, but now the Coop Detergent series covers kitchen cleansing agents and shampoos to laundry detergent, totaling 180 items as of fiscal year 1990. The aggregate turnover of laundry detergent alone accounted for 3.84 billion yen. Since producing its first detergent product, the JCCU has striven to improve the convenience and quality of its goods and has worked to develop new items such as concentrated laundry detergent which takes up little storage

space. JCCU also began a campaign in 1989 (Rainbow Soap Bubble campaign), limited to the summer season, to distribute baby soap and powdered laundry soap to member households having newborn babies in order to spread the use of soap that is friendly to the eco-system.

Last year, JCCU conducted a thorough reorganization of its products, including the Cooperative Detergent. Currently large number of Cooperative products are designed not to harm the environment while others are aimed at conserving resources. They are all energy saving and have been designated as "environment-friendly products". JCCU also organizes study meetings, river water analyses, and other member activities to preserve resources throughout Japan. What began as a drive to produce safe detergent, has developed into a movement which is making us reconsider our ways of life.

KOREA

30th anniversary of the foundation of NACF

The celebration was held at the Olympic Stadium in Seoul on August 14, 1991 successfully with the participation of 15,000 leading member farmers and many dignitaries from the Government, the National Assembly and other related organisations. Especially H.E Roh Tae-Woo, President of Republic of Korea attended the celebration and delivered a congratulatory address.

Credit Guarantee System for Farmers and Fishermen

Objective

The credit guarantee business was launched in 1972 under the Credit Guarantee Law for Farmers and Fishermen that was enacted in previous year. The system was designed to provide various kinds of farm and fishery loans through the credit guarantee of the NACF to farmers and fishermen who need loans from their cooperatives, but lack necessary collateral.

Ultimately, the objective of credit

guarantee system is to contribute to the increase of income and productivity by virtue of easy financing for the production activities of farmers and fishermen.

Operation of Credit Guarantee Business

The program is set up on the basis of guarantee demand, considering the increasing trend of loans by member cooperatives of NACF, the NFFC (National Federation of Fisheries Cooperatives) and the NLCF (National Livestock Cooperatives Federation) upon the resolution of the Board of Policy Deliberation.

The basic assets of the Credit Guarantee Fund are derived from contributions of the government, local self-governing bodies banking institutions, and other related organisations.

The Fund makes its use for deposits with the management organisation itself, purchase of public bonds, and subrogation i.e. the appropriation for the discharge of its guarantee liabilities against defaulted loans.

The ceiling of outstanding credit guarantees to be issued by the Fund is regulated by the law, within the limit of 15 times of total amount of the basic assets, plus its profit account.

Also, the limits of guarantee to beneficiaries depend on characteristics of juridical persons, business scales, and the results of credit appraisal.

Guidance on the credit guarantee system is provided to farmers and fishermen in the cooperative offices as well as at the village level discussion meetings.

For the credit guarantee, personal security is not required for the guaranteed loans of up to 5 million won per person and up to the full amount of loans for perspective young farmers or fisherman.

The Fund, as guarantor compensates the financing organisations for the principal interest and related expenses of the defaulted loans.

Performance of Credit Guarantee

The credit guarantee business has

expanded steadily since 1985, recording an annual average growth rate of around 30% on the basis of new guaranteed loans.

In 1990, the amount of new guaranteed loans was over three trillion won, an increase of 20.7% over the previous year.

To expand the credit guarantee business, the NACF has implemented promotional activities focused on farmers and fishermen through radio, newspapers, posters and pamphlets.

The NACF is hopeful that discussion meeting with farmers and fishermen will help promote a better understanding of the business and provide more opportunities to farmers and fisherman to take advantage of the credit guarantee system.

NACF Establishes Agricultural Technology Cooperation Company

The NACF established a fully owned subsidiary the Agricultural Technology Cooperation Co. Ltd., (ATCC) on May 2, 1991 appointing Mr. Byung Doo Kim former Executive Vice President of the NACF, as its first President.

The goals of the ATCC are to introduce advanced agricultural technology to farmers by sponsoring training programs in agriculturally advanced countries for Korean farmers and exchanging information and know-how on agricultural technology. To reach these aims, the ATCC will carry out the following activities : a) Advance the level of agricultural technology in Korea by collecting and disseminating data and materials; b) Produce training audio-visuals for member farmers; c) Develop and sponsor training and excursion programs for farmers; and d) Arrange sightseeing and farmhouse visit programme for urbanites.

At the opening ceremony, Dr. Ho-Sun Han Chairman and President of the NACF, emphasized the importance of agricultural technology, saying "It is very important for the NACF to develop and disseminate advanced agricultural technology to cope with the market liberalization stemming from GATT Uruguay Round multilateral trade

negotiations. For this purpose we are required to learn the advanced agricultural technology of developed countries."

Farm Machinery Parts Centre Opens

On March 27, 1991 the NACF opened the Central Farm Machinery Parts Centre to provide member cooperatives and farmers with a convenient, dependable outlet for farm machinery parts. The centre, which is located in the NACF Marketing Complex in the southern part of Seoul was set up to meet a long expressed need of farmers

A total amount of 2.3 billion won was invested for the Centre. The Centre will stock about 5,000 line items for Korean made farm machinery at a total inventory level of about 300 thousand parts. The Centre will lessen the burden, cost and inconvenience involved in purchasing parts for farm machinery as it serves as a parts supply point for the Farm Machinery Service Centres of the member cooperatives, offering lower prices and credit buying.

NACF helps Cheongsan Coop. Open Kimchi Plant

The NACF became active in the agricultural processing industry as a move to step up the value added aspect of the industry through a Five-Year Agro Processing Business Development Plan worked out last year. The first project to be carried out under the new plan was to help the Cheongsan Agricultural Cooperative construct a large scale Kimchi Plant in Cheongsan township located in Yuncheon county, Kyunggi province.

At the completion ceremony, many distinguished guests from the National Assembly, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and local government congratulated the member cooperative on starting the agro-processing business.

The Cheongsam Kimchi Plant, which required a total investment of 1.7 billion won, sits on 8,388 square meters of land provides 1,076 square meters of floor space, and offers an annual production capacity of 1,460 metric tons. The Kimchi will be marketed under

the brand name "Cheongsam Kimchi" and also supplied to the military services.

The operation of this plant is expected to enhance the annual household income of farmers in the Cheongsan area by about 400 million won. At the same time, it is expected to have a stabilizing effect on the prices of such farm products as radish and cabbage by eliminating the costly middleman.

NACF expands Agricultural Supermarkets

The Agricultural Distribution Center of the NACF provides help and guidance to member cooperatives in establishing large-scale, modernized agricultural supermarkets and fosters the evolution of existing small chain stores to large supermarket.

The purpose of this effort is to return more benefits to member farmers through active participation in the Marketing Structure Improvement Program implemented by the government at both the retail and wholesale levels.

This program is aimed especially at densely populated areas like Seoul and Kyunggi province where Agricultural Cooperatives Supermarkets can meet large local demand for special as well as general farm products. The successful operation of those supermarkets will make an important contribution to the farm producers.

Since, 1988, the Agricultural Distribution Center of the NACF has played an important role as the headquarters of Agricultural Cooperative Supermarkets. During that period, the centre has extended its services to member cooperatives to help them open and operate supermarkets. Through the center, member cooperatives benefit from accumulated experience, know-how, and technology such as administrative procedures, interior decoration, product display, and other skills required to operate a supermarket.

International Seminar on Agribusiness and the Role of Farmers' Organisations Held

An international seminar on "Agribusiness and the Role of Farmers Organisations" was held in Seoul on April 9-13, 1991. The seminar participated by 13 speakers from the seven participating countries, was jointly sponsored by the NACF and the Food and Fertilizer Technology Center for the Asian and Pacific Region (FFTC/ASPAC)

During the seminar, participants discussed the present situation in agribusiness, and the possibility and potentiality for the participation in agribusiness by farmers organisations in each country. After two days of presentation and discussion session in Seoul, the participants had field visits to observe agricultural cooperatives and agroindustry in rural areas.

Thirteen speakers from Indonesia, Japan, Taiwan, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand presented their papers in the seminar.

Seminar on Agricultural Coop Development Strategy opened in Seoul

The NACF held an international seminar on "Development Strategy for the Agricultural Cooperative Movement in Major Countries" in Seoul on June 18-23, 1991.

The Seminar was organized by the NACF in collaboration with the Hanns Seidel Stiftung of Germany to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the foundation of the NACF. The seminar was inaugurated by Dr. Ho-Sun Han, Chairman and President of the NACF and addressed by Mr. Juergen Kleiner, German Ambassador to Korea and Dr. Josef Deckers, Representative of Hanns Seidel Stiftung Office in Seoul.

Dr. Hans said in his address that despite the successful achievements and development during the past three decades, the Korean agricultural cooperative movement is now faced with problems in accelerating the development of agricultural cooperatives. He stressed that the implementation of effective measures and strengthening of competitiveness of cooperative business are needed in Korea to cope with the liberalization of

agricultural markets and to protect the interests of member farmers.

The seminar was attended by 13 speakers from Germany, India, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Taiwan and Thailand. The main topics discussed during the seminar were the present situation of agricultural cooperatives and the future direction of the agricultural cooperative movement in each country.

MALAYSIA

Cooperative College of Malaysia

The Cooperative College of Malaysia was established in 1956 with the responsibility of providing basic education and training for the local cooperative leaders, members, staff and government officers supervising the cooperative societies.

However, since its establishment, this responsibility had magnified with the increase in the number of registered Malaysian cooperative societies their membership and activities. The College has progressed concurrently with the development of the country and Cooperative Movement. New courses and training methodology have been introduced to meet the challenges of the 1970s, 1980s and the current decade. Lecturers of the College, on their return from local and foreign training programmes, have brought back and implemented numerous innovative ideas for the improvement of the courses and training techniques used at the College. A number of changes had taken place since the College was established so as to bring about greater dynamism in the field of training the cooperators in Malaysia.

In the 1970s three academic units were set up, namely the Cooperative Administration and Law Unit, the Business Management Unit as well as the Accounts and Audit Unit. During the 1980s, more units were established to meet the demands of the Cooperative Movement. They are the Computer Unit, the Audi-Visual Unit and the Advisory Unit. Seminars, workshops,

film meetings and many of such training techniques, have since then been adopted by the College. Last year a Cooperative 'Cooperative Advisory Clinic had been set up at the College with the objective of providing direct advisory services to assist ailing cooperative societies solve their problems. Course participants have taken full advantage of this service, while they are at the College.

Towards the end of the last decade and currently, a lot of emphasis have been given to research in cooperative management in Malaysia. In 1990 along about 8 different research papers were completed by the College and this year, a few more are expected to be written.

The College is also actively involved in the publication of books, journals and articles on cooperation, with the aim of educating and keeping the cooperators informed of the developments in the Cooperative Movement. A number of slides too have been produced by the College lecturers, as teaching aids and in sharing with the local cooperators about cooperative activities in different parts of the world.

15 July, 1991, was an eventful date for the College as the Hon. Minister of Land and Coop Development, declared open the nine-month "Diploma in Cooperative Management Course". The group of 16 participants, consisting of government officers supervising cooperative societies, are pioneers of this subsequent annual course. It is the first time in the history of Malaysia, that such a diploma course is being offered by a local training institution. It is a joint programme between the Cooperative College of Malaysia and the Agricultural University of Malaysia.

In addition, the College is also honoured to have been selected by the government to train foreign participants under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme. The five-week "Certificate in Cooperative Management Programme" had been conducted by the College since 1984. Thus far a total of 87 participants from 29 countries in the African and Asia-Pacific regions, have participated in this international course.

The College would like to welcome other participants from these regions to apply for this programme which will be conducted next year and the following years too.

27 May, 1991 was another eventful day in the diary of the Cooperative College of Malaysia (CCM). It marked the beginning of the fifth "Certificate in Cooperative Management Programme" which was inaugurated by the Hon. Minister of Land and Cooperative Development, Tan Sri Sakaran Dandai. There were 21 participants from 16 different countries who had participated in this programme.

The "Certificate in Cooperative Management" is the only international programme that is offered by the College to foreign participants. The five-week intensive programme is sponsored by the Malaysian government, under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP). Successful applicants from the African and Asia-Pacific regions are offered fellowship that cover travel, tuition fees, board and lodging as well as some daily allowance.

This programme was first conducted in 1984 with a total number of 17 participants from 12 different countries. With the completion of the fifth batch, this year, the CCM would have trained a total of 87 participants from 29 different countries.

The overall objective of this course is to enable participants to obtain better leadership and management skills by learning from the Malaysian experiences and from fellow participants of the programme. In order to achieve this objective, a multi-disciplinary training approach is used. Participants spend 60% of the course duration, attending lectures, 20% in study visits, 10% on attachment with local cooperative societies and another 10% on writing and presenting reports. At the end of the programme, an examination is conducted and certificates awarded. However, grades would be given based on the results obtained from the examination as well as that from the attachment that from the attachment and action commitment reports.

Participants who excel academically and are active in class discussions, sports, and social activities are qualified to be nominated for the 'Best Participant Award'.

While at the College for five-weeks, the participants are guided in various subjects such as the Cooperative Principles and Law, Financial Management, Personnel Management, Computer Usage and Adult Training Methodology. The College adopts the participative training approach so as to create opportunities for the participants to share their experiences and ideas with one another. The attachment exercise, on the other hand, is to enable the participants to have a direct exposure to the administration and management of the urban and rural cooperative societies in Malaysia. The study visits would generally allow the participants to exchange notes with the local cooperators.

In order to enable the foreign participants understand the Malaysian culture and traditions better, social and home visits, are also included in the programme. Our aim is to make the participants benefit fully from their short stint in Malaysia.

The Cooperative College of Malaysia considers it an honour to be able to contribute towards the development and dynamism of cooperative leaders from the participating countries in this programme. It is indeed an opportunity for us to practice the principle of "cooperation among cooperatives", beyond our national boundaries. We will continue to provide this training services as long as we receive encouraging feedbacks.

MONGOLIA

1. A delegation¹ consisting of representatives of the Japanese Consumer Cooperative Union and the International Cooperative Alliance Regional Office visited the Mongolia between July 11-14, 1991 at the invitation of the Central Union of Consumers Cooperatives of Mongolia. The delegation carried out intensive

discussions with the cooperative leaders in the country and visited several consumer cooperative institutions.

At the end of the visit a joint communique was signed by the Chairman of the Central Union of Consumers Cooperatives of Mongolia, Mr. Ch Molon; the President of the JCCU Mr. Isao Takamura and the ICA Representative Mr. Karl Fogelstrom.

2. Development of Consumer Cooperatives in Mongolia : A Communique of Understanding Signed.

An ICA/JCCU team consisting of the JCCU President, Mr. Isao Takamura, the Executive Director, Mr. Masao Ohya; the Managing Director of Nagoya Consumers Cooperative Society, Mr. Junya Tanabe; the Chief Executive and President of Coop Sapporo Mr. Masakaru Kawamura; the Financial and personnel Manager of JCCU, Mr. Toshio Itoh; and the Senior Development Advisor, ICA ROAP, Mr. Karl Fogelstrom visited Mongolia from 11-14 July, 1991 on the invitation by Central Union of Consumers' Cooperatives of Mongolia.

The visit was the first ever by a cooperative delegation from outside. The visit coincided with the Mongolian National Day on the 11th of July and the team was invited to attend the elaborate festivities including a reception hosted by the Prime Minister of Mongolia.

A process of privatisation of about 60% of the national assets is in progress. The country is likely to get financial and technical support primarily from Japan and South Korea to help them out of their difficult economic position. Given the rich natural resources with over 90 per cent literacy rate, coupled with the anticipated foreign assistance, economic experts estimate that the Mongolian economy will be on a proper footing in two to three years time.

The Mongolian Consumer Cooperative Movement, which in fact is a multipurpose system, played a significant role in the Mongolian economy upto 1958 when the entire cooperative structure was nationalised

into a state organisation. At the time of dissolution the Cooperative Movement had almost 300,000 individual members. In line with the new policy of market economy the Cooperative Movement was reestablished last year. The first Congress was held on 23rd May 1990 electing a Council consisting of 63 representatives and a Board of 8 members.

The Mongolian Consumer Cooperative Movement has a three tier structure consisting of 400 primary multipurpose societies, 18 provincial unions and a national apex organisation. The number of individual members is still small, about 30,000.

The cooperatives have three main areas of activities :-

1. trading in consumer goods;
2. purchasing members products/ produce, mainly animal based products; and
3. supply of the necessary input materials and commodities needed by the animal breeding population.

Towards the end of the visit a joint communique was signed by the Chairman of the Central Union of Consumers Cooperatives of Mongolia, Mr. Ch.Molon; the President of the Japanese Consumers Cooperative Union; and the ICA Representative, Mr. Karl J. Fogelstrom.

In the communique the Mongolian representatives expressed their gratitude for Japan's economic help and support to Mongolia at a time when she is experiencing economic crisis. The two sides underlined the importance of mutually studying the experience of consumer cooperative movements and developing economic cooperation.

The Mongolian side requested the Japanese side to render concrete support and assistance in augmenting the activities of the Mongolian consumer cooperatives, which are reviving in conditions of transition to a market economy.

Mr. Isao Takamura extended an invitation to Mr. Cho.Molon for a Mongolian delegation to visit the

Japanese Consumer Cooperative Movement during 1991 in order to develop friendly relations and discuss mutual cooperation in the future.

Mr. Karl Fogelstrom of the ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ICA ROAP) expressed that the ICA would welcome the application of the Central Union of the Consumers Cooperatives of Mongolia to join the ICA as a member.

PHILIPPINES

1. President Aquino renews support for cooperatives

President Corazon Aquino recently expressed full support for the development of cooperatives in the wake of the need for coping mechanisms which would respond to the present economic crisis.

In a nationwide telecast, President Aquino encouraged the organization of cooperatives among the poor especially at this time so that they may more easily address their needs. She said that she has directed the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) to fully support and render financial assistance to these cooperatives.

The President also called on the newly constituted Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) to implement its program of work to facilitate the organization of these countries. She stressed that the CDA was precisely set up to provide the necessary services which would harness the development of cooperatives nationwide.

2. Cooperatives may form cooperative banks

The Central Bank and the Cooperative Development Authority have given the go signal for the organization of cooperative banks to at least one cooperative bank per province as recently launched by President Corazon Aquino under the Cooperative Banking System as distinguished from RA 720 otherwise known as the Rural Banking Act under which the 20 existing CRB's nationwide were established.

For its part, the CDA recently issued

guidelines through which cooperatives could set up their own banks.

Any primary cooperative is required to file its application for licensing as a bank with the Central Bank of the Philippines. Upon approval by the Cb, the cooperative bank has to be registered with the CDA.

Officials of the CDA and any government official higher than a barangay captain are banned from becoming officers of cooperative banks which are limited to at least five but more than 15 board members.

The proposed banks will also have to pass pre-operation requirements.

3. Three from the WID Programme

In October to December, 1990 the Institute of Philippine Culture (IPC) of Ateneo University was contracted by NATCOO to conduct a research on the implementation design of projects for affecting women, and the development of a project monitoring and evaluation system for the Women in Development (WID) program. The PC research covered the Bicol and Mindanao areas, with two centers, 15 primaries, and 250 households (including WID and non-WID beneficiaries) as respondents. On June 6-7, 1991, the draft research results were presented for review and analysis to a select group of cooperators/WID Staff. The lessons called from the research shall be used for enhancing the NATCOO-WID Projects (particularly expanding the Enhancement of Women's Involvement in Cooperatives project) and for greater sensitization of the people involved.

June 13-15 were the days that 21 men leaders of VICTO and MASS Spewne through a Gender sensitivity Seminar in Cebu city. The Seminar was initiated by the NATCCO-WID. The objective was to awaken the participants consciousness to the situation of women in the home and the work. During the three days, the men were led through a series of activities by the trainers group from HASIK (Harnessing Self-Reliance Initiatives and Knowledge). The Seminar was funded by the Philippine-Canadian Joint Committee (PCJC)

One June 16 NATCCO-WID staff visited the Reclamation Area in Tacloban City where there are beneficiaries of the WID Project Livelihood Revolving and Capability Building Fund for Women (LRFW). The beneficiaries in the Reclamation Area operate a Bigasan Bayan outlet, and engage in livestock raising and food processing. The women in this area are among the various women's groups helped by the LRFW across the country in terms principally of soft term loans for income generating projects.

4. PIVA-TNA Staff

30 administrative and technical support staff the NATCCO and RDC offices took part in a Personal and Institutional Values Assessment and Training Needs Analysis (PIVA-TNA) Seminar for four days in June. Held on June 12-15 in Manila, it was the first time that the support personnel of the network had a PIVA-TNA as one group. However, BCDC and FARMCOOP were not able to sent participants.

As facilitated by the NATCCO Training Section, the participants 1) identified and mapped out their personnel values (resulting in "value clusters") 2) recognized their work styles and skills capability 3) dit the same (1 and 2) based on their perception for their institution and 4) identified training needs that would be supportive of their present and aspired positions. The "value clusters" (which can indicate a variety of meanings for and concerns of the staff) and the expressed needs were then interpreted by the facilitator resulting in suggested interventions to answer the concerns aired.

NATCCO and the participating RDCs have given the interventions listing. It will be upto NATCCO and RDCs to follow through at their own levels.

SINGAPORE

Green Environment Campaign

In keeping with the global trend of being and caring, Fairprice aims to play a protective role in saving environment from further abuse and pollution. For

NEWS FROM OUTSIDE THE REGION

a start, all products containing CFC were removed from the stores. This exercise was completed by April 1990. On June 5, 1990 photodegradable plastic bags were introduced in conjunction with World Environment Day.

During the first annual Clean and Green Week in November 1990 customers were given pocket calendars made from recycled paper. Additionally, paper bags made of recycled paper were introduced for packing groceries. "How to be Green" messages have also been printed on carrier bags since February 1991. This educational programme will continue for a year.

To bring the "green" message to children, a "Green Environment on the spot colouring contest was organized. Fairprice also participated in the "Care for the Environment" Exhibition held at the Marina Square in November last year.

SRI LANKA

1. Mr. Pathirana appointed as Mayor of Kandy

Mr. Pathirana D.E., who represented Sri Lanka on behalf of Cooperative Movement in ICA has been appointed Mayor of Kandy by the President of Sri Lanka. Our Congratulations.

2. Rajaguru rejoins cooperative family

Mr. Rajaguru, former Regional Director of the International Cooperative Alliance Regional Office and former Sri Lanka's Ambassador to Pakistan has now returned to the Cooperative fold to be the Chairman of the Sri Lanka Institute of Cooperative Management in Colombo.

The current appointment is his second assignment with SLICM. The ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, New Delhi, is indeed happy to welcome Mr. Rajaguru back to the Cooperative family. The address of the Management Institution is given below:

Sri Lanka Institute of Cooperative Management, 127, Grandpass Road Colombo-14, Sri Lanka.

USA

14 Coops in Fortune 500

Fortune magazine known among other things for its annual listing of the 500 largest private corporations in America, has included 14 cooperative associations in its 1991 listing.

The combined sales volume of these cooperatives amounted to more than \$18.9 billion in 1990. The largest cooperative in terms of sales is AGWAY with headquarters in Dewitt, New York. It is listed as the 137th largest corporation in America measured in terms of sales volume, and its sales for 1990 totalled \$3,607,900,000. The second largest coop is Farmland Industries which came very close to AGWAY in ranking (143rd) with a sales totalling \$3,379 million.

Third largest is Land O'Lakes which ranks 188th. Its sales totalled \$2,440 million. It has a substantial overseas operation distributing dairy products and promoting cooperative organisations in a number of less developed countries. It also has a programme underway in the eastern and central European countries.

Mid-Western Dairymen ranks fourth (226th) with headquarters in Springfield,

Mo, and a sales volume of \$1,862 million. Like Land O'Lake, its largest operation is in the dairy field but it also handles a great number of other purchases for farmers in the Midwest as do other outstanding cooperatives. Goldkist ranks fifth 305th with headquarters in Atlanta, Ga and a sales volume of \$1,192,900,000.

Only two of the 14 National Cooperative Refinery Association, listed as 435th and Wisconsin Dairies Cooperative list as 489th have the word coop in their corporate title. It is not surprising, therefore, that the average American is unaware of the fact that some of the largest corporations in America are coop Associations with business volumes of over \$16 billion per annum and serving millions of Americans, mostly in the agricultural field, but extending to numerous commodities and services.

Of the coops in Fortune 500, 12 were classified as being in the food business two as "chemical and one as petroleum production and refinery. According to Fortune 500 US cooperatives on the whole increased their ranking by 14 places over 1989. Full details are to be found in the Fortune Magazine dated 22 April, 1991.

Obituary

We, the Staff Members of the ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, were shocked and very much grieved to learn of the sudden demise of Mr. Lionel Gunawardana, our respected and loved colleague from Sri Lanka for more than 20 years. Mr. Gunawardana was a very warm, friendly and amiable personality and was liked by one and all in the Regional Office. He was always helpful to the staff in many capacities during his tenure in the office. Lionel Gunawardana was a good friend to us all and we will always cherish the memory of his genial and cheerful personality.

Mr. Gunawardana's contributions in the field of agricultural cooperation and press and public relations and publications functions of the ICA Regional Office will always be remembered. His sudden demise has left a deep and irreparable void in our midst. This loss will be felt very much by his family, the cooperative movement of Sri Lanka and that of the Asian region. His contributions to the development of Coop. Movement in Sri Lanka in his varied capacities were noteworthy. We convey our sincerest condolences to Mrs Malini Gunawardana and to his two sons and daughter and pray to god to give them enough strength to bear this loss and pray that the departed soul may rest in peace.

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ASIA-PACIFIC COOPERATIVE NEWS

Issue No.4

October-December 1991

International Cooperative Alliance

ICA ROAP NEWS

President Soeharto to inaugurate 1992 Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers' Conference: Cooperative-Government collaborative strategies for the development of cooperatives during '90s

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The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), being concerned with the development of genuine Cooperative Movement worldwide, and being aware of the problems confronting cooperatives in the

Asia Pacific Region, and keeping in view the policies laid down by the ICA higher bodies, an effort was made by convening a Cooperative Ministers' Conference in Australia in February, 1990.



His Excellency Soeharto, President of Indonesia, being briefed by Mr.G.K.Sharma, ICA Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, on the preparations for the ICA Conference of Cooperative Ministers. (l to r) Prof.Edi Swasono, Chairman of DEKOPIN, Hon'ble Bustanil Arifin, Minister of Cooperatives, Indonesia, President Soeharto, President's staff and Mr.G.K.Sharma.

*ASTACON WISHES ITS READERS A
VERY HAPPY, PEACEFUL AND CO-
OPERATIVE NEW YEAR*

The Conference discussed, to a great extent, issues connected with the main theme of the Conference i.e., Cooperative-Government Collaborative Strategies for the Development of Cooperatives during 1990s. The Conference recommendations laid down specific roles expected from the cooperatives, national cooperative organisations, governments, international organisations and the ICA itself. The conference also adopted an Action Plan for the 1990s.

Since the holding of the 1990 Conference in Sydney, Australia, many movements and governments have taken initiatives to make suitable adjustments in their working relationship.

The follow-up of recommendations made by the Sydney Conference has been encouraging. Some achievements have been noticed, e.g., proposed revision of the (Multi-State) Cooperative Legislation in India under which greater freedom is to be given to cooperative institutions by relaxing the State control over cooperatives; Vietnam has requested for a study on cooperative legislation; Sri Lanka cooperative legislation is being readjusted; discussions have been initiated in Bangladesh between the cooperatives and the government on revision of cooperative legislation; revamping of cooperative legislation in Pakistan was discussed at the ILO Cooperative Workshop in 1990; establishment of a Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) in the Philippines, thereby granting autonomy and freedom to cooperatives, etc. The ICA ROAP continues to provide support and encouragement to cooperatives in the Region to enhance and promote meaningful collaboration between cooperatives and the State. The main idea is to make cooperatives genuine, members' own organisations and following the principle of self-help.

Keeping in view the Action Plan for 1990s recommended by the Ministers' Conference, 1990, the ICA ROAP is now holding the next meeting of the Cooperative Ministers' Conference in Indonesia during February, 1992 on the same subject, i.e. Cooperative-Government Collaborative Strategies for

the Development of Cooperatives during 1990s. The conference is expected to discuss the following subjects:

1. Cooperative-Government Collaborative Strategies with special reference to:
 - 1.1 Follow-up of the Sydney Conference recommendations;
 - 1.2 Achievements;
 - 1.3 Problem areas;
 - 1.4 Regional and national plans of action; and
 - 1.5 Laying down guidelines for adoption by cooperatives and governments relating to cooperative values, socio-economic objectives and competitive strength.
2. Global cooperative trends and basic values.
3. Capital formation in cooperatives,
4. Cooperatives and Environment.

The Conference is expected to accelerate the process of deofficialisation and depoliticisation of cooperatives in the Region by providing guidelines, suggestions and making suitable recommendations.

The conference will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia, during February 18-21, 1992. His Excellency the President of the Republic of Indonesia, Soeharto, has very kindly consented to inaugurate the ICA Conference.

The conference is being organised by the International Cooperative Alliance Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in close collaboration with the National Cooperative Council of Indonesia (DEKOPIN) and the Ministry of Cooperatives of the Republic of Indonesia.

Regional Consultation

A Regional Consultation of permanent secretaries responsible for cooperatives in governments and the chief executives of national cooperative organisations from Asia and the Pacific countries was held at Manila from November 20-22, 1991. The Regional Consultation serves as a preparatory forum for the Ministers' Conference. Forty participants from 10 countries, namely: Australia, Bangladesh, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand, participated. In addition, the representatives of 5 international organisations namely: Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organisation (AARRO), Canadian Cooperative Association (CCA), International Labour Organisation (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Swedish Cooperative Centre (SCC) also attended as observers.

The Consultation had the following agenda for discussion:

1. Review of the action taken by the ROAP and follow-up of the above recommendations of the 1990



Hon'ble Franklin Drilon, Executive Secretary in the Office of the President of the Philippines inaugurated the ICA Regional Consultation in Manila on November 20, 1991.

List of holidays during the year 1992

The following holidays will be observed by the ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, New Delhi, during the year 1992 :

Sr.No.	Holidays	Date	Day of the week	Sr.No.	Holidays	Date	Day of the week
1.	New Year Day	Jan,1	Wednesday	11.	Janmashtami	August, 21	Friday
2.	Republic Day	Jan,26	Sunday	12.	Milad-un-Nabi	Sept,10	Thursday
3.	Holi	March, 19	Thursday	13.	Mahatama Gandhi's Birthday	Oct, 2	Friday
4.	Idul Fitr	April, 5	Sunday	13.	Dusherra	Oct, 5	Monday
5.	Mahavir Jayanti	April, 15	Wednesday	15.	Diwali	Oct, 25	Sunday
6.	Good Friday	April, 17	Friday	16.	Govardhan Puja	Oct, 26	Monday
7.	Buddha Purnima	May,	Saturday	17.	Guru Nanak's Birthday	Nov,10	Tuesday
8.	Idul Zuha	June, 12	Friday	18.	Christmas Day	Dec, 25	Friday
9.	Muharram	July, 11	Saturday				
10.	Independence Day	August, 15	Saturday				

Ministers' Conference and the actions taken by the national governments and cooperative movements in various countries.

- The agenda of the Cooperative Ministers' Conference to be held in Jakarta, Indonesia from 18-21 February, 1992.
- Consideration of guidelines formulated by the ICA ROAP to evolve a practical system of cooperative government relationship to combine cooperative values, socio-economic objectives and competitive strength.
- Setting up of a Regional Cooperative Development Fund.

The consultation was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Franklin Drilon, Executive Secretary of the Republic of the Philippines.

In order to appraise the President of Indonesia on the preparation for the Conference and to formally invite him to inaugurate the Conference, Mr.G.K.Sharma, Regional Director and Mr.Karl Fogelstrom, Senior Development Adviser, both of the ICA ROAP, together with Mr.Bustanil Arifin, Minister of Cooperatives of Indonesia and Prof.Sri Edi Suwasono, Chairman of DEKOPIN called on His Excellency Soeharto on 12 November, 1991. □

Caring for the Earth: New Action Plan

A dynamic new action plan Caring for the Earth is to be launched simultaneously in more than 60 countries of the world, including India, on October 21, 1991. In India, it will be launched in New Delhi at the headquarters of the World Wide Fund for Nature India. The Strategy is the outcome of a three year collaboration between the World Wide Fund for Nature, the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the United National Environment Programme (UNEP).

Following the pioneering World Conservation Strategy 1980 (launched in India by Mrs. Indira Gandhi) Caring for the Earth is unique in its pragmatic approach. It advocates a balanced policy of development aimed at improving the quality of human life while conserving our natural heritage.

Another fundamental requirement is to integrate conservation and development so that "we keep our actions

within the earth's carrying capacity".

Caring for the Earth identifies nine principles for sustainable living:

- Respect and care for the community of life;
- Improve the quality of human life;
- Conserve the Earth's vitality and diversity;
- Minimize the depletion of non-renewable resources;
- Keep within the Earth's carrying capacity;
- Change personal attitudes and practices;
- Enable communities to care for their own environments.
- Provide a national framework for integrating development and conservation;
- Create a global alliance.

Costs of implementation

Many of the important priority actions require doing things differently and more efficiently. Thus the strategy

points out how countries can move towards creating sustainable societies without spending much more money. But there are more costly recommendations which could require (globally) about US\$1,300 billion to implement. These include measures designed to stabilize population, reduce deforestation and conserve biodiversity, conserve energy, protect soil and reduce Third World debt. The Strategy points out that these costs are negligible compared to the eventual costs of inaction and error. They are also negligible compared with world military expenditures, which will total US\$ 9000 billion (seven times as much as the strategy implementation cost) over the next decade unless the present rate of military spending comes down. Caring for the Earth goes far beyond the traditional concerns of conservation and development such as forests and soil and environmental impact assessments. It talks of decentralised planning, participation of local communities, women and indigenous people, debt relief and better terms of trade of the Third World. The strategy stresses that sustainable living must be rooted in the three Es: Ethics, Economics and Ecology.

(Thomas Mathew, Secretary General of WWF India).

*"Trees for life" must
be a priority*

*Co-operatives the world over
would do justice to humanity
by giving environmental con-
servation the priority it de-
serves.*

*Without trees, life as we know
it would cease to exist.*

Support ASPACON, feeding with news and events in your country and organisation. We also invite your suggestions and opinion to further improve ASPACON. **-Editor**

ICA ROAP tentative calendar of important activities during 1992

January	13-31	ICA/SCC Study Mission to Vietnam. 28-31 Regional Seminar on University Cooperatives to be held at Malang in Indonesia.
February	05-29	ICA/Japan training Course Project Appraisal Session and Field Study Visits, Thailand.
	17	Regional Council Meeting, Jakarta.
	18-21	Ministers Conference, Jakarta (Indonesia).
	22	ICA ROAP Fisheries Committee Meeting &
	22	ICA ROAP Finance Committee Meeting.
February	23 to	Regional Seminar on Agricultural Cooperative
March	22	Development, Australia
March	01 to	Part-II of ICA/Japan Training Course in IDACA,
April	24	Japan.
March	03 to	ICA/SCC/CCA/SDID Country Mission to Vietnam
April	03	
April	12 to	ICA/India Regional seminar on Integrated Coop.
May	01	Development Through Agro-Processing, Pune.
April	24 to	ICA/Japan Training Course Field Study Visits, China.
May	10	
May	06-07	Consumer Committee Meeting, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. ICA/JCCU Seminar on Environment, Tokyo, Japan.
June	8-20	Regional Seminar on Agro-Processing, China.
July/August		CTI Meeting and National Seminar on Cooperative Trade, Hochiminh City, Vietnam.
August		Regional Seminar on Agri. Marketing and Information System, Rep. of Korea. ICA/Japan Training Course for Rural Women Leaders, IDACA, Japan.
October	15-18	ICA ROAP HRD Committee Meeting, Pune (India).
	20-30	Regional seminar and ROAP Agri. Committee Meeting, Tokyo.
	23-30	ICA Congress, Tokyo. ICA ROAP Consumer Committee Meeting. National Course on Agricultural Coop. Management in China.
October '92- May, '93		7th ICA/Japan Training Course on Strengthening Management of Agricultural Cooperatives: India, Thailand, Japan and China.

Highlights of ICA ROAP activities

During October-December, 1991

The Regional Director Mr. G.K. Sharma participated in the first formal meeting of NEDAC (FAO Network for the Development of Agricultural Co-operatives in Asia-Pacific Region). The meeting was held in Bangkok 09-14 December, 1991. The meeting was attended by 17 delegates representing governments from ten countries along with ICA and ILO. The formation of NEDAC is a response to a recommendation by the Co-operative Ministers' Conference held in Sydney, Australia in February, 1990.

Development, Planning and Coordination Project

(Advisers: Mr. Karl Fogelstrom, Dr. Daman Prakash)

The main activity in this quarter has been the preparations for the Cooperative Ministers' Conference in Jakarta, Indonesia; 18-21 February, 1992. This activity is already covered elsewhere in this bulletin.

Preparations for the first ICA-India Regional Seminar on Integrated Cooperative Development through Agro-processing were finalised and invitations sent to 11 member organisations. The seminar will be held in Pune at the Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management from 12 April to 01 May, 1992.

The Regional Study 'Environment and Cooperatives' is in progress and the results will be presented in a conference in Japan in May, 1992, organised by the JCCU. The findings of the study will also form an important input to the ICA World Congress in Tokyo in October, 1992.

The ICA ROAP is organising, together with the Canadian Cooperative Association, the Societe de Developpement International Desjardins (Canada) and the Swedish Cooperative Centre, two missions to Vietnam in January and March, 1992 respectively. The objec-

tive of the missions is to make recommendations to the Vietnamese Cooperative Movement regarding the future cooperative structure and human resource development as well as to identify possible collaborative programmes between Vietnam and the participating organisations.

Agricultural Cooperative Development Project

(Adviser: Mr. Guo Yong-Kang)

The annual meeting of the ICA Committee on Agriculture for Asia and the Pacific was held in Thailand during 4-5 November.

Thirteen members from six countries attended the meeting. The Senior Development Adviser, Mr. Karl Fogelstrom, also attended the meeting. The work programme and budget for the Agricultural Cooperative Development Project for 1992-93 was presented by the project adviser. The next meeting of the Agricultural Committee will be held in Japan in October 1992.

The programme and selection of candidates to the first ICA-Australia Regional Seminar on Agricultural Cooperatives was finalised. The seminar will be held at the Asia-Pacific Centre in Geelong (Australia) from 24 February to 20 March, 1992.

Consumer Cooperative Development Project

(Adviser: Mr. Pradit Machima)

The ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperative for Asia and the Pacific held its second meeting for the year in Kobe, Japan on 07 Novr, 1991. 36 participants attended the meeting.

The third issue for the year of 'Asian Consumer Coop News' was published during the quarter with detailed information about the Consumer Cooperative Development Project.

Human Resource Development Project

(Adviser: Mr. Upali Herath)

The Cooperative Member Participation Programme (CMPP) has been introduced in Indonesia, where a seminar was held from 09-16 October. Sixteen facilitators were trained. Preparations have been made for introduction of the CMPP methodology to Thailand. In Bangladesh, follow-up of the CMPP activities conducted in 1989-90 are being organised.

A manual on Internal Auditing in Primary Cooperatives has been printed and published.

The second issue of ICA ROAP's HRD magazine 'COOP DIALOGUE' containing a multitude of HRD information and news items has been published.

Cooperative Trade & Industry Project (CTI)

(Adviser: Mr. G.K. Sharma)

A CTI meeting was held in Kobe, Japan from 07-08 November, 1991. The meeting discussed the support to the Cooptrade network and reviewed the position regarding the formation of a Cooptrade Pact.

Preparations for a trade survey and a subsequent national workshop in Vietnam in 1992 have been carried out.

ICA/Japan Agricultural Management Training Project

(Director: Mr. M.V. Madane)

The first part of the 6th ICA/Japan Training Course for Strengthening Management of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia with 15 participants from 12 countries has been conducted in

(Continued on page 6)

ICA elects first woman Vice-President

Raija Itkonen from Finland became the first woman Vice President of ICA at the Central Committee Meeting in Berlin, in October '91.

Talking about her new function, Ms. Itkonen said that she was very happy to have been elected to the second most senior position in ICA and promised that she would be instrumental in involving women in co-op affairs, so that they could have equal status with men in the co-operative movement. She noted that few women held senior positions in co-operative institutions world-wide, and urged these women to work together with other women's

organizations, both nationally and internationally to further equality.

Ms. Itkonen observed that it would not be possible to change the status quo overnight, but urged fellow women co-operators to have initiative and be competitive, if they wished to attain senior positions. "*We should be more active on the operational side of our affairs*", she observed. The new Vice-President called upon men and women to work together without malice or hostility, so as to bring about development in the cooperative movement.

Ms. Itkonen replaces Mr. Yvon Daneau of Canada.

ICA agrees on text of East Europe plea

Delegates to the ICA Central Committee meeting in Berlin yesterday agreed on the text of a letter to Governments in Eastern and Central Europe after a one-day discussion on Co-operatives in the region. In the letter the ICA welcomed the recent political and economic changes in the ECEC which allow co-ops to operate freely in similar market conditions, but stressed

its concern that old images and perceptions might prevent the newly-reorganized co-ops from having an equal opportunity to operate and compete. The letter also emphasized that the responsibility of co-operative members to make decisions regarding co-operative issues and property must be maintained and stressed that the errors of the past - outside control - should not be repeated in a new form.

The main speakers at the session were Lorenz Pohlmeier, from the ECEC Department of the World Bank, who spoke about finance and agriculture in Poland and its relevance to other countries; and Jurgen Von Mural, Director of the Enterprise and Co-operative Development Department of the International Labour Office, who spoke about the Co-operative Policies and Legislation in the economics in transition.

Sir Dennis Landau, outgoing Chair-

man of INTER-COOP, speaking on behalf of this organization and the British Co-operative Movement, told the assembly that countries in the ECEC needed experience, technical know-how and good high class management training rather than financial contributions. He said that money was available from both the Western governments and the European Community but this would not be made available for the co-operative sector unless they obtained the support of the Eastern European governments. He said that the new governments were not supportive of the re-emergence of co-operatives in their countries and that ICA needed to do something about this i.e. to go to these countries and to get written agreements that the new governments would support co-operative training programmes for co-operators in the region.

Co-ops must strive for autonomy

The Co-operative Movement world over must liberate itself from government control and strive for autonomy to promote efficiency and sustainability. This view the was shared among speakers who participated in the ICA Development Forum in Berlin.

M. Dibba, ICA Executive Committee Member and Chairman of the Forum, said 'co-operatives must desist from relying on government funding and subsidies and must re-organise themselves to a point where their allegiance should be to the members and not to the government.'

He also noted that there was an urgent need to redraft co-operative legislation to give co-operators more power to chart their destiny. To achieve all these goals, he said, co-operators must have strong and effective leadership to encourage increased member participation and volume of business. There was also a need to intensify member education to promote the establishment of cost efficient co-operative ventures. He further observed that for co-operatives to achieve self-management, they needed to collaborate with their

Highlights..Continued from page 5)

India. The participants left India for home country assignments on 21 December, 1991.

Six women cooperators from 3 countries (Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand) participated at a training Seminar at IDACA (Japan) from 21 August to 14 September, 1991. This seminar was conducted for improving the participation of women in agricultural co-operatives in the Region.

respective governments. Co-operatives must be involved in planning national policies in order for them to operate under a conducive climate.

He explained that some co-operatives had failed because they were made to operate in hostile conditions which did not encourage entrepreneurship.

"To be autonomous and self-sufficient it is the members themselves who should initiate moves. There is no magic other than the people themselves to do the work", he said.

New democracy for Bulgarian co-ops

- by Julianna Sokolova (Bulgaria)

After the bloodless revolution in 1990 in Bulgaria, the Co-operative Movement staged its first free and open Congress where full elections were held. This was said by Kusman Georgiev, chief Secretary of the Union Co-operative Centre of Bulgaria.

Mr. Georgiev said the first step taken by his Centre was to make certain that co-operation prevailed in all sectors of the Movement by ensuring all co-ops become democratic institutions, members participate fully in their management and get dividends from their co-ops.

Apart from restoring the values of the Movement in Bulgaria, the Centre also tries to achieve good qualifications for its members of staff. UCC sponsors its members and staff on special courses at the National and World Economy university. This faculty was opened in 1990 and has 100 students.

East meets West at BCC

An exhibition of products from 35 companies, among them co-operatives, has been staged at the Berlin Conference Centre as part of the ICA Central Committee Meeting in Berlin. The aim was to promote business contacts between

international co-operative organisations.

Participants came from East European countries, consumer societies from the five new federated States of Germany, representatives of foreign Embassies and some private companies with busi-

ness interests in co-operatives.

The seminar dealt with proper quality control of products, modern sales techniques, joint marketing strategies in East-West co-operatives, and advantages competition as a basis for success.

Why ICA must change

The ICA structure is to be reviewed to meet the challenges of the new century and the current needs of the Co-operative Movement.

In an interview the ICA President, Lars Marcus, said that many of the original objectives and values in the movement have changed with time and there is a need to restructure them to accommodate new dimensions and to increase co-operation between co-operative organisations.

Mr. Marcus pointed out that the idea of changing the ICA structure was conceived during the Stockholm Congress in 1988. The President asserted that, in the new structure, basic principles will be made for different activities like Banking, Insurance and Housing.

Mr. Marcus said the new structure will also extend to regions and that Regional Assemblies will be set up for Europe, Africa, Asia and Pacific, and the Americas. They will deal with regional issues by liaising with Regional Offices with an aim of strengthening the movement.

He said that the ICA is today much stronger than it was a decade ago. Membership of the ICA has grown tremendously and that 10 new members have been admitted to ICA during the current meeting. Fifteen other applicants are on the waiting list.

He pointed out that a successful transition to the new structure will depend on hard work and co-operation between regional and member organisations.

Bankers set up new scholarship fund for education

The ICA Central Banking Committee has established a scholarship fund to assist employees from member co-operative banks in developing countries. The President of the Committee, Terry Thomas (UK), revealed that a sum of L5,000 has been allocated for this cause this year. Addressing members at the plenary session, Mr. Thomas said this was the first time the committee had sponsored education activities.

Several speakers contributed different perspectives on capital formation and its relationship to basic co-operative values. They emphasised the need for co-operative banking institutions to seek new approaches to their capital formation on procedures.

It was felt that the basic fundamental co-operative values under which all co-operative banks operate are a bottleneck in making them competitive commercial banks in a competitive environment.

The Committee recommended that the International Co-operative Movement should develop securities that permit co-operative organisations with a capital surplus to contribute funds to established and new co-operatives.

It was further suggested that co-operative banks should play a key role in the development and implementation of creative solutions to strengthen the capital base.

ICA XXX Congress, Tokyo 1992

PROGRAMME



<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Partici- pants</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Partici- pants</i>
Thurs. 15 Oct.	09.00-17.00	ICIF-CIDB	20	Fri. 23 Oct.	09.30-16.30	ICIF Conf.	250
Fri. 16 Oct.	09.00-17.00	ICIF-CIDB	20		11.00-19.00	INCOTEC Plen.	25
Sat. 17 Oct.	09.00-17.00	ICIF-ICRB	10			Tourism Plen.	50
Sun. 18 Oct.	04.00-18.00	ICIF Exco.	20		12.00-14.00	WPoCC Editorial Board	15
Mon. 19 Oct.	08.00-10.00	ICIF Exco.	20	Sat. 24 Oct.	08.30-10.30	CICOPA Exco.	15
	14.30-18.00	ICIF-AECI Exco.	10			CLICEC Exco.	15
		ICIF-NAA Exco.	10			Librarians' Exco.	10
Tue. 20 Oct.	09.30-12.30	CIDB Forum	150		08.30-12.00	Inter-Coop Board	20
	14.00-17.00	ICIF-AECI Conf.	60		09.00-11.00	BECA	25
		ICIF-NAA Conf.	30			Audit/Control Cmte.	08
		ICIF-AOA Conf.	35		09.00-17.30	ICA Executive	30
Wed. 21 Oct.	09.30-16.30	ICIF Conf.	250			CICOPA Plen.	80
Thurs. 22 Oct.	08.30-10.30	Banking Exco.	15		09.00-12.00	CLICEC Plen.	30
		WpoCC Exco.	12			Librarians' Plen.	10
		Consumers Exco.	15		12.00-14.00	UN Reps.	10
	09.00-11.00	Agricultural Exco.	20		14.00-19.00	Inter-Coop Plen.	60
		Research Exco.	10		14.30-17.30	Research Forum	
	09.00-17.00	Women's Plen.	50	Sun. 25 Oct.		Study tour for all participants	
	09.30-16.30	ICIF Conf.	250	Mon. 26 Oct.	11.00-14.00	S.O. Chairmen	35
	11.00-19.00	Banking Plen.	70		14.30-17.30	ICA Central Cmte.	600
		WPoCC Plen.	35		17.30-19.30	New Mbrs. Welcome	20
		Consumers Plen.	60	Tue. 27 Oct.	09.00-17.30	ICA Congress	1000
	14.30-16.30	Housing Exco.	20		09.00-17.30	Congress Cmte.	10
		Fisheries Exco.	20	Wed. 28 Oct.	09.00-17.30	ICA Congress	1000
Fri. 23 Oct.	08.30-10.30	INCOTEC Exco.	15		09.00-17.30	Congress Cmte.	10
		Tourism Exco.	15	Thurs. 29 Oct.	09.00-12.30	ICA Congress	1000
	09.00-17.00	Agricultural Plen.	80		09.00-17.30	Congress Cmte.	10
		Housing Plen.	40		14.30-17.30	ICA Central Cmte.	600
		Women's Conf.	150	Fri. 30 Oct.	09.00-16.00	ICA Congress	1000
		Fisheries Plen.	80		09.00-16.00	Congress Cmte.	10
		Research Forum					
		Consumers Conf.	100				

Baltic Co-ops join ICA

Co-operative Federations from the three Baltic States of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia were among nine organizations admitted into membership of ICA at the meeting of its Executive

Committee in Berlin. All three organizations regroup societies in the retail and wholesale trade, with activities also in public catering, industrial production, and construction activities.

ASPACON needs your support by way of views, news, articles, photos about the developments of Coop Movement in your country. Please do write to us.

Let us make ASPACON more news-worthy and readable.

Thanks

Editor

Australia

NEWS FROM THE REGION

Researchers recycle cattle waste for Fish

Research at the University of Queensland is looking at recycling biological cattle wastes as a fish food. The project supported by a \$ 368,000 grant from the Australian Department of Industry Technology and Commerce will add value to wastes and reduce the adverse environmental impact of waste products from the intensive livestock and food processing industries

Zoologist, Dr. Kevin Warburton said the research aimed to converse waste products to fish food through microbial digestion process, and would also use agriculture technology to grow crayfish and silver perch. "Biological waste represents a valuable nutrient resource when subjected to microbial treatment," Dr Warbutton said Microbial activity converts raw waste to useful

animal feed or fertilizer." The study would assess the economic feasibility of using treated effluent from dairy-cow excretory waste product to a source of high protein.

" The research is expected to provide an environmentally sound model for the pig, dairy and feedlot beef industries, to overcome pollution problems caused by the disposal of farm-animal and food-processing wastes," he said.

The project could lead to processing facilities to render waste materials into useable feedstock and would cover costs by selling the fish products.

The procedures developed could be applied to a wide range of integrated aquaculture involving farm animal and food processing industries.

Australia introduces new penalties for marine pollution

The Australian Government had introduced higher penalties on owners and masters of ships illegally discharging oil, chemicals or garbage in Australian waters.

Announcing the new measures at the end of June, the Minister for Shipping and Aviation Support, Senator Bob Collins, said the overriding issue was

one of environmental protection. Under the new regulations, the owners of ships convicted of illegal discharges of oil, chemicals or garbage will face penalties of up to \$1 million.

Ships masters will face penalties of up to \$200,000 for an illegal discharge of \$50,000 for failing to report an accidental discharge.

India

World food day observed

Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) organized a function to mark World Food Day in collaboration with Indian Association for Advancement of Science (IAAS) at a

village Saddullapur in district Ghaziabad in the state of Uttar Pradesh. Addressing a gathering of over 500 farmers Dr. Jan Poulisse, Programme Officer, Office of FAO

Representative in India appreciated the efforts of farmers keeping the village full of vegetation and crops, which is in tune with objectives of FAO. He urged upon the village people to continue their efforts in planting more trees.

Dr. Poulisse distributed 1,000 saplings of citrus plants to the participating farmers and took the lead in planting a sapling, thus motivating others to join him in this ambitious programme.

KRIBHCO presents Rs. 190.68 million dividend cheque to Prime Minister

KRIBHCO which has established itself as a leader in the Indian fertilizer industry in a short span after going into production in 1986, presented a dividend cheque for Rs, 190.68 million to the Prime Minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao.

Nehru memorial IFFCO lecture on cooperation and silver jubilee celebrations

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had viewed the cooperatives as organisations built on voluntary effort by people committed to the cause and governmental control was to be avoided as far as possible. But unfortunately cardinal principles governing the cooperatives were overlooked at central and state levels resulting in the erosion of fundamental of freedom of association. This was disclosed by Padamshri Paul Pothan, renowned technocrat and founder Managing Director of Asia's largest Fertilizer Cooperative, Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), while delivering Eighth Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Lecture organized by IFFCO here.

"Enthusiasm of Jawaharlal Nehru, a distant figure with the aura of nationalist leadership and replete with glamour, were not always shared by others

as in the case of cooperative farming. He believed in linking the small holders of land with the cooperative are joint action to lift them out of perpetual poverty. He exulted in the growth of service cooperatives in the villages of India and extension of rural credit through them”, Shri Pothan said.

To mark the Silver Jubilee Celebrations, IFFCO honoured pioneers and stalwarts who contributed significantly to the genesis and growth of the organisation.

On this occasion they were presented with the mementos in recognition of their outstanding services.

Recalling his experience with IFFCO in the formative years, Shri Pothan said that IFFCO had brought new concepts and new dimension to cooperatives. An analysis of performance of this cooperative venture reveals that IFFCO widespread links through out the country's vast cooperative system. It is a good example of private ownership of capital intensive industry, precisely because of this, he had chosen the topic of lecture “Privatisation and The Third World- The Cooperative Paradigm”.

After independence when capital was scarce and equity cult was confined to a few urban centres, industrialization became a source of major thrust. Despite lacunae in central planning and public sector, there was no better way to operate with limited funds.

The cooperatives have a half stance between the public and private sectors. Hence cooperatives became focal point of attention among various ways of garnering resources for investment and involving the masses in the nation-building programmes.

Commencing as an instrument for relief of rural indebtedness, the cooperatives were soon transformed into a nation wide activity with its federated structure at the village level. This was admirably assisted by Gandhiji and was also responsive to Pandit Nehru's Fabian Socialism. With the passage of time cooperatives came to occupy a dominant position.

IFFCO's environmental management activities

The Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd (IFFCO) was established as a multiunit cooperative organisation with broad objectives of augmenting fertilizer production, ensuring fertilizer availability at farmers door step, strengthening cooperative fertilizer distribution system and educating, training and guiding the farmers for improving agricultural productivity.

IFFCO presently owns four giant fertilizer units at Kalol and Kandla in Gujarat and Phulpur and Aonla in Uttar Pradesh, having a total annual production capacity of 20 lakh tonnes of fertilizer material.

The Aonla unit of IFFCO is based on Natural Gas from HBJ pipe line Uttar Pradesh. It's annual urea production capacity is 726,000 MT. The construction work and commissioning of this fertilizer plant was achieved in only 42 months from the Zero date.

The knitting of production with Environmental Management is the distinctive feature of this plant. The technology of the plant is based on recycle and reuse of waste water to achieve zero effluent discharge from ammonia and urea plants. However, a “centralized effluent treatment plant” is also created to treat cooling tower blowdown and occasional waste from plants. The green belt of 80m width around the factory, additional afforestation in township and treated effluent lagoon (which attracts migratory birds) are important features of this fertilizer plant.

Approaches adopted: The environmental management approach adopted at IFFCO Aonla for pollution abatement depend on following factors:

- a) The nature and characteristics of feed material and the chemicals required for its processing.
- b) Technology selection on Zero-Effluent concept based on recycling and

reuse of waste gathered in Ammonia and Urea Plants.

- c) Systematic approach adopted towards total environmental management which include pollution abatement at source, water conservation, adequate treatment technology, safe disposal of waste and monitoring of ambient air quality, river water quality, treated effluent quality and constant interaction for its betterment.
- d) Effective operation/maintenance of inbuilt safe guards and monitoring devices.
- e) Maximum utilization of treated waste for green belt development.
- f) Generation of awareness among factory employees about quality of environment.

Of Special mention are also the Environmental Management Laboratory and the development of green belts. The Environmental Management Laboratory monitors quality of ambient air samples by analyzing suspended particulate matter, ammonia, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and carbon-monoxide regularly. Anemometer is also installed to know the wind velocity alongwith wind directions. One continuous sampler is also installed in the lagoon discharge channel for composite sampling of treated effluent going to Aril river. River water analyses are also carried out, before and after the point of confluence of effluent. The land selected for the project was barren tract with high alkalinity.

At present, the 80 m wide green belt and additional afforestation is in progress, with about 140,000 tree plantation by using pyrite treatment methodology alongwith Gypsum, sweet soil and cow-dung manure. To execute the greenbelt development as well as to boost social forestry scheme in this region, IFFCO Aonla distributes free saplings to villagers from it's social forestry farm.

KRIBHCO gets FAI award

KRIBHCO has won FAI's two prestigious awards for the year 1991. The awards are (1) Best Environment Protection of a Nitrogenous Fertilizer Plant and (2) FAI Video Film Competition Entry.

NAFED

Shri S.K. Naik of Indian Administration Services, has assumed charge as Managing Director, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) w.e.f. 11.12.91.

Fillip to consumer cooperatives

The Eighth Plan target for food distribution by consumer cooperatives is of the order of Rs.5,500 million in urban areas and Rs. 4,400 million in rural areas annually.

The consumer cooperatives supplement and strengthen the public distribution system by 25 per cent in the urban areas and 28 per cent in the rural areas.

The consumer cooperatives, which are four-tiered structure, have 627 wholesale and central stores at the district level and 22,479 primary cooperatives at the base level.

In rural areas the distribution of consumer articles is undertaken by about 58,427 agricultural credit, multipurpose and other cooperative societies.

Operation flood

The dairy situation is undergoing a rapid change. Spurred by the success of the Anand experiment, a large number of milk cooperatives have sprung up all over the country. In 1975-76, there were only 4,533 cooperatives. By 1980-81, the figure jumped nearly three fold to 12,220. By 1985-86, the number

of cooperatives had again jumped more than three times to 42,672. But thereafter, the growth slowed down, and during the course of the next half decade, the number of cooperatives went up by only 50 per cent of 63,394.

These figures are indicative of one fact. After more than a decade of rapid growth the momentum of growth of the milk cooperative movement has distinctly slowed down. While it may be quite erroneous to jump to conclusions solely on the basis of the number of cooperatives, there are other indicators which point to such a trend.

Take for example, the increase in milk procurement. In 1975-76, the milk procurement by the milk cooperatives was a mere 1154 tonnes per day. By 1980-81 this more than doubled to 2562 tonnes per day. 1985-86 the figure stood at 7882 tonnes per day indicating a more than three fold rise over the 1980-81 figure. But during the next half decade, that is, by 1990-91 there was a mere 23 per cent increase in the total procurement.

The reasons for this are not far to seek. Private sector milk have zoomed far ahead of the cooperative prices in the later half of the 1980s. Further a large number of illegal milk product factories, especially milk powder, have come up, which can afford to pay higher prices to milk producers. All these have upset the growth pattern of the milk cooperatives. It should be borne in mind that milk cooperatives have to constantly balance between giving consumers milk at affordable prices while at the same time ensuring that the producers get remunerative prices for their output. No such dual responsibility is placed on the private sector. If despite these factors, the cooperative movement has grown, then full credit should go to it.

There is another factor which should be of interest to small milk producers. Private vending might be profitable, but if there is excess supply, the private milk producer has no option but to consume it himself or to sell the same at throwaway prices. He also is largely insulated from seasonal fluctuations in demand. This is eventually what

persuades those who have benefitted from the cooperative movement to stick to the movement.

Parliament passes Banking Regulation (Amend) Bill

The Lok Sabha passed the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill empowering the Union Government to change the accounting year of cooperative banks and provide necessary provisions to facilitate uniform accounting year, similar to commercial banks.

Rs.60: US\$.10*

Short Essays on Member Development in Consumer Cooperatives

**Pradit Machima
Daman Prakash
W U Herath**

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Indonesia

President Soeharto's role in promoting cooperatives in Indonesia

1. Soeharto, President of the Republic of Indonesia was born in a village in Yogyakarta Special Province to an ordinary farmer's family. He grew up in a poor community of small landholders. His father, a peasant, wanted to see him grow up to take over his job as the village functionary of the "Ulu-Ulu" (water supply supervisor for the village irrigation), but his fate has led him to become President of the Republic of 1884 million people of Indonesia.

2. As a small village boy he witnessed the poor farmers struggle to overcome their subsistence living and socio-economic problems. And later as a young officer of the Indonesian Army, he realized the sacrifices of small farmers who had to feed him and his fellow soldiers during the struggle for independence, while some of their rice fields were destroyed in the battle. The farmers did not expect any payment nor words of gratitude. They simply felt to become part of the struggle for independence. With these values and emotions he entered the presidential palace in Jakarta (1967).

3. The young army officer Soeharto (in the early 1950s) was promoted Commander of the XVth Regiment of the 4th Military Territorial Command of Central Java (Diponegoro Division). Since almost all members of the Regiment were previously "volunteer" soldiers with low income, officer Soeharto suggested to establish a cooperative among them so that they are able in certain instance help themselves to meet a part of their family's daily consumer needs.

4. He succeeded in the accumulation of some fund as matching capital for their consumer cooperative and he was further motivated by the result of

his experience.

5. Later in 1956 when he was promoted Chief of Staff of the 4th Military Territorial Command of Central Java, having the experience as Regiment Commander himself, he suggested to all Commanders of Regiments under his command to encourage their members to organize consumer cooperatives within their respective regiments. This exciting experience provided deeper commitment to "cooperativism" to the young colonel, who later became General and President of the Republic of Indonesia.

6. At the beginning of the "New Order" in 1967 President Soeharto laid down a new foundation for the cooperative development. The Cooperative Law of 1965 that has placed cooperatives as tools of politics in Indonesia (strongly preserved the communist ideology) and has banned the internationally accepted Principles of Cooperation, was replaced by a new Cooperative Law (1967) to restore the fundamentals of cooperatives recommended by International Cooperative Alliance. In this way, President Soeharto successfully regained the trust of the Cooperative Movement. Indonesia then renewed its membership in ICA, that was wrongly cut off by the former Government.

7. On the 11th of March 1983 he was elected for the 3rd time as President of the Republic. On this occasion, the people, through MPR (The People's Consultative Assembly) declared him the "Father of Development of Indonesia". This event attracted the attention of the cooperative world, since the development of Indonesia also substantially included cooperative development as explicitly contained in the

Constitution of Indonesia.

8. President Soeharto has given a special attention to the rural cooperatives know as KUDs (Village Unit Cooperatives). Later in 1985 when he delivered a speech at the commemoration of 40 years of FAO in Rome, he pointed out that these KUDs (rural cooperative units) had an important share in the achievement of national self-sufficiency in the food situation (particularly rice) in Indonesia. President Soeharto was then awarded by FAO for this success.

9. President Soeharto has encouraged people to participate in the development of the country, particularly the economic development, since the inception of the First 5-Year Development Plan (*REPELITA I : 1969 / 1970 - 1973 / 74*).

9.1 The programme on self sufficiency in food was placed as the first priority in the agricultural development. As to provide farmers the opportunity to help themselves, the Government motivated them strongly to organize themselves in bigger cooperatives in terms of economy of scale. Learning from the experience of more developed countries as also recommended in seminars conducted by ICA, small village level cooperatives amalgamate themselves into Rural Cooperative Units known as Koperasi Unit Desa or KUD. Therefore KUDs got an opportunity to learn and be experienced in the distribution of farm inputs and to process and market agricultural produce.

9.2 Government personnel of different Departments are assigned to assist farmers according to their respective technical field. In the early stages even government personnel were

placed in KUDs to assist the operations and the planning from below. Gradually they were withdrawn, at the same time with the de-officialisation policy and later a new programme was installed, the commencement of "Rural Cooperative Unit Self Reliance" programme (*KUD Mandiri*).

5.3 Since the beginning of the First REPELITA (1969/1970 - 1973/1974) up to the Fifth (1989/90 - 1993/94) the Cooperative Development Plan has been an integral part of the National Development Plan. President Soeharto in his annual State Address and report to the Parliament (DPR) as well as to the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) constantly encouraged people to support the cooperative system as stated in the national Constitution and the Cooperative Law (1967).

6. In his efforts to strengthen cooperatives to have them perform their functions properly, President Soeharto has taken the following strategical steps:

6.1 To support the Cooperative Development more effectively, in 1978 President Soeharto installed the new state institution of Junior Ministry for Cooperative Development, who was assigned the task to coordinate the implementation of cooperative programmes launched by different ministries according to their technical consensus.

6.2 To further accelerate the cooperative development, in 1983 President Soeharto installed the Ministry of Cooperatives, a full-fledged institution with a Directorate-General for Institutional Development and a Directorate-General for Business Development. The Junior Ministry was consequently abolished.

The Ministry of Cooperatives has accordingly created the conducive climate and motivation needed by the Movement to grow and strengthen its cooperative national network.

6.3 Several other Ministers were instructed to assist the Ministry of Cooperatives in their respective fields (1984), by launching of Presidential Instruction (which was once misinterpreted as an instruction to the people and the Cooperative Movement). The

President himself pointed out in his speeches on every Cooperative Day Ceremony, that Cooperatives should develop themselves from below and that the Government should confine itself to giving support according to the stipulation guided by the Cooperative Law (1967), i.e. the philosophy of "Tut Wuri Handayani" or "giving motivation from behind", or to provide back-up and moral support.

7. In implementing the REPELITA (the Five Year Plan), President Soeharto every year in his State speech (16th August) or in his speech to commemorate the Cooperative Day (12th July), consistently reminds Government personnel as well as cooperators as to direct cooperatives to become a National Movement and to make cooperatives as National Commitment.

8. In the execution of the strategy of the "New Order" based on the TRILOGY Policy of Development (i.e. Even Distribution of Development, Economic Growth and Stability), the Economic Democracy of the New Order always has placed Cooperatives at a strategic position.

9. Furthermore, in supporting the economic development, President Soeharto has made the necessary breakthroughs, among others that support the cooperative development, such as:

9.1 A Programme for every bank to allocate a minimum of 20% of their funds to finance small scale businesses and cooperatives.

9.2 A Policy to be implemented by banks, that collateral (in terms of fiscal guarantee) should not hamper the cooperative development. This policy shows the political will of the government that in uncompromisable to cooperative development.

9.3 An instruction to put aside 1% to 5% of state enterprises, net profit be used for cooperatives and small business development.

10. In other words, based on the breakthroughs, President Soeharto introduced the principle of "affordability" alongside with the commonly accepted principle of "feasibility" for the enhancement of cooperative development.

11. In the economic system of Indonesia today, the cooperative economic system is not being applied as yet. However, President Soeharto has stated clearly that one day the cooperative economic system shall be materialized.

12. He rightly did not neglect the democratic momentum that occur today all over the world, because Indonesia since the inception of Independence, was already based on the principle of economic democracy. On this very occasion President Soeharto created a new momentum, a democratization through the purchase of shares by cooperatives from private enterprises (which have the production, distribution, vocational and territorial linkages with the respective cooperative). This economic democratization would become an ideal and in the same time pragmatism model to avoid cooperatives from being called utopia.

13. President Soeharto has encouraged the Cooperative Movement to build up some of the basic cooperative infrastructures, such as:

13.1 The Cooperative Credit Guarantee (a government agency within the Ministry of Finance to support the cooperative business, known as Perum PPK).

13.2 IKOPIN (The Institute for Cooperative Management) and AKOP (Cooperative Management Academies in many provinces) as an act of human investment to develop people for the future.

13.3 BUKOPIN (The Cooperative Bank of Indonesia) as a means to support cooperative development through savings to accumulate capital and credit supply to cooperatives to promote their business capabilities.

14. In the conclusion, the Indonesian Cooperative Council (DEKOPIN), which is a member-organisation of the International Cooperative Alliance, strongly believes that under the able and wise leadership of President Soeharto, the cooperative institutions in Indonesia will function as effective and efficient agents of development and agents of economic democratisation. (*DEKOPIN*)

□

Japan

Theme for the 19th National Congress of Agricultural Coops

“Challenges to the 21st Century and Reforms”

1. Situations Surrounding Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives

(1) Situations Surrounding Economic Society

In Japan's economic society, environmental changes are currently taking place in terms of internationalization, financial deregulation, aging population, etc. In addition, new developments have emerged such as (1) the deterioration of the global environment, (2) uniconcentration in Tokyo, and (3) labour shortages.

a) Global environmental problems are now assuming alarming dimensions in terms of the earth warming, destruction of the ozone layer, acid rain, etc. Agriculture has functions in the conservation of national land and environment on the one hand, while the excessive use of chemical fertilizer and agricultural chemicals have ill effects on the environment, on the other.

b) Imbalanced development has widened between the Tokyo Metropolitan Area, in which political and economic functions are concentrated, and regional areas. The situation has led to a spiral in land prices in the former area, and depopulation in the latter areas and stagnation in rural society.

c) Labour shortages against the backdrop of the booming economy have made it increasingly difficult to secure farming manpower and agricultural cooperative functionaries.

d) With the progressive aging of the population, an increasing number of enterprises are positively starting the business targeting the aged

people. It is also important for agricultural cooperatives to push ahead with measures for the aging of the population.

(2) Situations Surrounding Agriculture and Rural Committees

Japanese agriculture, while improving its productivity, has played, to date, a significant role in the stable supply of food to the people. However, recent changes in the economic society have led to the following problems:

a) The amount of imported farm products has increased as a result of the import liberalization, and this has kept domestic agricultural production stagnant.

b) Because of falls in the farming work force and aging of the farming population, Japanese agriculture is in danger.

c) With the diversification of food consumption, trends have developed for people (1) to be health-conscious and cherish greater desire for food of safe and natural quality, (2) to be convenience and simplicity-oriented, (3) to have a greater desire for better and more diversified tastes, and (4) to be fashion-minded.

(3) Situations Surrounding Agricultural Cooperatives and Problems Involved

The number of regular members (approximately 5.5 million nationwide) has continued to level off. In particular, the rate of female and young members has fallen, making it increasingly difficult to energize agricultural cooperatives. In addition, the attitudes of agricultural successors and farm housewives have been diversified against a backdrop of changing farming opera-

tions and rural lifestyles, with the result that they are becoming less conscious of participating the activities of agricultural cooperatives. At present, the competition in business has been intensified between agricultural cooperatives and private sectors as a result of increase in the mixed-residential areas where non-farmers and farmers live together and de-regulations. In addition, agricultural cooperative undertakings have been stagnant because of inadequate responses to the diversified and sophisticated needs of members. Also, prospects for improvements in income from agricultural cooperative businesses are dim because of the progress in financial deregulation.

In these circumstances, agricultural cooperatives are currently dealing with the reorganization of the business mechanism as follows:

3 REFORMS !!

- Agriculture
- Business & Organization
- Image & Attitude

a) Efforts towards wide-area amalgamation to reduce the nationwide number of agricultural cooperatives to 1,000 in the 21st century have produced tangible results; as of April 1991, the number of agricultural cooperative societies stood at 3,493 throughout the country. There is now a greater need to promote cooperative mergers from now on.

b) At present, Japan's agricultural cooperatives currently operate under the three-tier system, i.e., primary agricultural cooperative societies at municipal levels, prefectural federations of agricultural cooperatives at prefectural levels

by type of business, and national federations of agricultural cooperatives at national levels by type of business. However, with the progress of cooperative amalgamation, opinions are gaining ground in favor of a sweeping review of agricultural cooperative undertakings as a whole and a reduction in the number of channels for business transact

Three goals

To adapt promptly to these environmental changes, it is imperative for Japan's agricultural cooperative movement to reach the following three goals:

First, the restructuring of Japanese agriculture through the establishment of a new philosophy on agriculture and the many-sided development of regional agriculture.

Second, the creation of comfortable communities on the basis of the promotion of agriculture and the development of rural areas.

Third, the reconstruction of agricultural co-operatives which are capable of responding to the expectations and faith of member farmers and follow members of local agricultural cooperatives.

To achieve these goals, agricultural reform, business and organizational renovation of agricultural cooperative, and changes in the attitudes of agricultural cooperative officers and the image of agricultural cooperatives will be promoted.

Steps to attain goals

The following measures will be taken on a priority basis to attain the three goals:

- i) *Establishment of Japanese agriculture for many roles*
- a) Establishment of agriculture in response to the trust of consumers:

Japanese agriculture has performed many roles in the stable supply of food to the people and ensuring food safety, the maintenance of a rural society, and conservation of national land and the environment. There is a need to main-

tain the trust of consumers through the fulfillment of these roles.

To this end, more effective measures will be taken to reduce the production costs of agricultural products, while, at the same time, efforts will be made to promote the development of 3H (high Technology, High Quality and Healthy) agriculture.

- b) Securing various agricultural work force and its training:

In order to secure an agricultural work force, problems will be addressed, such as (1) the training of farming groups, (2) strengthening of the consignment of farm management and farming operations, and (3) utilization of elderly and female workers.

In addition, in order to secure newcomers to farming, agricultural cooperatives will hire them for a given period and provide them some training. Furthermore, systems for the lease of farming facilities and machines, systems for guidance in farming techniques and farm management, etc. will be updated and introduced to facilitate the securing of new agricultural manpower.

- c) Promotion of agriculture to preserve environment:

Efforts will be made to promote agriculture which gives priority to play roles to foster water resources, conserve national land and secure the safety of food, that is to say, to preserve agriculture. To this end, the use of agricultural chemicals and chemical fertilizer will be reduced, while the development of agriculture will be promoted to conserve the environment by using organic farming, etc.

- 2) *"The Planning for Our Comfortable Villages & Towns" Based on the Promotion of Agriculture and Development of Rural Communities*

- a) The Campaign for "Our Comfortable Villages & Towns"

In a rural society, situations vary from area to area in terms of the disorderly detail areas where farms and non-farmers live together in flatland and semi-urban areas, and depopulation in mountainous areas.

In order to cope with these developments, there is a need to carry out opinion surveys on the farming and living conditions of farm households and formulate accordingly "the planning to our comfortable villages & towns" to revitalize agriculture and rural communities. To this end, the campaigns for "comfortable village and town planning" will be carried out in close cooperation with local governments and relevant organizations.

- b) Promotion of agriculture through improving and stepping up farming guidance:

In order to promote agriculture, the selection of priority crops which meet the local requirements, the provision of diversified types of farming, securing of farming manpower, including farming groups and adjustments of farmland utilization will be promoted.

- c) Strengthening better living activities and promoting the conservation of community environment:

In order to meet the diversified cultural and living needs of members their families and community residents, purchasing business, life and cultural activities, and other functions of agricultural cooperatives as comprehensive life centers will be improved and strengthened. At the same time, positive measures will be taken to cope with the aging of population. Again, in order to conserve a comfortable environment, environmental measures will be stepped up, including the regular use of goods which are sympathetic to environment. In addition, a study will be carried out with the participation of members, to investigate the creation of environmental funds in a bid to lend support to environmental conservation campaigns both at home and abroad.

- d) Construction of agro-living towns and development of rural community-type resorts:

Multiple utilization of farmland will be tackled through the formulation of comprehensive regional land utilization plans. Through these plans, urban agriculture will be established in urban areas by producing fresh farm crops and providing farms for citizens. At the same time, steps to build agro-

living towns will be strengthened.

Rural community-type resorts will be developed in mountainous areas with the cooperation of the administrations involved.

- 3) *Structural Reinforcement of Agricultural Cooperatives on the Basis of Tie-ups with Members, and Reform of Cooperative Business and Organization*
- a) Strengthening heart-to-heart communication and firmly establishing cooperative businesses and management:

In order to strengthen cooperative businesses, daily heart-to-heart communication between members will be promoted by the posting of responsible cooperative personnel. In addition, efforts will be made to expand the organizational bedrock of agricultural cooperatives by expanding the cooperative membership to include agricultural successors and women farmers, and promoting cooperative businesses by increasing the number of associate member farmers.

Again, in order to consolidate the management control system of agricultural cooperatives, a full-time director system based on the three-tiered management setup of co-operative head, executive director and managing director will be introduced anew, while men of learning and experience will

also be appointed cooperative directors.

- b) Promotion of cooperative amalgamation and reform of cooperative businesses and organization:

Cooperative amalgamation will be further promoted to realize plans to reduce the number of agricultural cooperatives to 1,000 in the 21st century, and to this end, reforms of cooperative businesses and organization will therefore be promoted.

Federations, for their part, will push ahead with their business functions on a priority and integrated basis in an effort to streamline their stores, facilities and branches. In addition, efforts will be made to revise the present three-tiered operational system (of primary agricultural co-operative societies, prefectural federations of agricultural cooperatives and national federations of agricultural cooperatives) into a two-tiered system.

- c) Building national consensus on agriculture and establishing the corporate identity of agricultural cooperatives:

It is important to make efforts to obtain public understanding on the multiple roles played by agriculture. To this end, movements will be promoted to strengthen countermeasures for the mass media and also to form networks of exchanges with people in all social

stratum.

In order to improve the image of agricultural cooperatives, agricultural cooperatives will be newly called "JA" and efforts will be made after April 1992 to disseminate the new name and cooperative trademarks nationwide.

ICA Tokyo Congress

- d) Strengthening ties with the international cooperative movement:

In 1992, the ICA (International Cooperative Alliance) congress will be held in Tokyo. This congress is scheduled to discuss "basic values of agricultural cooperatives" and "global environmental issues", Japan's agricultural cooperatives will also positively address these problems. In addition, they will make efforts to reinforce inter-national solidarity activities, including cooperation in the greater development of agricultural cooperatives in developing countries, through international organizations, such as the ICA and IFAP (International Federation of Agricultural Producers).

In addition, the establishment of a "Cooperative College" (tentative name) will be promoted for the purpose of securing and training cooperative movement leaders.

(Source - Annual Report 1991, Agricultural Cooperative Movement in Japan, published by Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives (ZENCHU).

Organization and activities of Agricultural Cooperative Women's Association

Total Number of Women's Association: 3,169 Combined Total Membership: 2.25 Million (as of the end of December 1990)

The agricultural cooperative women's association started budding out shortly after the end of World War II when the Allied Occupation Forces implemented a series of democratization policies which called for the emancipation of women and the establishment of equal rights for men and women.

It was in these circumstances that a nationwide campaign was launched to organize groups of women at a local level with a view to enhancing their awareness. Rural women in particular used to suffer discrimination and suppression under the traditional patriarchal system and the rules of

villages. Enlightened farmers thought that there could be neither the development of agriculture nor the construction of farming communities brimming with hope, without the emancipation of rural women. Therefore, apart from local groups of women, agricultural cooperatives began to

form their women's associations in a bid to improve the status of farm women.

Soon after most agricultural cooperatives in the country became debt-stricken. Their women's associations lost no time in starting campaigns to encourage savings, to regularly use "cooperative brand commodities" and to subscribe to "le-No-Hikari," the magazine issued by the le-No-Hikari Publishing Association, thus contributing a great deal to the reconstruction of financially distressed agricultural cooperatives.

Presently, agricultural cooperative women's associations came to be formed nationwide, and in 1951, the National Council of Agricultural Cooperative Women's Organizations was inaugurated.

In this process, a movement gathered momentum to unify, at a national level, the character of agricultural cooperative women's associations and the objectives of their activities.

As a result of heated debates, "five principles of agricultural cooperative women's associations," which defined the character of such organizations, and "platforms for agricultural

cooperative women's associations," which called for the five principles to be reviewed and which set for orientation of activities, were laid down in 1955 and in 1967, respectively.

With the establishment of the five principles as the catalyst, the activities of agricultural cooperative women's associations gradually gathered momentum until they produced on their own in 1959 a film titled "The Song of carts."

This film production campaign served to promote the activities of agricultural cooperative women's association members by enhancing their awareness and by reinforcing their organizations. It can be said that this was a time when agricultural cooperative women's associations were rewarded with a high sense of fulfillment.

In the 1960s, rural communities were urbanized under the government's high economic growth policy. As a result of this policy having been pushed forward to the extreme, agriculture was destroyed and farming villages were ruined. Naturally, agricultural cooperative women's associations as well as agricultural cooperatives directly bore the brunt of the impact. The resulting decrease in the number of agricultural cooperative women's as-

sociation members and absence of members, who would become leaders, made the activities of women's associations extremely difficult.

In September 1986, agricultural cooperative women's associations decided on "three-year plans for the development of community activities," under which they repeatedly tried to develop volunteer activities at a community level. On the other hand, however, an increasing number of agricultural cooperative women's association members quit to work in industries other than agriculture, hence there is a pressing need for us to review the *raison d'être* of agricultural cooperative women's associations by returning to their starting point.

We have therefore formulated a policy titled "The Path for Agricultural Cooperative Women's Associations to Follow to the 21st Century," because we think it is imperative to re-examine "ourselves," the quality of our everyday lives, and what the agricultural cooperative women's association should be, without allowing ourselves to be at the mercy of the current of the times.

(Source: IDACA News)

IDACA's Training Programmes Held from Aug.-Nov. 1991

ICA Training Course for Women Leaders of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia (Aug. 21-Sept. 14)

Number of Participants: 2 each from Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand.

Visit to: Toyama Prefecture.

The Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has decided to provide financial aid, starting in the current fiscal year, to ICA to train women, in response to the request of the ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, which attaches importance to a training course for women leaders of agricultural cooperatives in Asia. The first in a series of such training courses was held recently. It was

participated in by women leaders of agricultural cooperatives in the above-mentioned three countries. The women were briefed on the history and the present status of Japanese agricultural cooperative women's associations, and they also learned a lot from the activities of the women's association of an agricultural cooperative in Tsukui-gun, Kanagawa Prefecture. During their study visit to Toyama Prefecture, they stayed overnight at the homes of local farmers and deepened their friendship with the Women's Association of the Inami Agricultural Cooperative. They also attended a round-table conference

hosted by this agricultural cooperative women's association, observed local farm women making joint purchases, attended a cooking class at which they introduced the cuisine of their home countries, while they also attended a dressing class and tried on kimonos. They also had an active exchange of views with the officers of the Toyama Prefectural Council of Women's Associations. Giving their impressions of Japanese agricultural cooperative women's associations, the participants said that such organizations are solid, playing an important role in furthering the cooperative movement, and that they engage in every form of activity to promote better family life and happiness. These were useful lessons which had been learned from the standpoint of promoting the future activities of rural women in their own countries, the participants emphasized.

(Source: IDACA News)

ICA/CUAC/IDACA Regional Seminar (Aug. 26-Sept. 13)

Number of Participants: 17

Visit to: Toyama Prefecture.

This seminar, which IDACA has jointly organized annually since 1965 with the ICA ROAP with the cooperation of agricultural cooperatives in the region, is one of the most traditional training courses hosted by IDACA.

For four years from 1987 to 1990, IDACA held an annual seminar with ICA on the perspective planning of agricultural cooperative businesses with "member participation" which is the premise for the development of agricultural cooperatives, as the first-stage theme and in accordance with the accumulation of member farmers' farming operation plans. However, there was a limit to what individual agricultural cooperatives could do to

implement a farm produce marketing strategy to their advantage. There was therefore a need to study how to promote such a strategy at the levels of prefectural and national federations which complement agricultural cooperative businesses.

As a second-stage step, IDACA held a seminar on "formulating plans to promote the development of regional agriculture," by shifting the focus to "how to formulate mid- and long-term plans" to push forward production and marketing strategies at federation levels. In addition, the participants in the seminar worked out their "action plans" based on what they had learned at the seminar in relation to the aforementioned theme. The participants in recent ICA/CUAC/IDACA included first representatives from Vietnam since

IDACA was established in 1963, attesting to the progress of "Doi Moi" (the Vietnamese version of perestroika).

Study visits were made in Toyama Prefecture. The participants visited the Toyama Prefectural Union of Agricultural Cooperatives, the Kureha Agricultural Cooperative, the Fukumitsu-cho Agricultural Cooperative, the Toyama Prefectural Agricultural Technology Center (Agricultural Experiment Station) and the Toyama Prefectural Central Wholesale Market. At the Kureha Agricultural Cooperative, they studied the way in which "Kureha pears" are produced, marketed and shipped. At the Fukumitsu-cho Agricultural Cooperative, they studied how to promote the development of regional agriculture and formulate mid- and long-term perspective plans.

(Source: IDACA News)

Training Course for cooperators from selected countries (Sept. 29-Oct. 29)

Number of Participants: 8 from Malaysia and 5 from Sri Lanka.

Visit to: Aomori Prefecture

This training course was aimed at enabling participants to study "the workings of multi-purpose agricultural cooperative societies in Japan" without setting any specific theme as in the case of a joint seminar with ICA, etc. Unlike other types of training courses, which limit participants to one from each country, this training course was intended for government agency officials from the aforementioned two countries, who are responsible for the development of agricultural cooperatives, as well as the officials of agricultural cooperatives. Because of this, it can be said that the participants were relatively well controlled by their leaders. Also, there was no discernible language barrier and hardly any differences in customs between the participants from the two countries. This is why they have been strongly united

as former IDACA participants since their return home, deepening their exchanges with each other.

Malaysia and Sri Lanka have traditionally used English as their official language because Britain was their suzerain state. In recent years, people of these countries have become less proficient in English because their governments have adopted policies that put emphasis on the use of native languages. In view of this, future IDACA participants from these countries are not expected to have such a good command of English, hence it is possible that there will be a greater need for training courses for Malaysian and Sri Lankan people in their native languages. Fortunately, this training course is limited to participants from the two countries, and we think they can manage to complete the course even though they cannot speak English very well. It can therefore be said that a training course attended by

people from countries which share the same official language will produce more tangible results than one in which one person from each different country participates.

A study visit was made to Aomori Prefecture. The participants, who took a firsthand look at local apple farms destroyed by Typhoon No. 19, sent words of encouragement to grief-stricken apple growers and the agricultural cooperatives involved. They were able to learn the importance of the agricultural damage compensation system through their visit to the typhoon-hit prefecture.

It appeared that the participants were deeply impressed by the educational and public relations activities of agricultural cooperatives and by their guidance in farming operations, farm management and better living, through IDACA lectures and study visits in Aomori Prefecture. *(Source: IDACA News)*

IDACA Training Programmes in 1992

1. ICA/Japan Training Course for Strengthening Management of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia Course period: February 29-April 25'92

No. of participants: 15
Study visit: Kumamoto & Shizuoka Prefectures.

2. Training Course for Cooperative Agricola de Cotia Cooperativa Central (CACCC) and Cooperativa Central Agricola Sul Brazil

Course period: May 28-April 26, 1992
No. of participants: 7 Study visit: Kochi Prefecture.

3. Reunion and follow-up programme is to be held in India from February 5 to 14, 1992.

4. General Course in Agricultural Cooperatives.

Course period: May 25-July 16, 1992
No. of participants: 15
Study visit: Yet to be decided.

5. ICA/CUAC/IDACA ProgrammeThe programme will be held in connection with ICA Tokyo Congress.

6. Training Course for Cooperators from Selected Countries

Course period: August 25-September 22, 1992.
No. of participants: 13
Study visit: Yet to be decided.

7. ICA Training Course for Women Leaders of Agricultural Cooperatives

Course period: August 25-September 19, 1992.
No. of participants: 6
Study visit: Yet to be decided.

8. 17th RECA Seminar (Tentative)

Course period: November 1992.
No. of participants: 20
Study visit: Yet to be decided.

(Source: IDACA News)

ZENCHU seeks to streamline organisation

The Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives (ZEN-CHU) held a national convention in Tokyo, in October. At the convention, ZEN-CHU decided on a concept of reform for its increasing number of affiliated agricultural organisations. The concept is based upon integration and includes changing the three-layered (local agricultural cooperatives; prefectural federation; national organisation) structure to a two-layered (local agricultural cooperatives; national organisation)

structure. The new concept also includes margin and integrating the approximately 3,500 agricultural cooperatives nationwide to bring the number to about 1,000 before the end of the century. Within the year, ZEN-CHU will compile operational guidelines aimed at realizing the concept, and the Central Union of Prefectural Agricultural Cooperatives will draw up and implement a detailed organisation reform plan based on the new guidelines by March 1993.

At present, above the local cooperatives are economic federation that conduct marketing and purchasing in each prefecture; banking federations that provide financial services; mutual insurance federations that handle life and accident insurance; and the central prefectural union that controls all prefectural level business. Above those organisations are national organisations. ZEN-CHU feels that this complex structure is resulting in swollen distribution costs and lack of

efficiency in banking services and mutual insurance. The aim of the organizational reform is to create efficient and diverse agricultural cooperative

organisations that can withstand liberalization of the financial industry and the markets for agricultural products.

JICA to receive agricultural Trainees from South Africa

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), an organisation that provides technological cooperation for developing countries, is planning to accept trainees from South Africa. The objective is to offer support in an effort to raise the social and economic status of South African blacks, following the country's move toward democracy with the repeal of the apartheid law in June this year. Twenty trainees will be invited to Japan to study agriculture, welding, construction and industrial technology to enable them to play a role in improving the technical know-how of black labourers.

The trainees will be sent to either Nagoya, Ibaraki Prefecture's Tsukuba City or Kitakyushu, depending on

which field of training they are entering, and will train for three months. After returning to South Africa, the trainees will offer technical guidance at vocational training centres.

The trainees will be accepted by JICA from the United Nations Education and Training Program for South Africa (UNETPSA). The program is the result of talks between former prime minister Toshiki Kaifu and Nelson Mandela, the vice president of the African National Congress (ANC), during his visit to Japan last year.

A spokesman for the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated: "*We hope to gradually increase the number of trainees as a means of providing aid to South Africa blacks*".

Tottori prefecture joins with China to develop new fruit varieties

The Tottori prefectural government and the Hebei provincial government in the People's Republic of China are collaborating to establish the Friendship Agricultural Experimental Station in the Hebei Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences' Fruit Tree Research Centre, located in Shijiazhuang City. The research stations aims to jointly develop new varieties by crossing Japanese and Chinese fruit trees. The project was designed to commemorate the fifth year of friendship ties between Hebei Province and Tottori Prefecture.

The research 1.0 hectare to develop new varieties of fruit trees and 4.3 hectares for research on irrigation methods for nashi pears. The station includes hothouses, mobile spraying facilities and sprinklers.

The Tottori prefectural government has provided Yen 56.8 million (\$433,588) towards the cost of materials, as well as supplying the construction technology, while Hebei Province is supplying the labour.

The research station conducts research on methods to reduce nashi production costs and to promote the growth of strawberries, grapes and other fruit, but its main objective is the development of new varieties. Tottori Prefecture will send staff to the station two or three times a year.

When the ceremony to commemorate the fifth year of friendship ties was held in late October, 60 items in eight categories of fruit, including nashi, apples, grapes and persimmons, were taken to the research station for study purposes.

Lower House Environmental Committee urges Japan to show leadership in prevention of global warming

In a bid to give Japan a more prominent role in dealing with environmental issues, including global warming and the decline in the number of wild animal and plant species, the House of Representatives (the lower house) Standing Committee on the Environment has adopted a resolution on the strengthening of global environmental protection measures. The main feature of the resolution is to stress Japan's contribution at the United Nations Commission on the Environment and Development Conference to be held in Brazil in June next year.

The resolution contains 10 points, including a call for Japan to exert maximum efforts to areas such as negotiations over a treaty to prevent global warming.

Japan Tobacco Inc. develops mass synthesis method for food absorption promoter

Japan Tobacco Inc's Life Science Research Laboratory has developed a mass synthesis method for a food absorption promoter. There are hopes that the substance will have applications in many areas, including use in pharmaceutical for the treatment of anorexia and additives for animal feedstuffs.

The new substance is a chemical compound of carbon, hydrogen and oxygen called 3DPA Lactone. In 1990, small amounts of the compound were found in the blood of mice, and it was discovered that the substance stimulates the area of the hypothalamus that stimulates hunger. Artificial synthesis proved difficult, and research progressed slowly. The laboratory used on type of ribonolactone, a sugar that has a similar molecular structure to 3DPA

Laction, as the raw material, and after experimenting with various chemicals and chemical reactions, succeeded in mass synthesis using a simple device.

Takashi Ebata, senior researcher at the laboratory, commented that although it is necessary to confirm the safety of applying the new compound to pharmaceutical by carrying out experiments on animals, it will probably be possible in the future to easily produce foie gras for high quality French cuisine using the fattened livers of artificially raised geese.

Rice Genes confirmed through existing database

Professor Hirofumi Uchimiya of the University of Tokyo, working with Assistant Professor Atsushi Kato and other researchers at Hokkaido University, has succeeded in confirming 49 rice genes at one time by skillfully using the existing gene database. Of the 49 genes, 30 were previously thought to have existed only in animals. Until now, there are no way to effectively investigate unknown plant genes. There was thought to be about 50,000 rice genes, of which only 20 had been confirmed to date. The researchers believe that it will now be possible to apply the new method to human gene confirmation research.

Beef consumption rises following liberalization

It is now more than six months since beef imports were liberalized in April. From April to July, domestic consumption of beef rose 8.1% compared with the same period of the preceding year, to 262,000 tons. Beef prices (Tokyo whole prices) have dropped for all but the highest quality beef, and medium grad beef (Holstein-Friesian) prices are Yen 10 to Yen 190 per kilogram (\$0.42 to \$0.66 per pound) lower than in the same period last year. Domestic calf prices have dropped sharply. In readiness for the reduction in the beef tariff from 70% to 60% in fiscal 1992, and to 50% in fiscal 1993, producers are stepping up measures to cope with

liberalization. Such measures include shifting production to high quality beef.

Nihon Nogyo Shimbun (The Japan Agricultural Press)

The Japan Agricultural Press (Nihon Nogyo Shinbun) the daily newspaper for Japanese farmers, is published by the National Press and Information Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives. The Paper performs a role not only as an important agricultural news source, but also as an organ paper for agricultural cooperatives. The sponsors are 180 agricultural cooperative unions in 47 prefectures.

The Japan Agricultural Press was established in 1928. At that time, one of the farmers groups began to publish a newspaper in order to ensure fairness and accuracy in the reporting of market prices, thereby protecting their interests from the external merchants. At first, most of articles were about the market price of agricultural products.

After World War II, this newspaper began to be published by the National Press and Information Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives, which was established in 1948. Subsequently the scope of the content was expanded and improved. Since 1988, it has been a nation wide daily.

The editorial policies are: (1) to express opinions from viewpoint of Japanese farmers to make this know to the wider public; (2) to report on specialized agricultural information to assist in the modernization of agricultural production and to help improving farmers household.

Paper has twelve pages. The core articles in this 12 page paper deal with special agricultural information, such as governmental policy, management practice, market prices, local news, etc; also offering articles in current topics of international affairs, the political and economic situation, life style, culture etc.

The main office is located in Tokyo. It is constituted of six departments: executive, editing, editorial, printing, business, and advertising. There are other 8 offices which collect the local

news and to expand circulation.

The total staff are 360. There are more than 3000 correspondents from various local agricultural cooperatives around the country.

The printing system has already changed from lead type (hot type system) to offset type (cold type system) and the optical phototypesetting machines were then replaced by computer typesetting (CTS) systems in 1988. In this system all elements of the newspaper, that is, articles, photos, charts, and tables and ads, are transformed into electronic signals by the computer. These data are retrieved on the display and edited, then out-put page by page. Now, correspondents and reporters can send their articles written by a word processor to CTS system directly through telephone circuits.

The circulation of the Japan Agricultural Press is approximately 500,000. The long range plan is a circulation of one million.

Japan Agrinfo Newsletter

This newsletter is published monthly by the Japan International Agricultural Council (JIAC) to present the economic, social and political and cultural aspects of agriculture in Japan. JIAC was established in 1982 by a group of key organisations engaged in agriculture agribusiness and the food industry to promote various activities designed to strengthen communications between Japan and its major agricultural trading partners. The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of JIAC. Complimentary copies of this newsletter will be sent upon request to government agencies, research institutions and nonprofit food and agriculture organisations or write to the below mentioned address:

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Republic of Korea

Impressive performance of Korean agriculture: Reports NACF

The National Agriculture Cooperative Federation of the Republic of Korea was established in 1961 as the apex organisation charged with enhancing the economic and social status of member farmers as well as developing agriculture and the welfare of rural communities. At the present time, there are 1,468 member cooperatives, 15 provincial and city offices, 143 country offices and 355 branch offices throughout the country.

The NACF performs diversified business activities related to rural life including banking supply, marketing insurance, warehousing, transportation, processing, farm guidance, and related support activities such as research, publications and education.

Given below are the highlights of the business performance of Korean agricultural cooperatives:

	1989	1990
	<i>(figures in billion won)</i>	
Marketing		
Sales by the NACF	914	920
Sales by Member Coops	1714	2088
Supply		
Fertilizer Agricultural Chemicals	283	329
Consumer Goods	65	76
	474	613
Banking		
Deposits	7196	9731
Loans	6721	8093
Insurance Premiums		
Life Insurance	524	639
Damage Insurance	5.3	6.6
International Banking <i>(in US\$ million)</i>		
Import Banking	424	532
Export Banking	212	237
Invisible Trade	307	417

Since 1961 when the multipurpose agricultural cooperatives were established in Korea, the marketing business has been one of the most important business activities of the agricultural cooperatives, along with the efforts to increase agricultural activity.

During the 1960s, development of the marketing business was very slow. This was mainly due to the fact that subsistence farming was prevailing in the rural areas at that time. In accordance with the commercialisation of farming and the successful completion of the primary cooperative amalgamation plan, the self initiated cooperative marketing business has shown a rapid growth since the early 1970s.

The development of market-oriented agricultural production has encouraged farmers to participate in cooperative marketing activities at the village level. Furthermore, due to the amalgamation of small scale village level primary cooperatives into larger scale ones, the cooperative marketing business has been vitalized.

The agricultural marketing by the agricultural cooperatives falls into three types: one is purchase sales under which cooperatives purchase farm products from farmers and resell them to consumers or intermediaries, another is consignment sales under which cooperatives sell products consigned by member farmers and pay proceeds to them after deduction of related expenses, and the third is entrusted sales under which cooperatives perform their marketing activities entrusted by the government to promote production of specific products.

The total turnover of farm products marketed through the agricultural cooperative channel in 1990 increased by 11.6% over the previous year with a record of Won 3,008 billion. Out of the

total, Won 920 billion came from sales by the NACF and Won 2,088 billion sales by member cooperatives.

By commodity groups 31.1% of the total, or Won 935 billion, came from the sales of food grains; 24.2% or Won 727 billion from vegetables; 21.4% or Won 644 billion from fresh fruits; 13.1% or Won 395 billion from livestock; 10.2% or Won 306 billion from other products including processed foods and raw material crops such as silk cocoon, malting barley, sweet potato etc.

The marketing business of the agricultural cooperatives can be classified into two stages; the assembling stage in producing areas and the distribution stage in consuming areas.

Cooperative farming groups are organized among the farmers who live in the neighboring villages and cultivate the same kind of crop, and the groups numbering 12,380 nationwide conduct joint shipment under the marketing guidance and operating procedure of the NACF and its member cooperatives.

While releasing the Annual Report of the NACF for the year 1990, the Chairman of the NACF, Mr. Ho-Sun Han, said:

"It is my great pleasure to publish the Annual Report 1990. This annual report contains the businesses and activities performed by the National Agricultural Cooperative Federation (NACF) and its member cooperatives.

In 1990, the Korean economy showed a growth of 9% Per capita GNP reached US\$5,569 up 10.7% from the previous year. Such a high growth was to boom in housing construction and to increase in fixed investment and domestic consumption in the private sector. The agriculture, forestry and fisheries sector decline, recording minus

3.9% . This crop is attributable to the poor harvest. Wholesale prices rose by 4.2% and consumer prices by 8.6%, a highest increase since 1982. In the foreign trade, the commodity exports were US\$65.0 billion and imports were US\$69.8 billion, showing a trade deficit of US\$4.8 billion.

The NACF was established in 1961 as the apex organisation in order to enhance the economic and social status of member farmers as well as to develop agriculture and the rural communities. At present, we have 1,468 member cooperatives, 15 provincial and city offices, 143 county offices and 355 branch offices across the country. We are doing diversified businesses and activities related to farming and rural life such as marketing, supply, banking, insurance, processing, warehousing, transportation, farm guidance, research, education and publication.

At the end of 1990, the joint shipment of farm products through cooperative

channels totalled Won 2,008 billion, representing an increase of 11.6% compared with Won 2,696 billion of the previous year and the total turnover of farm inputs and consumer goods supplied by the NACF amounted to Won 1,457 billion up 21.5% from the year before.

Deposits received by the NACF increased by 35.2% to Won 9,731 billion and loans increased by 20.4% to Won 8,093 billion. Also deposits mobilized by member cooperatives under the mutual credit scheme reached Won 11,600 billion, showing a record increase of 34.8% over the previous year.

The average business volume of Won 9 billion per cooperative reflected a substantial increase of 40.9% over the previous year's volume of Won 6 billion. The total assets of the NACF reached Won 20,667 billion, up 25.8% from the previous year. The total income increased by 10.3% to Won 439 billion from Won 398 billion of the previous

year.

We also asked the government to invest more money for the structural adjustment of our agriculture launched the Campaign to Patronize Domestic Agricultural Products, and provided various services to help member farmers produce high quality farm products to meet the consumers needs. In addition, we made efforts to reduce the production cost of agricultural products by introducing new farming technology and developing new income sources. In the coming year, we are going to face the era of localization.

Therefore, every policy will be decided and governed by residents themselves at the local government level. Based on this change the NACF has to adjust the implementation method of its businesses. I believe that the NACF and its member cooperatives will overcome these difficulties through our new agricultural cooperative movement to enhance dedication, collaboration and devotion to the cooperative cause."

Malaysia

Clamp on cooperative loans for electrical goods

Cooperatives are no longer to be allowed to offer loans to members for purchase of electrical and other household goods from specific retailers.

Deputy Land and Cooperative Development Minister Datuk Khalid Yunus said today the Ministry was unhappy with the interest collected by cooperatives from members in the transaction.

Under the existing system, cooperatives provide loans for the purchase of electrical items bought from authorized dealers or retailers.

The loans are repaid to the cooperatives with an overriding interest payable through salary deduction.

Datuk Khalid said cooperatives tend to gain from the system while members became victims by paying more than they bargained for.

"We have received a lot of complaints from members of a few cooperatives which indulged in such activities and we are forced to take a drastic measure to such loans," he added.

Datuk Khalid was speaking to reporters after opening the 23rd annual general meeting of the Malaysian Teachers Cooperative Society Limited at Asia Hotel.

"The member settles whatever amount the dealer charges for the goods not realizing that he might have been overcharged for the goods purchased. At the same time the cooperative will gain by charging interest on the loan given."

He said if the cooperatives want to help their members then they should give them loans to buy goods at any outlet and charge interest.

Nepal

Cooperative development plans for Nepal mooted

The Department of Cooperatives in Nepal was created in 1953 and three years later 13 agricultural credit cooperatives were organized as part of an integrated resettlement programme for flood-stricken people.

The cooperative movement, at present, covers 72 of the 75 districts of the country. There are 830 Multi-purpose Agricultural Cooperatives and 33 District Cooperative Unions. The number of cooperatives in the non-agricultural sector (transport, publicity, cottage industry, thrift and credit, consumer trade etc) has now reached 59. Agricultural cooperatives have more than 1.4 million members and their share-capital has added up to Rs.149 million. The main activities of agricultural cooperatives include lending, supply of farm requisites, marketing of agricultural produce, and, in some cases, produce processing (paddy, oilseeds, lintels etc.)

as well as savings mobilization. The total volume of transaction of agricultural cooperatives, including loan disbursement, was Rs. 668 million in 1989/90.

New developments

The newly-elected government recognizes cooperatives as democratic institutions of people with an important role to play in the economic development of the country in general and alleviating rural poverty in particular. The present government has, therefore, accorded high priority to the development of the cooperative movement. As an initial step an eleven-member National Cooperative Development Board has recently been formed in order to work out suitable policy guidelines, organizational patterns and legal arrangement as well as bring about coordination in the working procedures of cooperatives in different sectors and run such programmes in an integrated manner for the time being.

Policy resolutions

Immediately after its formation the National Cooperative Development Board set on to work in line with the government's expectations. The Board has adopted the following policy resolutions for the promotion and development of the cooperative movement:

- The cooperative movement shall be developed as a shield for the weak, small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, rural artisans and ordinary consumers belonging to the middle and lower income groups.
- The cooperative movement shall be built up as an autonomous, self-reliant movement, free from undue interference and excessive control, and also from politics. The autonomy of the cooperatives shall be mandated on the principle of increasing generation of internal resources, mobilizing savings in rural and urban areas, and decreasing dependence on resources from external outside financial institutions and government.
- In small areas, a strong viable and integrated cooperative system shall

be built up to promote overall and comprehensive development of the areas concerned by progressively strengthening the links between credit, supply of agricultural inputs, agricultural production, including ancillary activities like dairy, poultry, fishery and piggery, marketing and distribution of essential consumer articles.

- A network of cooperative agro-processing and industrial units shall be built up to establish gainful and economic links between the growers and the consumers.

Proposed Projects

In accordance with the special priority given to cooperative development, HAG/N regards the cooperative sector as one of the potential and important areas for bi-lateral and multi-lateral cooperation with friendly nations and various international organisations. Such cooperation may take the form of both technical as well as financial assistance for implementing a number of promising cooperative projects, particularly those relating to processing and marketing of agricultural produce.

The following projects in the Cooperative Sector are planned to be set up:

Cooperative Sugar Mill; Cooperative Skim Milk Powder Plant; Cooperative Textile Mill; Cooperative Tea Processing Plant; Cooperative Coffee Processing Plant; Cooperative Tomato Processing Plant; Cooperative Fruit Processing Plant; Cooperative Ginger Processing Plant; Cooperative Wool Processing Plant; Cooperative Carpet Factory; Ceramics Producer's Cooperative; Sericulture Development Through Cooperative; Cooperative Cattle-Feed Plant; Cooperative Marketing of Raw Fruits and Vegetables; Cooperative Management; Cooperative Training and Organisation of Rural Women.

In general the above mentioned projects will have the following objectives:

To increase the income of small farmers by enabling them to obtain a share in the value of their produce the farm gate; to help increase the production of such produce by providing farmers with

pre and post harvest support services; to help solve the marketing problems currently faced by small farmers; to help meet the increasing national demand for concerned products; to generate employment opportunities; to get participation of people in the industrial development of the country; and to help professionalize the management of cooperative.

Cooperative Movement

The National Cooperative Development Board (NCDB) is currently engaged in a two pronged strategy to address the issue at the national as well as the district level.

Sources at the NCDB said at the central level two sub-committees are working separately on the formulation of new plans, programmes and organizational structure from the grassroots level to the centre and the preparation of laws and bylaws concerning these grassroots organisations. Once this work is complete a working group will formulate income generating projects to be implemented at the cooperative level.

Employment oriented

"Those income generating activities will be employment oriented which can be carried out at the cooperative level depending on the potentiality of a particular area", Deepak Prakash Banskota, the Board's Executive Chairman said "This will facilitate to strengthen the economic sector of the cooperative management and financial status of the more than 800 existing cooperatives. The Board has dispatched 68 working groups to as many districts for the purpose.

In the last 30 years, cooperatives throughout the country worked as an extension of the government departments and remained far from meeting the aspirations and needs of the people.

But the democratic government thought that these organisations could be effective delivery organisations at the grassroots level and they need to be reinforced and reoriented towards the democratic system.

Coordination

The setting up recently of the NCDB is guided by this consideration to reinforce the cooperative movement and to bring about effective coordination in the working system of cooperative societies and unions and conduct programmes in an integrated approach. All central sajha committees set up by the bylaws of the year 2018 B.S were dissolved and the bylaws abrogated.

The Board is also to carry out all functions earlier performed by the Sajha Central Management Committee and coordinate the activities of all cooperatives.

Norms

Cooperative movement sources said will be developed and promoted in the line with the democratic character of the movement which will be based on norms adopted by International Cooperative Alliance and business efficiency of cooperative institutions.

Accordingly they will be built as one of the major instruments of decentralized, labour intensive and rural oriented economic development and will

be closely associated with the process of planning for economic development and social change.

The movement will be developed as a shield for the weak, small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, rural artisans and ordinary consumers belonging the middle and lower income group will be provided with the maximum scope to participate in the cooperative programmes and activities.

Autonomous

The cooperative movement will be built up as an autonomous self-reliant movement free from "undue" interference and excessive control. It will be kept far from politics, these sources said.

Increasing generation of internal resources mobilizing savings in small and urban areas and decreasing dependence on resources from outside financial institutions and government is what is being given priority to maintain the autonomy.

In small areas, a strong viable and integrated co-operative system is to be built up to promote overall and

comprehensive development of the area by progressively strengthening the links between credit, supply of agricultural inputs, agricultural production including ancillary activities like, dairy, poultry, fishery and piggery, marketing and distribution of essential consumer items.

Gainful

A net work of cooperative agro-processing and industrial units is to be built up to establish gainful and economic links between the grower and the consumer.

The movement will strengthen the public distribution system and act as a shield of consumer protection and also as an instrument of price stabilization.

Productive

All these activities will be focussed on that large section of the Nepalese society which has very small asset and skill but is full of potential, is productive and can generate marketable surplus if provided with basic facilities by organizing into producers or beneficiary groups through their own cooperatives.

Philippines

Natcco assembly tackles environment

On May 23-25, 1991, the 14th General Assembly (GA) of the National Confederation of Cooperatives convened in Legazpi City. There were more than a hundred delegates from the regional development centres, the mutual-aid organization, and the affiliate primary cooperatives of the NATCCO network.

It was the first time for the affiliated coops to attend the NATCCO GA meeting. With the theme "Cooperatives: Building our Community", NATCCO president Adolfo Ibanez found the participation of the affiliate coops very fitting because "coops have to work together in order to have a special impact in the community". Tackling the GA theme in workshops, the delegates

focused on two issues equally needing urgent attention and action: poverty and environment.

The poverty issue can easily be seen as within the realm of the cooperatives. After all, people form coops exactly to fight their poverty, both in the economic and social senses.

But coops and environmental issues?

At first glance, there doesn't seem to be anything much going for the tandem. But a closer look reveals that on the contrary, there are interlocking elements between the coops' socio-economic developmental endeavours and the ecological systems. There are

definitive links between the development process and environmental protection and preservation.

The continued depletion of the earth's ozone layer which filters ultra-violet rays of the sun; forest denudation which leads to changes in rainfall patterns; soil erosion, floods, and a disrupted ecosystem within the forest; destruction of coral reefs and marine life due to dynamite-fishing, muro-ami, and use of cyanide; clogged waterways because of improper garbage disposal resulting in widespread floods; and increase in bronchial diseases due to heavy air pollution are but some of the numerous environmental problems which cooperatives shall have to face. It is every person's duty to conserve, protect, and

enhance his/her environment (*Chiang Mai Declaration*); the same holds true for cooperatives.

Coops have not been lacking in actions in meeting head-on these environmental tasks. On the international front, the Central Committee of the International Cooperative Alliance (of which NATCCO is among its many members worldwide) unanimously approved in september 1990 Resolution on Environment and Development. The Resoulution urges ICA member-organizations to join in local, national, regional, and international efforts to address the issues of environment. Earlier, in May 1990, the Canadian Cooperative Association (CCA) gathered 31 representatives from its Asian partners (including NATCCO) in a bid to develop a greater awareness about environmental issues among all participants, and come up with program strategies, action plans, and follow-up activities for making environemnt an integral part of sustainable coop development. Held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, the participants pledged themselves and their respective coops to implement the recommendations of the Conference. This pledge was contained in the "Chaiang Mai Declaration" signed by all the participants.

In Czechoslovakia, coops preserve parks in urban areas, while agricultural coops employ ecological specialists. In Japan, coops produce environment-friendly soap. Coops in China are into garbage processing to recover precious metals, and produce goods for day-to-day use out of recycled materials.

Philippine coops, at least those affiliated to NATCCO, are not far behind in efforts to address environmental problems. As revealed by the NATCCO GA workshop results, premembership education seminars given to incoming coop members include teachings on the ecological situation, the values of cleanliness, and importance of environmentally friendly actions such as the use of organic instead of chemical fertilizer. Some coops also require applicant-members to plant trees prior to the approval of their membership. Coops

also encourage current members to plant trees in their vacant lots; likewise, they are advised to cut leaves and branches only, not the tree trunks, for their needs. These practices will not only save and propagate trees, but also preserve the soil. Farmer-members, especially, are encouraged to use less chemicals and pesticides.

The workshop results also revealed further steps that coops can take for the environment. Coops can source funds for environmental protection programs; they can also form a task force to link with concerned nongovernment and government organizations. More intensive educational programs are encouraged, dealing with environmental issues, and health and sanitation; information sharing can be done through news letters.

Coops can also motivate members to plant more trees an an added requirement for coop membership can be made as a rule for all coops. Coops can also protect marine life by initiating the setting up of artificial coral reefs and the planting of mangrove trees on coastal areas. Coops can lead in the implementation of Bantay-Gubat and Bantay-Dagat (Forest-Guard and Sea-Guard) programs where private citizens or groups help in looking after forests and seas.

On the organizational level, NATCCO is involved on a pilot basis with the Integrated Social Reforestry Program (ISRP) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). NATCCO assists the DENR in the formation of coops among forest dwellers so they will remain in those areas and work on the land available for production. This way, the forest dwellers are given chances to be productive, rather than becoming illegal loggers.

Indeed, there are varied and numerous ways by which cooperatives can face the task of environmental protection and enhancement. But two things are important to remember: one, to create the biggest impact, coops must be united in their efforts; two, actions should be done now, when there is still a little time left for us.

Thailand



The cooperative symbol of Thailand

The bold twists of the rope represent strength, unity of purpose, affinity and togetherness; the ladderised steps on the rope represent opportunities of growth; the circle itself is the binding force and also represents dynamism; the circle around the rope is in rainbow colours which stand for Cooperative Principles and the hues of the ICA Cooperative Flag a member of the world cooperative family; the ends of the rope represent the variety in cooperative activity. These are some of the salient features of the new Cooperative Symbol of the Thai Cooperative Movement.

The symbol is the product of a national contest launched by the Cooperative League of Thailand in December, 1989. The symbol was formally commissioned for use nationally on 26th February 1990.

Nakorn Chiangmai Coop Store:

Service to the community

The Nakorn Chiangmai cooperative store was established on 5 July 1976. This is the only community consumer cooperative stores operating in Chiangmai city. There are other small cooperative store of a closed type which are operating at the local campus, colleges, schools and government offices.

Membership: In July 1976 it started with 250 members. In 1990 its membership was 13,209. The membership is open to the public within the age group of 20-70 years.

The composition of the existing membership is as follows:

Government officials	6,043
Non-government salary earners	1,905
Housewives	1,585
Others	3,666
Total	13,209

The value of a share per unit in the coop is 100 bath. The total share capital at present (sept. 1990) is 97,317 units or 9,731,700 bath.

Board of Directors

The affairs of the Coop are managed by an elected Board of Directors, consisting of 15 directors elected every year at the annual general meeting. They elect from amongst themselves a president, for vice-presidents an honorary secretary and a treasurer.

The president of the coop, Mr. Prawin Niwaswat is a leading lawyer in the city and other members are also prominent citizens comprising government officials, medical practitioners, faculty members at university and other educational institutions, social workers and a few businessmen. They enjoy the confidence of coop membership.

Business

Nahorn Chiangmai cooperative store has 6 outlets, five of them are in the city, the other one is out of the municipal area. It is planned to set up another four outlets in surrounding districts within the next five years. Before the establishment of further stores, however, feasibility studies of the proposed areas are to be undertaken. One important guideline for the establishment of the coop store is the notification of a request from at least 300 people from the local area. The board of directors

carefully considers all proposals in making a final decision. Capital investment in the cities now is very expensive. It is perceived that growth in surrounding districts will require less capital investment and make such areas more viable.

Turnover

The annual turnover since the establishment of the coop store is shown below:

1976	905,563.20 Bht.
1980	13,763,563.50 Bht.
1986	51,404,635.30 Bht.
1990	116,188,914.80 Bht.

Structure

The Nakorn Chiangmai coop store has two main boards. One is elected by an annual general meeting. This is the Board of Directors. The other one is the executive board comprising of members elected from the Board of Directors. Their main function is to decide certain business problems when the manager is unable to make such decisions. Planning budget with management teams is also the main task of the executive board.

Future prospects and problems

Consumer cooperative Societies shall continue to play an important role in the economic development of Thailand. Just pricing and quality of products are the main principles of the coopera-

tive business. The main points which should be given more attention are how to improve cooperative efficiency and how to have better understanding and relations with coop members.

The weak point of present cooperative businesses is to hold on to old practices, and old models where the bureaucratic "redtape" style cannot respond adequately and quickly to customer demand. The bureaucratic system cannot keep pace with the private segment. The way to develop cooperative businesses is to avoid most of the bureaucratic practices and to choose more appropriate and efficient means.

The second problem which should be attended to is to make clear to members and public the ideas and structure of cooperative. Most importantly it should be made known that cooperatives are to benefit the people themselves. Cooperatives provide an alternative to other businesses and seek to service, support and cooperate with members. Nakhorn Chiangmai consumer cooperative store has always attempted to follow these principles.

U.S.S.R

Coops under attack

1991 is not going to be an easy year for cooperatives in some republics. In Armenia and Lithuania, the local governments are initiating privatisation bills aimed at selling out not only state property but also the property of consumer cooperatives. There are strong indications that the parliaments in both the republics, which are not very sympathetic to consumer cooperatives, would not hesitate to approve such legislation. The local cooperative unions have recently appealed to the ICA for help.

ICA President, Lars Marcus, responded with letters addressed to the governments of Armenia and Lithuania in support of cooperatives. As a result, the liquidation process has been suspended temporarily and the ICA has been invited by both republics for a dialogue on the future of cooperative development.

UN AND COOP

First meeting of NEDAC held

The first meeting of the Network for the Development of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia and Pacific region (NEDAC) was held at Bangkok, 10-11 December, 1991.

Programme of work and Budget - 1992 (PWB-92)

Priority is given in the planned activities for 1992 to the following programmes which have been included because they were requested by member institutions during the prepa-

ratory discussions.

- i. Exchange of Information and Experiences of policies and programmes among participating countries;
- ii. Compilation of such information into a compendium;
- iii. Preparation of a bibliography of all available literature on agricultural cooperatives in the region;

(Continued on page 29)

NEDAC meeting...Contd from p. 28.)

- iv. Conducting staff-exchange programmes;
- v. Senior executives study/observation programmes to a selected number country.

Welcome to Bangkok and to FAO Regional office for Asia and the Pacific. We are all gathered together here to lay the foundation of a people's network---the network for the Development of Agricultural Cooperatives for the Asia and the Pacific. I consider it a special privilege for me to address you at this occasion, on behalf of my Director General, my colleagues in FAO and myself.

The network is expected to provide a common forum for both policy makers and cooperative leaders to review issues, identify constraints affecting the promotion and development of agricultural cooperatives and to recommend appropriate measures necessary to resolve them as and when they arise in the day to day operations.

It is also an important vehicle for promoting technical cooperation among developing countries. Learning each other, and helping each other by sharing of expertise and experience through a 'regional dialogue' by availing and supporting a regional institution like NEDAC is to be commended.

Statement by Mr. J.M. Servais, Deputy Director

In his statement he said that ILO's work with cooperatives takes place partly through its permanent set-up and partly through technical assistance projects. The permanent set-up consists of the COOP branch at headquarters in Geneva and of Regional Advisers on Cooperatives attached to each of ILO's four regional offices (South America, Africa, the middle East and Asia). This set-up together with ILO's administrative machinery, constitutes the mechanism for helping to identify the need for technical assistance, for helping to prepare project proposals, for keeping in contact with cooperative organisations and for providing limited direct advice and assistance. The

COOP branch and the Regional Advisers are funded by the ILO's regular budget, to which its 150 member countries make annual contributions. The implementation of technical assistance programmes- ILO projects -is normally in the hands of the local counterpart organisation together with an ILO or or nationally employed project coordinator. The funding of cooperative projects is normally provided either by the UNDP (out of the concerned country's total UNDP allocation) or by an individual donor country. Certain shorter projects or other less costly assistance may however be funded from ILO's regular budget. (As an example I can tell you that ILO's assistance in helping cooperative movement representatives participate in this meeting is paid from its regular budget.)

Apart from ILO's contribution to cooperative development through technical assistance projects and through participation in meetings such as this, I should also like to mention ILO'S 'Recommendation (number 127 of 1967) concerning the Role of Cooperatives in the Economic and Social Development of developing countries". This recommendation is very valid, also for the countries of this region, and is presently being reviewed and updated to reflect new trends and developments. The recommendation deals with objectives, policies, legislation, education, training, supervision and financial assistance and specifies the desired relationship between the government and the cooperative movement.

In respect of financial assistance to cooperatives, the ILO Recommendation states that it "should not entail any obligations contrary to the independence or interests of cooperatives, and should be designed to encourage rather than replace the initiative and efforts of the members of the cooperatives".

This leaves NEDAC with some very practical but important challenges:

1. The annual member contributions will have to be paid regularly and probably it will be necessary to find ways of increasing them in order to make NEDAC a self-reliant and in-

dependent institution. To achieve this, the delegates will need to convince their home organisations of the usefulness of NEDAC.

2. In cases where additional contributions come from governments, it must be ensured that cooperative movement's participation is not proportionally decreased and that it does not affect the independence of cooperative organisations.
3. Pending full self-sustainability of NEDAC, it will be necessary to seek further technical assistance from outside sources. Also here it will be necessary to prove that NEDAC seeks to achieve its objectives and aims at economic independence.

This network is a outcome of the offer made by ADG/FAO in Singapore Consultation convened by the ICA Regional office in June 1988 which was later on endorsed by the Cooperative Ministers' Conference in Sydney in February 1990. In the offer made by the FAO in Singapore Consultation, the objectives visualized were : (i) to sensitive governments for the need to recognize potential of cooperatives role in various sectors: (ii) to provide forum for exchange of information: (iii) to promote TCDC: and iv) to demonstrate and disseminate success stories in regard to innovative interaction between governments and cooperatives.

The obligations of members anticipated were (i) to provide information on the status of national cooperative situation: and (ii) to attend meetings of Network as far as possible, at their own expenses.

Since then this is the third meeting convened by RAPA, in which 2 were first of to promotional o the network and I am sure during this meeting concrete work programme will be worked out. Since the last Sydney Conference in February 1990 we have followed-up its recommendations and a good progress has been achieved in this regard. This is evident from the five national workshops organized this year as also the consultation of Permanent Secretaries responsible for Cooperative Development and Chief Executives of Umbrella organizations held

in Manila last month. Copies of the recommendations will be made available during the meeting. The Recommendations of the Consultation will be considered in the Cooperative ministers Conference to be held in Jakarta from 18th to 21st February 1992.

Mr. G.K. Sharma, Regional Director, ICA/ROAP, mentioned that there has been a very encouraging follow-up of the recommendations at national level of the Sydney Conference.

Most remarkable one could be noticed in the Philippines where the government has introduced in principle of "subsidiarity". The principle of subsidiarity as explained in article 2 last para of the cooperative code means that cooperatives generally must organize, regulate and help themselves with cooperative assistance only when necessary. Government has thus practically withdrawn itself from giving directions or managing the affairs of cooperatives and have transferred all its responsibilities by creating a independent body in the name of cooperatives developmet authority (CDA). Even this body has no authority to force things on the cooperatives.

The Philippines Cooperative Code provides very liberal tax exemptions under clause 61 which states: "Tax Treatment of Cooperatives - Duly registered cooperative under this code which do not transact any business with nonmembers or the general public shall not be subject to any government taxes or fees imposed under the internal revenue laws and other tax laws. Cooperative not falling under this article shall be governed by the succeeding section."

Even those cooperatives who deal with non-members have been provided liberal tax concessions under Article 62 which states "Tax and other Exemptions- Cooperative transacting business with both members and nonmembers shall not be subject to tax on other transactions to members. Notwithstanding the provisions of any law or regulations to the contrary. Such cooperatives dealing with nonmembers shall enjoy the following tax exemptions.

1. *Cooperatives with accumulated reserves and undivided net savings of not more than Ten Million Pesos (P10,000,000.00) shall be exempt from all national, city, provisional, municipal or barangay taxes of whatever name and nature. Such cooperatives shall be exempt from customs duties, advance sales or compensating taxes on their importation of machineries, equipment and spare parts used by them and which are not available locally as certified by the Department of Trade and Industry. All tax free importations shall not be transferred to any person until after five year otherwise the cooperation and the transferee or assignee shall be solidarity liable to pay twice the amount of the tax and \or duties thereon.*
- 2) *Cooperatives with accumulated reserves and undivided net savings of more than Ten Million pesos (P 10,000,000.00) shall pay the income taxes at the full rate and sales tax after 10 years."*

On the other hand, penal provisions have been provided to ensure that no public official interferes with the working of cooperatives as also the elected officials do not misuse resources of cooperatives. They could be punished with a penalty of imprisonment of not less than one year and not more in five years and /or a fine of 5,000 Pesos under Articles 124.

The new Cooperative Laws of the Philippines is an example to what extent government can support cooperatives and still let them manage their own affairs. The UN Secretary General's latest report 2nd draft October 12991 on "Cooperatives Status and Role" has recommended that the Philippines model which insists on the related principle of "Subsidiarity" and self reliance be widely defused and utilised. I hope the members of the network will try to study this Philippine Cooperative Laws and make use of them to the maximum extent.

A new model cooperative law has been drafted in India which is also very progressive as also several amendments in cooperative laws are being

considered in Sri Lanka. The Jakarta Conference will further accelerate this positive trend.

ICA gives great importance to this Network as in this forum we could have a very healthy and free exchange of ideason the various problems being faced by the cooperatives and measures which are needed to overcome them by the Government and Cooperatives logistics.

World Conference on Women, 1995

We recently received the report of the 35th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women which was held in Vienna from 27 February-8 March 1991. Among the issues of interest, was the discussion on the preparations for the World Conference on Women.

The UN Commission on the status of Women decided to hold World Conference on Women in 1995. The sub-titles of the Fourth World Conference on women:

**Remove the Obstacles Now
Women: Half the World -
Half the Power
Women: Mobilizing for Power -
Acting for Change
Social Justice for Women**

Our readers say.....

Just a short note to congratulate you and others who help you on the contents of the ICA Asia-Pacific Coop News (July-Sep 91). It is full of interesting material and I have read it from cover to cover. The information on the discussions on Cooperative Government Collaborative Strategies was of particular interest.

Keep up the good work.

Dr. Suren K. Saxena (Former ICA Director)

..Thank you for the periodical copies of the "Asia-Pacific Co-operative News" which keep us informed on the events and happenings throughout the Region.

Without making any guaranteed commitments, it is intended to provide you with periodical up-dates on A.A.C.'s activities as may be relevant to the readership of the "Asia-Pacific Co-operative News".

Berridge Hume-Phillips
Asst. Gen. Manager of AAC

Some thoughts on the ILO Recommendation No.127

III. The reference to land and agrarian reforms was relevant in the sixties - but not that much today.

III A. The focus should be more strongly on cooperatives as economic enterprises and on economic benefits for the members. The social and other policy objectives to be there but with considerably less emphasis.

III B. (1) There should be strong emphasis on modernisation of cooperative legislation: to bring it line with ICA's definition of cooperation. ILO as a governmental organisation would have a role here to influence on governments the necessity of change.

III C 2. It has been detrimental to a sound development of the co-

operatives to maintain, more often than not, oversized government cooperative departments as is still the case in many developing countries. At one point of time it may have been motivated to give support to the cooperatives from the governments. That time is no more.

It is time the ILO realizes that their approach of working with and through the government bureaucracies is a fundamentally wrong approach. It is an approach of yesterday. This approach, however good the intentions are, always serves to strengthen the grip of the governments over the cooperatives.

From this follows logically that resources hitherto channeled through eg.

ILO/ FAO should now be made available to non-governmental organisations who are in a position to work directly with the cooperative organisations in developing countries by-passing the governments.

V. The prime concern of the cooperatives is to concentrate on their business operations. Experience from developing countries tells us that it is a tough enough job to develop economically successful cooperatives. To expect the cooperatives struggling to achieve economic viability to undertake non-commercial non-profit making activities at their own cost is unrealistic dreaming.

An economically viable rural multipurpose cooperative society is in fact in itself a rural welfare organisation.

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Principles of Cooperation

1. Membership of a cooperative society should be voluntary and available without artificial restriction or any social, racial or religious discrimination, to all persons who can make use of its services and are willing to accept the responsibilities of membership.
2. Cooperative societies are democratic organisations. Their affairs should be administered by persons elected or appointed in a manner agreed by the members and accountable to them. Members of primary societies should enjoy equal rights of voting (one member, one vote) and participation in decisions affecting their societies. In other than primary societies, the administration should be conducted on a democratic basis in a suitable form.
3. Share capital should only receive a strictly limited rate of interest, if any.
4. Economic results arising out of the operations of a society belong to the members of that society and should be distributed in such a manner as would avoid one member gaining at the expense of others. This may be done by decision of members as follows:
 - a. By provision for development of the business of the cooperative;
 - b. By provision of common services; or
 - c. By distribution among the members in proportion to their transactions with the society.
5. All cooperative societies should make provision for the education of their members, officers and employees and of the general public, in the principles and techniques of cooperation, both economic and democratic.
6. All cooperative organisations, in order to best serve the interests of their members and their communities should actively cooperate in every practical way with other cooperatives at local, national and international levels.

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