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ASIA-PACIFIC COOPERATIVE NEWS

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International Cooperative Alliance

ICA REGIONAL OFFICE NEWS

AN APPLAUSE FOR SAARCCO

By : Robby Tulus

Senior Policy Advisor, ICA ROAP

A new historic milestone was set with the signing of an official Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by co-operative delegates from five SAARC member countries, namely Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, regarding the formation of the SAARC Co-operative Organization (SAARCCO). A consensus has also been reached regarding the entire wording of the SAARCCO CONSTITUTION, which document will be ratified by all respective Ministers from all the five countries during the Third Co-operative Ministers' Conference in July 1994.

SAARCCO was organized during a workshop called the "SAARC Co-operative Forum" held in Colombo from March 3 to 5, 1994.

The Honorable Minister of Food, Co-operatives and Janasaviya, Mr. Weerasinghe Mallimaratchi, inaugurated the event during a colourful opening ceremony at the Bandarnaike Memorial International Convention Hall (BMICH) on March 3, 1994. The opening ceremony was attended by no less than 400 Co-operative leaders from all over Sri Lanka, and witnessed by the co-operative delegates from five SAARC member countries. The Honorable State Minister for Food and Co-operatives, Mr. Ravindra Samaraweera, and other officials from the Ministry also attended the opening ceremony, flanked

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- Editor

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by delegates from the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) composed of Messrs. Bruce Thordarson (Director General), G.K. Sharma (Regional Director), and Robby Tulus (Senior Policy Advisor).

India was officially represented by the Joint Secretary and Central Registrar of Co-operatives, Mr. Bharat Singh, as well as the Chief Executive of the National Co-operative Union, Mr. B.D. Sharma, and two other observers. Bangladesh delegate was Mr. Haque, Registrar of Co-operatives, whereas Nepal was represented by Mr. Banskota from National Co-operative federation. Pakistan was represented by Mr. Riazuddin Ahmad, President of the National Co-operative Federation, whereas the official delegates from Sri Lanka were Messrs. T.P.G.N. Leelaratne, S.B. Divaratne, Lionel Samarasinghe and seven other delegates from the entire co-operative sector.

The successful event has its own unique and interesting history. First, it is worth noting that during the short period of its existence, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) has made significant progress in its efforts to strengthen understanding and collaboration between the governments from all its seven members (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka), and in paving the way for greater people-to-people contact among the people in the region.

Secondly, the acceptance of the SAARC Convention on Terror-

ism and the adoption of the South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement (SAPTA) coupled with the steps taken to ensure Food Security in the region show quite clearly the keenness of the respective governments to use SAARC as a means for greater collaboration to ensure peace, progress and prosperity. Several initiatives have also been taken at non-governmental level in many fields to bring the people of the region closer for better understanding and for greater regional solidarity.

And last but not least, it is against this background of significant achievements by SAARC that the Government of Sri Lanka, the National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka, with the support of the International Co-operative Alliance, have expressed their keen interest in promoting closer collaboration among co-operatives in the SAARC member countries.

During an Asia-Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference held in Jakarta, Indonesia, in February 1992, the possibility of establishing a Co-operative Forum among countries in the SAARC region was explored. Though it was not in the agenda for discussions, representatives of the countries from the SAARC region who attended the Conference informally discussed this pertinent subject matter.

It is gratifying to note that responses to this initiative by the governments of other SAARC countries and the respective co-operative movements have been very positive. It certainly augurs

well for strengthening further collaborative endeavours and for fostering closer cooperation and interaction between the co-operative movements of the region.

It is well-known that in all SAARC member countries, except perhaps in Bhutan and in Maldives, co-operatives continue to play a significant role in the development process. It is especially so in respect of the less privileged and those with limited means, who find in the co-operative the only economic institution at the grassroots level which they can own and to which they can have access to, and through which they could aspire to getting actively involved in the development process.

The SAARC Co-operative Forum was held with the main objectives to:

- * Recognize the Forum as an entity having the authority to promote regional cooperation;
- * Promote inter-cooperative trade among member countries;
- * Use this Forum as an intensified lobby for promoting government-movement relations;
- * Form strategic alliances with national co-operative organizations; and
- * Draw up plans for enhancing co-operative business networks.

The main agenda at the SAARC Co-operative Forum was an in-depth discussion of the Draft Constitution among SAARC

member countries, and the consensus reached.

SANSA holds South Asian Top Leaders Conference

It is interesting to note that the SANASA Federation with the support of the Canadian Co-operative Association has held a South Asian top level Leaders' Consultation during the period of February 24-28, 1994, with a view to identifying specific issues and areas of collaboration and interaction through the SAARC Co-operative Forum. This Consultation was attended by very experienced cooperators from India and Sri Lanka, from ACCU (Asian Confederation of Credit Unions), ICA ROAP, and also those from Canada, Japan, Sweden, U.K., the USA. Unfortunately, representatives from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Nepal, missed their timely arrangement to arrive in Colombo for the Consultation despite their confirmed acknowledgement and flight bookings. However, they came in time to participate in the SAARC Co-operative Forum. The consultation had the benefit of many experts like Dr. S.K. Saxena, Ex. Director of ICA, Mr. S.S. Puri, Former Additional Director General of FAO and Mr. J.M. Rana the ex-experts of ICA. The conclusions and recommendations of this Consultation have been incorporated as conclusions of the SAARC Co-operative Forum, to help map out its strategies for future action.

It is intended that these recommendations along with the decision of the SAARC Co-operative Forum will be placed before the

Asia-Pacific Co-operative Regional Consultation to be held in Malaysia in April 1994, and will eventually be brought before the Meeting of Asia-Pacific Co-operative Ministers Conference.

The co-operative movements in Asia, now faced with the many challenges arising from deregulation, liberalisation and globalisation of economy, will find these many moves at the highest levels of co-operative activity a source of strength to consolidate their positions and to provide the necessary support and assistance to the many with limited means and thus ensure for them a better and more rewarding life in the future.

The hard work and collaborative efforts of Mr. S.B. Divaratne as Co-operative Commissioner and Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Mr. Lionel Samarasinghe as President of the National Co-operative Council, Mr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya as President of the SANASA Federation, under the overall supervision of Mr. T.P.G.N. Leelaratne, has indeed borne positive fruits for the SAARC Region and hopefully beyond.

Regional Consultation on "Cooperative-Government Collaborative Strategies in the Asia-Pacific Region".

The Regional Consultation on "Cooperative-Government Collaborative Strategies in the Asia-Pacific Region", is going to be held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia between 17 and 22 April '94. Chief Executives of all Apex Organizations of Member-Countries of

ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and the Permanent Secretaries to the Governments in Member-Countries have been invited. Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA), Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organization (AARRO), Swedish Co-operative Centre (SCC), International Labour Office (ILO), Food and Agriculture organization (FAO), Asean Coop. Organization (ACO), Society De Development International (SDID) etc. have also been invited as Observers. It is expected that between 40 and 60 delegates and observers will be attending this meeting. The main objectives of the Consultation are as follows :

- i. To review the conclusions and recommendations arising from national and sub-regional seminars (ASEAN & SAARC) for due submission to the 3rd Cooperative Ministers' Conference to be held in Colombo (Sri Lanka) in July 1994.
- ii To submit the final recommendations for due ratification at the Ministers' Conference.
- iii To discuss the ICAROAP proposal regarding an "International Cooperative Forum" for the Asia Pacific region.
- iv To finalise the conceptual framework on "Cooperative Competitiveness" in the face of structural adjustment programmes being actively pursued in the region.

CONVENTION ON BASIC VALUES AND COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES HELD IN GOA FROM 10TH TO 12TH JANUARY 1994

The Indian Society for Studies in Cooperation organised their 14th Convention on Basic Values and Cooperative Principles in collaboration with the University of Goa. The Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, Government of Goa, Mr. Francisco Sardina, gave the inaugural address. Other speakers during the inauguration of the Convention were Dr. P.R. Dubashi, Vice-Chancellor, University of Goa; and Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, President, National Cooperative Union of India. Most of the about 50 participants represented different training institutions.

After a general discussion on the subject, the participants were divided into six groups, each group discussing one of the six Cooperative Principles. The group reports were presented to the plenary and a lively exchange of views followed. Some of the views expressed by the groups were as follows :

- A number of values suggested by Mr. Lars Marcus, ICA President and Mr. Sven-Ake Book in his report are not peculiar to cooperatives only;
- Qualification for cooperative membership should be based on the need and willingness of the member to make use of the services of the society;
- Persons as pure investors of capital should not be eligible for membership;

- Nominal membership should not be allowed;
- The role of the Registrar of Cooperatives should be similar to that of a Registrar of Companies;
- Voting right should be connected to member performance as laid down in the by-laws of a society;
- Election to the Board should be without "assistance" by the government;
- The present upper limit of interest on share capital should be relaxed, a flexible arrangement with a built in element of automobility should be found;
- A scheme of subordinate share capital to be intro-

duced without connected to any voting right;

- The surplus of a cooperative society should, to a greater extent, be used to build up internal reserves and funds;
- The principle on education should be reformulated as principle of Human Resource Development; and
- Cooperation among cooperatives is one of the most important principles. Vertical and horizontal cooperation, cooperation between different types of cooperatives, cooperation to avoid competition among cooperatives and international cooperation in business, education, joint ventures, etc. are important areas of cooperation among cooperatives.

REPORT FROM A STUDY VISIT TO COOPERATIVES IN UZBEKISTAN

for 5 days in February by Mr. Malte Jonsson, SDA.

Some facts about the Cooperative Movement

All types of cooperative societies are part of the consumer cooperative movement. There are 84 District Consumer Cooperative Societies in 162 Districts affiliated to 13 Regional Cooperative Unions which form the Uzbek Republican Union of Consumer Societies called "Uzbekbrlyashuv" (1992). The movement has 3.6 million shareholders/members and 222,000 employees. The employees are also members.

The District Unions elect representatives to the General Assembly of the Regional Unions which elect 500 representatives to the General Assembly of the Uzbek Union, which elects a Council of 130 members and they, in their turn, elect the Board of 9 persons for a period of 5 years. The next General Assembly of Uzbek Union will be held in early April and the new Board will be elected in July 1994.

The Chairmen and Vice-chairmen are the executives of the cooperatives. The minimum

share capital per member is 5,000 Russian Roubles and maximum 20,000 Roubles.

The activities of the cooperatives are mainly retail and wholesale trade of food and nonfood through more than 19,000 shops, but also public catering for school with a large number of cafes, workplace dining rooms and restaurants, food processing, (canning of vegetables, fruit juice, meat processing, bread/cakes), breweries for beer/soft drinks, agriculture production, cattle fattening, slaughterhouses, transport, book stores, import/export business, etc.

The market share of the cooperatives in retail trade was before the Perestroika about 80% and is now down to about 20%.

Cooperative training and education is carried out at one National Cooperative Institute for training on university level, 4 Cooperative Colleges for middle level staff training and several technical and professional training schools. Member education activities may be carried out.

According to the turnover of the coop societies, 0.5% is transferred to the Education Fund of the Uzbek Union.

At the end of March 1994, a book in English and Russian about the Cooperative Movement in Uzbekistan will be available, printed in Malaysia and published by Uzbekbryashuv.

General Comments

Mr. Malte Jonsson was given a very warm and friendly reception by all persons whom he met

during the programme. He visited the Uzbek Union, Regional Cooperative Unions, local cooperative societies, a great number of consumer cooperative shops, processing factories for fruits and vegetables and had the opportunity to test the local dishes at a great number of cooperative restaurants.

Cooperative shops are found even in the smallest village. As the distribution of consumer goods is uncontrolled by the government, with the exception of some basic foodstuff, the managers of the cooperative shops have a great responsibility to find consumer goods for sale in the local market. Some managers have also established joint ventures with producers abroad.

Even in comparison to India, prices of consumer goods are very low. There is plenty of food available in the market, and most of it is sold through private merchants or directly by the producer. Besides the commercial activities, Malte also visited the Samarkand Cooperative Institute and the College. He made a presentation on ICA and its activities in the Asia and the Pacific Region for the students and faculty of the Institute. His impression was that the students were very eager to learn about the cooperatives in other countries. Visiting Samarkand was of course in itself a fascinating experience. Standing in front of the impressive and beautiful mausoleums and mosques built at the time of Tamerlane one is overwhelmed by a feeling of respect for the people who once could create such masterpieces.

4th Meeting of the Steering Group of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation (ESCAP), Kathmandu, 8-11 March 1994.

The ICA ROAP was invited to the above meeting as observer. Mr. Malte Jonsson, Senior Development Advisor, represented the ICA.

The meeting was attended by about 50 persons representing the governments of 18 countries in Asia-Pacific, five countries from outside the geographical scope of the Commission, UNDP, ILO, World Bank, IMF, ITU, SAARC, ACCU and two international NGOs: ICA and WASME. The 18 countries were represented through their Ambassadors/Embassy staff, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Planning Commission.

The meeting was opened by the Vice-Chairman of the National Planning Commission of His Majesty's Government of Nepal.

The following six papers were presented and discussed: (i) Review of the economic situation and outlook in the region; (ii) Revised action programme for regional economic cooperation in endogenous technological capability-building for investment-related technology transfer; (iii) Regional cooperation and infrastructure development; (iv) Report on implementation of the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Trade and Investment; (v) Preliminary review of the emerging issues

relating to the liberalisation and opening up of the economies in transition; and (vi) Provisional agenda for the 5th meeting of the Steering Group.

Many valuable suggestions were added to the original text produced by the secretariat.

The Executive Secretary of ESCAP indicated that the action programme focused on the catalytic role of ESCAP in promoting cooperation in the Asian and Pacific regions in the areas of technology information exchange, technology transfer, human resources development, the upgrading of the technology of small and medium industries, and metrology and quality control.

The main theme was Regional Economic Cooperation and in what fields and how this cooperation can be strengthened. Almost no reference was made to the private sector and nothing at all about the cooperative sector. It was interesting to note how seriously the delegates scrutinised the different statements. The Russian Federation wanted to be a permanent member of ESCAP. A lively discussion took place when the question of participation of members outside the geographical scope of the Commission was on the agenda. The countries concerned were France, UK, USA, the Netherlands and the Russian Federation. The point was that France strongly argued against the actual situation that there is a stand-

ing point on the agenda for the delegates to agree to invite these countries for the following Steering Group Meeting. No solution could be found and the matter was referred to the Meeting of the Committee for Regional Economic cooperation which will meet in New Delhi in April 1994.

Item 5 on the Agenda "Revised Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Endogenous Technological Capability-Building for Investment related Technology Transfer", took special long time to discuss. A special point for discussion was transfer of medium and low levels of technology to advanced developing countries. It was difficult to agree on if it should be relatively older, less advanced, etc. technology and to whom. Another point for long discussions was the result of the Uruguay Round on multilateral trade. The agreements reached in favour of regional economic cooperation and the suggestion that the developed countries should open their markets for agricultural and textile products provoked reservations from some delegations. A discussion of about four hours on the content and wording of the draft Report terminated the meeting. The next meeting of the Steering Group will be held in China on the invitation of the Chinese delegation.

ICA ROAP Expands on Consultancy Services.

Mr. W.U. Herath, the HRD Advisor at the ICA Regional

Office for Asia and the Pacific has undertaken various consultancy projects for the Swedish Co-operative Centre, the ICA's major partner in development.

One such consultancy was for conducting a study and preparing a project document for the Improvement of Education and Training System in Sri Lanka. The project is now under implementation.

Another study was done in collaboration with Mr. Folke Albinson, Consultant to the SCC, on the need for the revival of Leadership Development Programme in Asia. This report has also been finalised and is now under active consideration of the SCC.

Several follow-up consultancies on the Education and Training Project has since been undertaken.

The HRD Advisor is also proceeding to Fiji and other Pacific islands to undertake a Feasibility study on consumer co-operative movements in those countries. This consultancy study will be done in collaboration with the Consumer Advisor of the ICA ROAP, Mr. Pradit Machima. The consultancy has been requested by the Japanese Consumers Co-operative Union (JCCU), another major development partner of the ICA.

ICA CONSULTANCY TO THE REGISTRY OF COOPERATIVES, NSW AUSTRALIA

On 22-23 November 1993 Hon'ble Garry West, Minister for Local Government and Cooperatives, NSW Australia; Mr. Garry Payne, Director-General, Department for Local Government and Cooperatives; and Ms. Dianne McDougall, Executive Officer to the Minister, visited ICA ROAP in New Delhi and held discussions with Mr. Claes Thorselius, Deputy-Director General of ICA; Mr. G.K. Sharma, ICA Regional Director; and other ICA staff. Both parties agreed to strengthen collaboration between the Registry of Cooperatives, NSW and the ICA in view of the positive and productive collaboration during 1993. As a result of this visit, an agreement in relation to cooperation between the Registry of Cooperatives, NSW and the ICA was signed in December 1993 by the two parties. In accordance with this agreement the ACDA was instructed by the ICA to work at the Registry of Cooperatives in January 1994 to implement the agreement. The main tasks the ACDA was given by the ICA and the Registry for this period were :

- i. To continue coordination of two projects in Coonamble, namely, wool processing and feedlot projects; and
- ii. To identify new projects of mutual interest to NSW based cooperatives and to identify the most suitable overseas co-

operative partners for these projects.

In close collaboration with all officers of Cooperative Development branch of the Registry some progress has been made on the two areas.

The ACDA kept close consultation with the All China Federation of supply and Marketing Cooperatives (ACFSMC), Wujiang Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives (WFSMC), and Coonamble Wool Processing Cooperative, Australia, in order to clarify each party's position and finally solved the difference on the project proposal and made a good step ahead on the project. In January 1994 WFSMC finalised their business plan of top-making plant which was presented to Coonamble Wool Processing Cooperative and Coonamble Wool Processing Cooperative has contracted the consultants to conduct business planning for the scour operation which is expected to be completed by the end of March 1994. A plan for a Chinese delegation's visit to Coonamble for business discussion on the business plans was prepared which will take place some time in May 1994.

In January 1994 the ACDA also attended a board meeting of Coonamble Feedlot and Beef Marketing Cooperative

(CFBMC) at which the feasibility study report on feedlot project prepared by the consultants was discussed. The report has been finalised recently which indicates that Coonamble Feedlot and Beef Marketing Cooperative has the basis and ability for a successful business venture in Coonamble. The report has been presented to the annual general meeting of Coonamble Feedlot and Beef Marketing Cooperative and will be sent to potential joint venture partners.

In order to identify new projects of mutual interest to NSW based cooperatives and to identify the most suitable overseas cooperative partners for these projects, a number of meetings were arranged at the Registry Office to discuss with Murray Grey Beef Marketing Cooperative, Ausgro Cooperative, NSW Rice Growers Cooperative, and Sunny Coast Export Cooperative Limited to start preliminary preparation of new project proposals. At the moment one project proposed by Sunny Coast Export Cooperative Limited to export fresh fruits and vegetables has been identified as a potential project and some initial contacts have been made. However, it is strongly felt that in order to identify new projects properly there is a need to organise a one-day seminar in Sydney for NSW cooperatives. Now the Registry has planned to conduct this seminar on 17th May 1994 in Sydney. Mr. G.K. Sharma, ICA Regional Director, will also attend the seminar.

CICOPA PROJECT TAKES A SWING

Mr. Y. Regis Chairman, CICOPA, France visited India from 26th January to 6th February 94. The mission of the visit was to have pre-evaluation of CICOPA activities in India and collaborate with various International Agencies on the key issues concerning management & marketing skills of Industrial and Producers co-operatives in the fold of CICOPA Pilot Project. Mr Regis visited the identified co-operatives in Jaipur, Muradabad and Bangalore. He showed keen interest in the members' involvement in the overall operations of the primary coops. He made categorical assertions with Govt. of Rajasthan, NABARD and the nodal Co-operative agencies to come out with liberal and flexible approach to revamp the destructured Co-operative network at grass -root level. He even advised the Govt. of Rajasthan to make necessary amendments in their Coop Act

in order to include Women Co-operators in the movement. Mr. Regis appreciated the groupment concept promoted by Mr Rajiv I.D. Mehta, CICOPA consultant Delhi Unit. Mr Regis proposed a similar preposition to metalware Coops in Muradabad U.P. State of India and advised them to work united under the umbrella of ICA-CICOPA/NCUI Pilot Project. Mr Regis was quite impressed to see women Cooperatives in Bangalore. He met most of the women coop leaders of Karnataka. Before leaving Mr Regis had detailed discussions on the Pilot project in ICA, ROAP and NCUI. He confirmed CICOPA assistance till Dec, 95 Mr Regis also extended invitations to 15 Coop leaders from India to participate in the 4th World Conference of CICOPA Scheduled to be held in Vittoria, Spain from 6th to 10th June 94.

NEW GENDER PROGRAMME OFFICER UNDERTAKES FIELD STUDIES

Ms. Akiko Yamauchi, the new Gender Programme Advisor at the ICA Regional Officer in Asia and the Pacific has undertaken her first field visit to Co-operatives in Western India and Sri Lanka.

She was accompanying Ms. Turi Hammer, a Gender Consultant, engaged by the ICA, Geneva to draft a Global Action Plan for Women in Co-operative Development.

The objective of Ms. Hammer's and Ms. Yamauchi's visit were to know the structures and activities in co-operatives in India and Sri Lanka, to understand the functions and roles of co-operatives, to get the views of co-operative

leaders on activities and plans on women's involvement in co-operative activities and to know the status of integration of men and women in co-operatives in the Region.

They have visited the National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka, The Women's Bureau in the Ministry of Health and women, National Federation of Fisheries Co-operatives, Warakapola Co-operative Society, and the Thrift and Credit Co-operative Union in Sri Lanka. In India, they visited SEWA in Ahmedabad, Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Co-operative Management, Bhagini Nivedita Co-operative Bank,

Phurusungi Dairy Co-operative and Maharashtra State Co-operative Union.

Ms. Yamauchi felt that there has been very good relations between the co-operatives and government organisations in India as she noticed that the Government's Integrated Rural Development Programme has helped dairy co-operatives in Maharashtra. She found well organized co-operative training programmes in the Indian training institutions and women's involvement, especially in the Thrift and Credit sector, is very well developed as in the case of Bhagini Nivedita Co-operative Bank, which is a fully women-managed bank.

Ms. Yamauchi felt that there is a considerable amount of Gender Awareness in the co-operatives in Sri Lanka and women have almost equal opportunity in the decision-making process, though much could be done on these lines.

She was very much impressed with the activities of the Warakapola primary co-operative, which is also receiving some government assistance under the Janasaviya poverty alleviation scheme.

Regarding the Gender Integration programme of the Regional Office, Ms. Yamauchi mentioned that the target groups which are intended are: States and administrative bodies, member organisations, training institutions, financial institutions, women's groups, etc. and she is looking into various possibilities of reaching these target groups.

She said that the role of the ICA Regional Office for improving gender integration are to (a) research the real situation on gender integration in the region, (b)

collect information on replicable examples of integration activities, (c) setting up a network of these kinds of activities to en-

courage co-operators and to prepare a gender awareness manual to suit the particular situation in the Region.

STAFF NEWS

Ms. Akiko Yamauchi, Gender Programme Advisor, ICA ROAP

The International Cooperative Alliance has appointed Ms. Akiko Yamauchi, a Japanese National, to be the Gender Advisor at the ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) in New Delhi. She has assumed office on 15/3/94.

She is on secondment from the ICA's member-organisation in Japan viz. the Japanese consumer Coop Union (JCCU). Ms. Akiko is a History Graduate from Kyoto University of Japan. She has worked at various senior positions in JCCU Japan, including that of the Secretary to JCCU Women's Council before joining the ICA.

Gender Programme Adviser shall be responsible for the following:-

1. to oversee and take stock of the current level of involvement/ development of women in cooperative development in the region;
2. to facilitate the implementation of the programmes for gender integration in cooperatives as per ICA plan of work -1994-1997;

3. to organise and support national and international meetings on women-related issues with a view to develop concrete projects of technical assistance qualifying for external funding support;
4. to follow-up the recommendations of the Gender Planning Conference held in 1993.

ICAROAP STAFF GESTURE TO EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

ICAROAP staff contributed one day's salary to the Indian Prime Minister's National Relief Fund for the earthquake victims in Maharashtra and Karnataka State of India which was devastated in September last year. In appreciation of ICAROAP staff gesture the Prime Minister's office has sent the following thanks giving letter on 24th March, 1994:-

"The Prime Minister conveys his thanks to the members of ICA Staff Association for the contribution made towards the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund. The Prime Minister appreciates the gesture."

Yunus, a university professor, first set up a Grameen Bank in Zobra village in south eastern Chittagong. While conventional banks dealt with people who have money, the Grameen Bank worked only with the poor and the land less, mainly women, lending money without asking for any collateral.

The winner of the Magsaysay and several other awards, Yunus launched this banking revolution after surveying the life of the poor of Zobra village. He persuaded commercial bank officials to extend small loans to the poor without security. Yunus himself stood guarantor for the loans and ensured that the money was properly used and repaid on time.

He set up groups of five like minded women and asked them to submit small weekly repayment instalments at a local shop, thus ensuring that all the loans were repaid, and proving wrong the bankers' traditional view that the poor defaulted on loans.

"From my bitter experience of arranging loans for the poor, I was convinced that the traditional banking techniques should be replaced" Yunus said.

So he took two years' leave from the university to work on his plans for the bank. In 1976, he opened a sub-office of the Grameen Bank in Zobra with assistance from the Bangladesh Agricultural Bank on an experimental basis. His two years of hard work in Zobra and adjoining areas paid off. Most borrowers repaid their loans. The Bangladesh government later

NEWS FROM THE REGION

BANGLADESH

A place where the people count more

The Bangladesh Grameen Bank, which was set up 17 years ago by

Mohammed Yunus, has already become a trailblazer in lending money to the poor. Some 85 per cent of Bangladesh's 120 million people live in rural areas below the poverty line and the bank caters to their needs.

amended the Grameen Bank ordinance to enable it to operate as a private bank, giving as per cent of its shares to its borrowers with the rest held by the government.

Now, some 88 per cent of the bank's customers are women since the principle philosophy of the rural banks is to assist widows and wives of disabled men.

Yunus says he started with the belief that a bank should go to the people and not the people to a bank. Now when a Grameen Bank opens a branch in a village, bank workers go to the people and explain its objectives. And 98 per cent of the loans are fully repaid, a record not matched by banks that lend only to the rich. Yunus maintains that his bank has not suffered any losses, and profits were consistent, though not remarkable.

The bank now operates nearly 10,000 branches covering 32,000 of the 68,000 villages in Bangladesh. The bank is also successfully operating in 13 developed and developing countries.

Source : *Economic Times*, 6.2.1994

CHINA

Visit of Chinese delegation to India from 30th January, 1994 to 6th February 1994.

A six member Chinese delegation from the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives, Beijing visited India from 30-1-94 to 6-2-94. The delegation comprised of the following members:-

1. Mr. Yu Fugao - President, China Fertiliser Department of CNAMPGC
2. Mr. Li Zhengjun - Deputy Chief, Fertiliser Department of State Planning Committee
3. Mr. Ding Jie - Section Chief, Price Administrative Bureau of State Planning committee.
4. Mr. Guo Yagu - Manager, Import & export department of CNAMPGC
5. Mrs. Zheng Guijun - Manager, Import & Export Department of CNAMPGC

Study of Fertiliser Business System was the main purpose of visit of the Chinese delegation. After having a successful meeting with the IFFCO officials, the delegation visited several cooperative organisations such as the NCUI (National Cooperative Union of India); ICA (International Cooperative Alliance); NAFED (National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India); FMDI (Fertiliser Marketing Development Institute); FSC (Farmers Service Centre) at Gurgaon; Coop Societies & IFFCO's adopted village Aajhai, near Mathura and Fertiliser plant at Aonla. The visit ended with the concluded meeting at IFFCO's headquarters on 5th February, 1994.

INDIA

NATIONAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (NCDC)

Cost-Efficient Cooperative Sector

The Union Minister for Agriculture Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar, under-

lined the prominent role, the National Cooperative Development Corporation is required to play in providing financial assistance to the cooperative sector. This is in view of the strategic importance of increasing agricultural productivity and better income to small and marginal farmers and weaker sections particularly of the rural community.

He emphasised that the Corporation's focus should be on the promotion of cooperatively Weaker Sections like that of fishermen, Scheduled Castes/Tribes, poultry, dairy, handloom, coir, sericulture, fruit and vegetables, etc. Inducting technology into the small agro-processing units was another thrust area for NCDC, so that with the use of modern technology, the weaker sections can increase their productivity, which is crucial for their survival in the present climate of open competition.

The promotion and financing of programmes in cooperatively under developed States is another important area for NCDC. The Minister exhorted the Corporation to promote cooperative ventures with renewed efforts in poultry, fishery, sericulture and Horticulture, etc during the 8th plan so that the potential for increasing the income levels of people in rural areas can be tapped.

The Technological upgradation of agro-processing sector was also indicated as another area of importance to NCDC. The Minister further said that, "Cooperatives have to become modern, efficient and competitive, so as to

continue to be an important sector of Indian economy. Notwithstanding, the fact that their performance in industries like fertilizers, sugar and agro-processing, dairy, etc. has been comparable to those of best in other sectors of the industry, Cooperatives will have to be oriented to a changed outlook of a competitive unit coping with open market forces and giving their best in terms of managerial and professional inputs."

In his address, Dr. Bal Ram Jhakar praised the NCDC's role in recognising the importance of professionally qualified and experienced manpower to make cooperatives run as commercially viable ventures. He, however, emphasised that professionalisation of cooperative management has to be accelerated. It should be the endeavour of NCDC to strive for complete functional autonomy for the cooperatives so that there is no interference in taking business decisions. He also stressed upon the need of member education and training for upgrading the skills of cooperative personnel, so as to improve the quality of human resources available with the cooperatives.

NCDC disbursed financial assistance of Rs. 3400 million against an outlay of Rs. 3300 million for the year 1992-93. Cumulatively, the overall disbursement of the Corporation has reached to almost Rs. 26390 million up to March, 1993. NCDC's contribution has been significant in the field of cooperative storage and marketing, sugar industry, cotton spinning mills, and development of oilseeds processing.

IFFCO, KRIBHCO SIGN MoU WITH GOVERNMENT OF IRAN

IFFCO and KRIBHCO, jointly entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Government of Iran recently for setting up a 7.50 lakh tonnes per annum urea plant on Qeshm Island.

The agreement was signed by Sh. N.R. Krishnan, Secretary, Fertiliser, Government of India, and Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Qeshm Free Area Authority, Iran. Shri U.S. Awasthi, Managing Director, IFFCO and Shri A.K. Mukhopadhyay, Managing Director, KRIBHCO also signed the Memorandum. The two national level Cooperatives will hold 60% equity while the Iranian partner will contribute 40% towards equity participation in the venture. The project which is estimated to cost 300 million dollars is likely to be completed in approximately 36 months time.

The delegation, which had gone to Iran along with Indo-Iranian Joint Commission led by Shri Dinesh Singh, Union Minister for External Affairs, visited Qeshm Island and selected the site for the proposed venture.

The Iranian delegation will be visiting IFFCO & KRIBHCO, shortly to hold further discussions on the projects.

The agreement is a significant milestone of Co-operation between the two countries and for the two giant fertiliser cooperatives in the international arena aimed towards meeting out short-fall of urea in the country.

"IFFCO PAYS DIVIDEND TO THE GOVERNMENT"

Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) paid about Rs. 171 million as dividend for the year 1992-93 to the Government of India towards their equity participation in IFFCO.

Shri Pellakuru Ramachandra Reddy, Chairman, IFFCO presented the dividend cheque to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narashimha Rao. IFFCO has so far paid over Rs. 1030 million as dividend to the Government. Starting with membership of 52 Cooperative Societies, IFFCO has blossomed into the largest fertiliser cooperative with a membership of over 30,000 Cooperative Societies from village to national level.

Besides dividend, IFFCO has so far contributed Rs. 7500 million to the National Exchequer by way Sales-tax, Excise Duty, Custom Duty between 1974-75 and 1992-93.

IFFCO has been ploughing back its resources for generating additional production capacity and conducting extension and promotional programmes for transfer of improved farming technology to the farmers. IFFCO has taken up expansion and diversification programmes with the aim to render better services to member cooperatives and formers.

The plan includes doubling of the Aonla Ammoniaurea complex with an estimated cost of Rs. 9600 million for which work has already started.

IFFCO is also considering setting up joint venture nitrogenous

plant outside India. The modernisation by retrofitting two trains to Kandla plant with Pipe Reactor process aimed at increasing production and reduction in energy consumption is being planned. The programme for putting up a Oil-jetty for unloading Phosphoric Acid ammonia and naphtha in collaboration with Kandla Port Trust (KPT) is on the anvil. IFFCO is also promoting IFFCO Agro-chem Ltd. for manufacture and distribution of chemical organic phosphoric pesticides.

KRIBHCO Expansion

New Delhi : Kribhco is planning major diversification in the agro-based industry. The areas chosen include sugar, molasses, pesticide and paper, the Kribhco chairman, Mr Hari Kishan Shastri, said. He said Kribhco had earned a Rs 2270 million profit in 1992-93.

NAFED

The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) will open an office in the Jebel Ali free zone in Dubai this month as part of the efforts to increase its exports to West Asia.

NAFED to tie-up with Chinese Coops

The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) is tying up with the All China Federation of supply and marketing cooperatives, Beijing. The collaboration is likely to be in the area of pulses import from China, technology transfer for marketing coconut juice in con-

sumer packs and setting up of joint ventures for production of bio-fertilisers and bio-pesticides.

Co-op Development Fund

NABARD details objectives

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) has announced detailed objectives of the much-awaited Co-operative Development Fund announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget speech for 1993-94.

The fund with an initial corpus of Rs 100 million, which came from the profits of nabard, was set up with the objective of supporting the efforts of ground level credit institutions (primary agricultural societies) to mobilise resources, bringing about human resources development for improving the working of the co-operative credit institutions so as to help in achieving viability, building up better management information system and conducting special studies for improving functional efficiencies.

The assistance from the Fund will be by way of grant-in-aid, loan interest free or at the rate of interest to be determined by Nabard or grant-cum-loan. The form of assistance will be purpose specific.

The Co-operative Development Fund will be augmented through appropriation of annual profits of Nabard, contributions from Union Government state governments, apex level institutions by way grants for supporting development of co-operative credit

institutions grants-in-aids from international agencies like World Bank and other donor institutions.

According to Nabard, the objective of the fund will be to render assistance of Co-operative credit structure for providing infrastructural facilities like (a) purchase of safe and construction of counters to some selected primary agricultural credit societies (PACS) for enabling them to take up deposit mobilisation.

(b) Staff training for meeting cost of specialised courses in rural banking/faculty support for courses. (c) meeting cost of computers and software of co-operative banks which are not able to meet the cost of computerisation for building up their management information system (MIS), assistance for conducting special studies, meeting cost publicity through media like video cassettes and for creating favourable recovery climate.

The Fund will also be extended for assistance to banks under institutional strengthening programme (ISP) for meeting cost of consultants/additional staff for formulation and implementation ISP package as envisaged under ISP scheme.

Source : *Financial Express* 17.8.93

Agri-Business Consortium set up

The government has set up the Small Farmers' Agri-business Consortium (SFAC) to boost farm production and productivity and provide effective linkages between the producers and consumers.

The consortium will be funded by the Reserve Bank of India, NABARD, IDBI and the Ministry of Agriculture. The consortium, being registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act, will help generate incomes and employment in rural areas through support to various types of agri-business.

It will have a policy planning council under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister. The Agriculture Minister will be the president of its 15-member management board.

The consortium's board would consist of seven ex-officio members and eight elected members representing financial institutions, statutory and autonomous organisations, NGOs/farmers and beneficiaries.

The proposed articles of association provide for primary members and associate members. Various chambers of commerce, cooperative societies and corporate bodies involved in agri-business may be admitted as associate members.

The policy planning council would consider policy issues concerning areas of functioning of the SFAC and give necessary guidance and directions to the board of management. The council would also review the programmes and progress of implementation of projects.

Source : *Indian Express* 1.1.94

Worker's Co-ops, an alternative for industrial growth

Instances of workers' takeover in industry, a recent phenom-

enon, have the potential of emerging as alternative institutions for industrial growth for they are democratic self-help organisations designed to promote the twin objectives of employment and production, says a noted sociologist.

Though there are only a few instances of workers' takeover in industry, there is every indication that they are likely to spread in the near future.

In spite of the impressive track record of the existing worker's co-operatives, their significance seems to have been overlooked by those interested in alternative policies, and the current debate on the new industrial policy is centred round the state versus the private sector.

"Neither the Government nor the major trade union centres have tried to seriously consider the possibility of developing a third sector - namely a workers' sector in industry".

In fact this would be the right time for trade unions to actively promote the idea of a workers' sector as distinct from the private sector and the bureaucratic controls of the public sector.

Source : *Financial Express, New Delhi, Tuesday, March 22, 1994*

NDDDB Exports

The agriculture ministry has decided to permit the National Dairy Development Board (NDDDB) to continue the export of nigerseed. During 1993-94,

nigerseed, export is likely to be 12,000 tonnes, against the export of 16,000 tonnes valued at Rs. 300 million in 1992-93, reports IPA.

NDDDB Plans to Enter Ice-Cream Market

THE National Dairy Development Board (NDDDB) is planning to enter the Ice-Cream market.

Production of ice cream is, at present, reserved for the small scale sector. However, large units are allowed to pack and market under their own brand names.

The NDDDB has already requested the government to allow the co-operative and public sector dairies to diversify into ice cream manufacturing along with the SSI entrepreneurs.

Udyog Ratan award

Mr Ramesh Inder Singh, Managing Director of the Rs 20000 million Punjab Markfed, has been conferred the Udyog Ratan award by the Institute of Economic Studies.

Kerala Co-op men to get pension

The Kerala Government has announced a pension scheme for the employees of Primary Cooperative Societies in the State.

Cooperation Minister M V Raghavan told newsmen the scheme would be implemented with retrospective effect from June 1993 and eligible employees would get pension from next month. The arrears would be paid in cash.

For getting full pension, which would be about three-fourth of the

salary last drawn, an employee should have put in at least 30 years of service the pension would be two-third.

JAPAN

Editor's Note

"As the second in a series of special co-op reports (in our last issue we presented a report on Medical Co-ops), it was our great pleasure to be able to focus on School Teachers' Co-ops, which, despite their importance within the Japanese co-op movement, remain virtually unknown overseas."

A Look at Japan's School Teachers' Co-ops

In Japanese elementary, middle, and high schools, it is fairly common to find school teachers' co-operatives (STCs). Probably unique to Japan, the STC was originally a school teachers' union whose primary objective was to provide its members with subsistence goods like clothing and food. Because Japanese civil law prevents those under 20 years of age from becoming co-op members, the STCs set up a company in conjunction with the co-ops, National School Supplies Co., Ltd., for the purpose of providing school children with books and school-related goods.

After the Co-op Law was enacted in 1948, the STCs were an independent national organization. Later on, they merged with the JCCU, which today has a National STC Committee and a business department for wholesaling goods to local STCs.

The nature of STC activities (providing goods and services), helped these co-ops to gain acceptance by local residents. Clearly, the STC movement contributed to the validation of co-op activities nationwide.

Presently there are 49 Regional STCs in Japan, with about 710,000 members. That covers most elementary, middle and high schools. However, there is a tendency for newcomers to an institution to not join the established organizations that are in place.

Just as there exists a decline in labor union membership, STC membership is declining as well. However, there are about 710,000 teachers in STCs, as opposed to less than 500,000 in the Japan Teachers Union. This means that the STC movement is the largest teachers' organization in Japan.

The Committee of STCs in the JCCU sends managers to co-ops that are experiencing difficulties, or where business has stalled, to provide fundamental help and restructuring. Also, the managers who are also teachers tend to change extremely frequently as they all eventually have to return to their teaching positions.

The STCs were among the first organizations in Japan to conduct catalog sales.

There was only one other catalog sales organization in Japan when we started providing the service in 1957.

Prices are about 10 to 20 percent cheaper than retail. There are two reasons why members purchase from co-ops: the prices and the uniqueness of co-op goods.

Children's books, like story books, for example, approximately 800,000 copies are sold annually. Other items include gym wear, and math sets.

Spiral pencils, are very Proper. They're something we can be really proud of.

Spiral pencils have spiral grooves running down their shafts to help the user to hold them properly. They became a nationwide hit a short while ago.

The Role of the School Teacher's Co-op

Providing goods is just one activity. The co-ops also provide services, like the *shiteiten* system by which workers can take advantage of lower prices based on agreements between co-ops and private merchants. Gasoline is provided through this system, Group insurance also provide.

Regional citizens' co-ops are growing, and so are university co-ops, It will be necessary for STCs to co-operate with these forces in the co-operative movement.

In Japan there is the question of the strict teaching guidelines set by the Ministry of Education, but in any event the existence and activities of co-ops do have a positive impact on the lives of school children.

In some European countries, co-op activities are organized for children. It seems that something like this should be possible in Japan as well in the future.

The Future of School Teachers' Co-ops

As regret the future of STC as the numbers of students decline, the number of co-op members declines automatically. As a result, it becomes increasingly difficult to expand the scope of co-op activities. The emphasis now is on increasing the quality of services of STCs.

The main task in the area of service is meeting the divergent needs of members, especially regarding their health and welfare. In providing goods, needs is to improve communications between STCs and other co-ops to increase access to other organizations's goods and services.

I found out that people in their 20s don't make much use of STC, but those in their late 30s and 40s do. This indicates that STCs are not sufficiently addressing the needs of young people. This has to be changed.

Co-op JAPAN, Information No.16, February 1994

RESPONSE OF JA FOR THE NEW POLICY

As reported in the September 1992 issue of IDACA News No. 53, the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries published in June 1992 "The Basic Directions of new Policies on Food, Agriculture and Rural Areas" in a move to rebuild Japanese agriculture to meet the surging waves of "globalization," "de-regulation," "liberalization," and "information-intensive society.

The principal objectives of the New Policies can be roughly divided into the following three:

1. To promote large-scale farming operations (through the acceleration of agricultural production on an organized and collective basis);
2. To formulate measures to revitalize intermediate and hill-side agricultural areas with difficulties in farming operations (through the establishment of a system directly compensating for less income); and
3. To improve the food control system and introduce a more efficient farm produce distribution system (through cost reduction).

In order to give concrete shape to the perception and directions set forth below by the aforementioned "New Policies," there is a definite need to enable the "New Policies," to have a clearcut framework and more substance. Agricultural cooperatives as well as the government are, therefore, urged to exert positive efforts to achieve this end. Following are the perception and directions clarified by the New Policies:

- (1) In order to ensure the stable supply of food to the people, revitalize regional economic societies and conserve national land and the environment, it is important, first and foremost, to clarify, with the consensus of public opinion, what food means to the people and the roles for agriculture and rural areas to play;

- (2) Multilateral functions of agriculture are of such great benefit to the people that it is impossible to do justice to them from the standpoint of economic efficiency only. Full scope can be given to such functions by maintaining and promoting a certain level of domestic agriculture;
- (3) The primary objectives in view lie in developing agriculture as efficiently as possible, but in order to maintain agricultural production and secure the domestic supply capacity, it is necessary that definite border adjustment steps and the domestic agricultural policy should be implemented; and
- (4) It is of basic importance to prevent a further fall in the food self-sufficiency rate by securing management bodies with excellent managerial sense, arable land and water resources, innovating farming techniques and promoting cost reduction, and by also maintaining and expanding domestic agricultural production as far as possible while giving full scope to the natural conditions although land resources available are limited.

In accordance with the foregoing, affiliated agricultural cooperatives, in response to the aforementioned "New Policies," prepared in December 1992 "The Development of 'New Policies' and JA Group's Measures" as a framework for internal debates.

This plan comprises three chapters (Chapter 1 Comprehensive

Measures; Chapter 2 Individual Measures; and Chapter 3 Measures for the JA Group to Promote). Following is the outline of each chapter :

Chapter 1 Comprehensive Measures 1 'Bolstering Border Adjustment Steps; (2) Establishment of Food Security Policy; 3 Clarification of the Framework of Domestic Agriculture; 4 Formulation of Concrete Policies and Establishment of 'Agricultural Law'; 5 Establishment of Local Self-Autonomy; and 6 Formation of National Consensus).

Chapter 2 Individual Measures 1 Production Measures; 2 Measures to Foster Young Farmers and Farm Management Bodies; 3 Land Measures; 4 Price and Income Measures; 5 Processing and Distribution Measures; 6 Environmental Measures; 7 Regional Measures; 8 Financial Measures; and 9 Measures for Organizations).

Chapter 3 Measures for the JA Group to Promote 1 JA Group's Comprehensive Promotion Measures; 2 Strengthening System of Guidance on Farming Operations and Revitalization of Local Regions; and 3 Bolstering Agricultural Administration and Public Relations System).

Following are concrete descriptions of tasks, the directions of measures, and concrete plans regarding "The Directions of JA Group's Measures to Promote Regional Agriculture and Revitalize Local Regions".

Direction of JA Group's Measures to Promote Regional Agriculture and Revitalize Rural Regions

1. (Comprehensive Measures)

Directions of Measures

- (1) Participation in local public entities' formulation and study of future plans
- (2) Formulation of future plans by JAs
- (3) Support for the formulation of hamlet rehabilitation plans

Primary Concrete Measures

* To demand that future plans for agriculture and rural communities, which are based on an outlook on a decade or so ahead, be formulated in prefectures where they have not yet been worked out. To demand that prefectures, where such plans have already been formulated, review the plans. To demand that similar plans be formulated in cities, towns and villages.

* These plans must expressly set forth the following points:

1. Prospects for farm labor and for farm management bodies;
2. Images regarding by-region agriculture and rural community;
3. Land utilization plan and approach to zoning;
4. Prospects for the production of priority crops and promotion measures;
5. Basic farm management patterns;

6. Role of JA Group; and

7. What a uniform system of guidance by agriculture-related organs should be.

* Plans that incorporate the following matters will be formulated on the basis of local public bodies' plans:

1. Measures to promote commodity-wise production;
2. Measures to secure young farmers and foster farm management bodies;
3. Expanding the size of farming operations and promoting arable land fluidity;
4. Strengthening processing and marketing systems;
5. Strengthening protection of the environment;
6. Measures to revitalize local regions;
7. Strengthening research and development systems; and
8. Strengthening agricultural administration and public relations systems.

* JAs, in cooperation with cities, towns and villages, will grasp and analyze the present status of and future trends in regional farm labor and land utilization. On the basis of the results of such analysis, JAs will form a consensus of opinion of villagers and promote the formulation of plans for village rehabilitation. These plans will incorporate the following matters:

1. Plans for land utilization and the improvement of basic land conditions;

2. Measures to foster young farmers and farm management bodies;
3. Measures to accumulate arable land;
4. Specification of priority crops;
5. Plans for the joint utilization of machines and facilities;
6. Trustee/trust farming and manpower adjustment; and
7. Improvements in the living environment.

2. (Individual Measures)

(1) Strengthening measures for commodity-wise production

* Rural community-based approach to improvements in food self-sufficiency rate

1. Decision on strategic crops and presentation of farm management patterns; and
2. Measures to reduce costs.

Appealing for the enactment of the Agricultural Law; formulation of plans to promote production and handle farm crops; systematic provision of management patterns; study of Japanese-type income policy.

Reduction in the prices of production materials; installation of facilities; rental lease of farming machines; and strengthening measures to cope with the activities of large-scale farm households.

(2) Securing young farmers and fostering farm management bodies

* Establishment of a system for rural communities to take the initiative in securing young farmers

1. Securing and fostering young farmers through support for the formulation of village rehabilitation plans;
2. Creation of a JA interim system;
3. Support for young farmers;
4. Support for corporation management;
5. Improvements in farm guidance, including techniques and management; and
6. Adjustment of labor.

Establishment of income target and management patterns; formulation of plan to secure young farmers; and playing a role in adjusting land utilization.

Implemented in areas short of young farmers; and training them at JAs for about three years by assuring them a definite status, and helping them work independently by, for example, leasing means of production to them.

Creation by local public bodies of funds to train successors to farming; beefing up and fully utilizing such funds; provision of training expenses in various forms and scholarships; provision of opportunities for elderly farmers to make use of their own experiences; and fulfillment by women farmers of their roles.

Establishment of an agricultural corporation instructor (tentative name) system; temporary undertaking of guidance on accounting business, etc.; and organizations of agricultural corporations and farming groups.

Appealing for the government to introduce a better legal framework; research and development through the joint cooperation of the JA Group, administration and industry; and establishment of comprehensive farm management centres within JAs, etc.

Fostering agricultural service bodies; provision by JAs of assistance and adjustment in the utilization of idle labor; and promotion of a movement to introduce no-work days.

(3) Expanding the size of farming operations and promoting agricultural land liquidity Adjustment of arable land by farmers and agricultural organizations

1. Cooperation with relevant organizations;
2. Tackling farmland ownership rationalization projects;
3. JAs' direct participation in farm management; and
4. Dissemination of arable land and land control systems.

Establishment of an arable land utilization adjustment committee (tentative name) at a JA branch level; and cooperation with relevant organizations at a JA head-office level.

Tackling by all JAs of a project to promote farmland ownership rationalization.

Contracting farming operations, such as raising of seedlings, drying, agricultural chemical spraying and harvesting or farm management; dispatch of helping hands; and improvements in farm management functions for the benefit of member farmers.

Improvement and dissemination of systems enabling farmland per lot control and handling of farmland utilization charges.

(4) Strengthening processing and marketing systems

* Strategy to expand added values that meet consumer needs and differentiation of domestic products from imported products

1. Tackling farm produce processing and reastrant businesses;
2. Establishment of diverse marketing routes; and
3. Establishment of a labeling system; etc.

Tackling farm crops processing and establishment of marketing routes; and establishment of restaurants, wide-area eating-out centers, etc.

Expanding direct sales stations, including "morning markets," and developing "tourist agriculture"; and promoting direct sales to outside areas by mail order.

Establishment of a system of labeling organic cultivation, etc. and a differentiation system through the introduction of labels for domestic products.

(5) Strengthening environmental conservation

* Promoting sustainable development to build a promising future and developing a national movement

1. Formulation of a basic policy for environmental problems;
2. Environment protection-type arable land control;

3. Promotion of environmental conservation type agriculture and distribution;

4. Addressing environmental issues in everyday life aspects;

5. Tackling JA management; and

6. National movement based on "Mizuho funds" (tentative name).

Formulation of basic policy; clarification of the sections post in-charge of environmental affairs; cooperation with other organizations; and lobbying government ministries and agencies concerned.

Conservation of arable land by such means as creation of a system of exchanges with urban residents including land ownership in areas where otherwise agricultural production cannot be continued.

Dissemination of environment protection-type farming techniques; preparation of cultivation calendars; support for research and development efforts by member farmers; establishment of compost centres; organizing producers; promotion of self-contained distribution and direct-from-producers sales\, labeling of produce as to farming methods; exchanges with consumers; and research and development of environment-friendly production materials.

Beautification movements for local regions; study activities; recycling campaign; supply of

environment protection-type daily necessities; and improvements in duplex disposal and purification tanks.

Education on the environment; collection of refuse by types; recycling; resource-saving measures; and introduction of an environmental impact assessment system.

Creation of funds based on contributions raised by the JA Groups and through JA activities; and provision of assistance in environment protection-type land conservation activities.

(6) Revitalizing local regions

* Revitalizing regions through the promotion of agricultural and utilization of local resources

1. Support for the formulation of hamlet rehabilitation plans;
2. Promotion of agriculture in-between locations and mountains;
3. Tackling the spontaneous development of regional industry;
4. Exchanges between rural and urban areas; and
5. Promotion of urban agriculture.

Promotion of integral improvements in production and livelihood foundations through village rehabilitation plans, etc.

Promotion of high value-added agriculture, making use of slop-

ing land and temperature differentials; support for complex, multilevel and multilateral farm management; and pursuit of differentiation of imported livestock and horticultural products through review of standards for the use of agricultural chemicals and introduction of labels for use on domestic products.

Promotion of information processing and supply industry, biologic new materials industry, natural energy industry, environment protection industry, etc.

Promotion of green-based tourism; furtherance of an amenity-type village construction to promote an influx from urban areas; and creation of JA public relations centres.

Adjustment with urban land utilization; exchanges with neighboring community residents; public relations activities; guidance on the production of "soft"

vegetables; indigenous distribution; joint utilization of facilities and machines; and networking of producers.

(7) Strengthening systems for guidance on farming operations and revitalization of local regions

* Building a system to enable new challenges through a change in top management attitudes and development of capabilities of personnel

1. Reorientation of JA top management;
2. Development of employees' capabilities;
3. Finances to support efforts to deal with issues; and
4. Problems involving businesses, facilities and organizations.

Change in thinking and self-training on the part of top management to enable JAs to give

full scope to their new functions; and supply of information and implementation of seminars by the Unions of Agricultural Cooperatives, etc.

Introduction of qualifying examinations and education by correspondence systems for the development of professional abilities in arable land/land utilization adjustments, farm management guidance, etc.

Increasing retained profits of JAs to financially support their activities; creation of funds; and collection of subscriptions.

In order to enable JA activities to take hold and develop, there is an absolute need to organize them on a commercial basis, increase facilities and expand the organizations of member farmers. Hence more penetrating studies will be conducted in preparation for the prompt formulation of relevant policies.

Source: *IDACA News*, No. 56, March, 1, 94

IDACA Activities to be Implemented in 1994

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|--|--|--|
| <p>1. Reunion and Follow-up Programme
Period: Jan. 2 ~ 13
Place : Thailand</p> | <p>5. Training Course for Cooperators from Selected Countries (Vietnam and Myanmar)
Period: Aug. 19 ~ Sep. 15
No. of participants: 13.
Study visit: Nagano Prefecture</p> | <p>Period: Sep. 20 ~ Oct. 7
No. of participants: 9
Study visit: Aichi Prefecture</p> |
| <p>2. 8th ICA/Japan Training Course for Strengthening Management of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia
Period : Feb. 21 ~ Apr. 21
No. of participants : 15
Study visit: Fukuoka and Aichi Prefectures</p> | <p>6. JICA Sponsored Training Course on Rural Development and Agricultural Cooperatives (China)
Period: Aug. 22 ~ Oct. 7
No. of participants: 10
Study visit: Tochigi and Saga Prefectures</p> | <p>9. ICA/CUAC/IDACA Regional Seminar
Period: Oct. 17 ~ Nov. 5
No. of participants: Yet to be decided
Study visit: Yamagata Prefecture</p> |
| <p>3. General Course in Agricultural Cooperatives
Period: May 16 ~ Jul. 8
No. of participants: 18
Study visit: Nagano and Fukuoka Prefectures</p> | <p>7. Training Course for Middle Cadre Technicians (China)
Period: Sep. 19 ~ Oct. 9
No. of participants: 5
Study visit: Saga Prefecture</p> | <p>10. ICA/JAPAN 4th Training Course for Women Leaders of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia (Pakistan, Korea & Indonesia)
Period : Oct. 17 ~ Nov. 12
No. of participants: 6
Study visit: Yamagata Prefecture</p> |
| <p>4. Agri-Business Management Training (Indonesia)
Period: Jul. 13 ~ Aug. 11
No. of participants : 22
Study visit: Yamagata Prefecture</p> | <p>8. Farm Guidance Seminar (India, Thailand and Nepal)</p> | <p>11. 18th RECA Seminar
Period: Nov. 20 ~ Dec. 10
No. of participants: 20
Study visit: Hiroshima Prefecture</p> |

Source : *IDACA News* No 56 March, 1, 94

KOREA

Mr. Churll-Hee Won, has been elected as new Chairman & President of NACF, Seoul, Republic of Korea.

Mr. G.K. Sharma, Regional Director sent the following congratulating message to Mr. Won.

"It is a matter of great pleasure for us that you have been elected as Chairman & President of NACF today and will be taking over formally tomorrow. On this occasion, please accept heartfelt congratulations and best wishes on my personal behalf as also on behalf of the staff of the ICA ROAP. I am sure with your long experience and under your guidance and direction, NACF will prosper and make rapid progress as also serve its members more effectively. I am sure under your dynamic leadership, NACF will continue to play an important role not only in Korea but also beyond boundaries of Korea, particularly in Asia-Pacific Region.

We in the ICA will be more than happy if we could be of any assistance to you in your efforts to build NACF and the Cooperative Movement of Korea."

MONGOLIA

ADB Approves Loan and Technical Assistance Grant for Employment Generation Project in Mongolia

An SDR 2.154 (US\$3 million equivalent) concessional loan for an employment generation project approved by the Asian Development Bank will help to

ease worsening poverty and unemployment in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

The Project supports the Government's poverty reduction efforts through the creation of new jobs and income opportunities through credit to small private enterprises. Microenterprises will create more jobs with less investment, enable the Government to provide credit to small businesses, and encourage self-employment and new business undertakings.

The creation of at least 10,000 jobs in new and expanded businesses through the Project will directly benefit the poor—particularly women—as well as single heads of households, workers laid off from State-owned companies and retirees. At least 2,000 sub-borrowers are expected to establish or expand various small-scale production activities.

The Government, through the central bank, will relend the Bank loan to three participating commercial banks (PCBs), Ardyn Bank, the Investment and Technological Innovation Bank, and Mongol Horshoo Bank, for onlending to sub-borrowers. Three non-government organizations (NGOs), *Mongolian Women's Federation, Union of Production and Services Cooperatives and Mongolian Employers' Association*, will help potential sub-borrowers prepare business plans and to process applications.

A technical assistance grant of \$598,000 to be financed by the

Bank of a grant basis from the Japan Special Fund, will be used for the institutional strengthening of the executing agency, the three conduit banks and accredited NGOs, and to prepare and develop the skills of Project beneficiaries. Management information systems and project benefit monitoring and evaluation will also be included.

Source : ADB News Release No. 220/93, 27 December 1993

ILO New Address

The International Labour Office (ILO) for India and Bhutan has moved its premises from 7 Sardar Patel Marg to:

**India Habitat Centre, East Court,
3rd Floor, Lodi Road,
New Delhi-110 003
Telephone : 4602101-4**

SWEDEN

This is SCC (Swedish Cooperative Centre)

The beginning

In 1957, the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), held its Congress in Stockholm. The Cooperative Union Wholesale Society KF simultaneously organised an exhibition called "Without Boundaries".

The debate about developing countries was new then and the exhibition was visited by a great number of interested people. The raising of funds for the develop-

ment of the cooperative movements in the developing countries was initiated the year after. The fund-raising campaign was called Utan Gränsar (without boundaries) and was organised by The Cooperative Union Wholesale Society KF, the Union of Consumer Guilds and the cooperative housing organisation HSB.

The success was immediate. In a short time a million crowns were raised, an impressive sum in 1958. Great part of this money originated from members of the consumer cooperative movement, who had the possibility to make a voluntary donation from the annual bonus the cooperative gave its members.

Seminars

During the first years, the funds were primarily used for seminars in Sweden for cooperators from the developing countries, and to support the educational activities in the developing countries directly. With SCC funds two centres for cooperative education were created in New Delhi, India, and in Moshi, Tanzania.

Swedish Cooperative Centre (SCC) was created in 1968. Today, the organisation is known in Sweden by the name Utan Gränsar, and by the name of SCC in the international contacts.

Member organisations

All larger cooperative federations in Sweden are members of SCC: the Federation of Swedish Farmers (LRF), the Cooperative Union

Wholesale Society and associated retail societies (KF/Konsum), the Union of Consumer Guilds (Konsumentgillesförbundet), the insurance company Folksam, the cooperative housing organisations Riksbyggen and HSB, the Union of Oil Cooperatives (OK) and the Federation of Swedish Cooperative Banks (Sveriges Föreningsbankers Förbund). They participate in our activities, among other things through direct or indirect economic contributions.

Projects

During the 1970's, SCC started projects in different countries, increasingly financed by SIDA (the Swedish International Development Authority).

SIDAs grants funds according to the so-called 80/20 allocation for some projects. This means that SIDA finances 80% of the project costs and SCC 20%.

Financing

During 1991/92, SCC raised 8,5 million crowns. SCCs total budget was of 146 million crowns.

Apart from the 80/20 projects, SCC receives 100% financing from SIDA for emergency relief, humanitarian relief and others.

Objectives

SCCs support is on a long term basis and aims at the development of cooperative organisations and farmer's unions, mostly in rural areas.

"The contribute to positive changes of the living conditions of the poorer sectors of the people in developing countries, by supporting the activities of cooperative organisations, working for economic and social development and independence, while emphasizing popular participation and control within the principles of democracy".

Project Countries

SCC, is currently cooperating in projects in 15 countries, in AFRICA, LATIN AMERICA, and ASIA ie. (Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Uganda, Zambia, Botswana, Uruguay, Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, South Africa, India, and Sri Lanka)

In view of the fact that the majority of the poor people in developing countries are small farmers the agricultural organisations are primarily receiving SCC's support Notwithstanding, other cooperative organisations also receive our support, such as consumer, housing, fishermen's, banking and insurance cooperatives.

As a greater part of the beneficiaries are women, SCC actively supports the integration of women in the cooperative movement.

Technical assistance

SCC has some 30 field-workers on two-year contracts in different developing countries. The field-workers are primarily recruited from our member organisations.

The main tasks for the field-workers are:

- organisation development
- organisation management
- accounting, auditing
- development of credit systems
- training of employees and leaders

Consultants are also engaged for shorter assignments such as evaluations.

ICA and SCC

The International Cooperative Alliance, ICA, founded in 1895, is the central organisation for the world's cooperative movements. Some 92 countries with 700 million members in 210 National Organisations and 9 International organisations are represented. An important part of SCC's support goes to ICA's education and training programmes in Asia and in Central and Southern Africa through the ICA regional offices in New Delhi, India, and in Moshi, Tanzania.

Head-office

At SCC's head-office, in Stockholm, a staff of 26 persons work with project management, economy, personnel and fund-raising/information.

"Utan Gränser" groups

These groups are an important channel through which SCC comes into direct contact with the eight member organisations. There exist some 20 groups in Sweden, raising funds and informing about SCC's activities

on a voluntary basis. Some groups are formed within a member organisation, others have representatives from different sectors i.e. persons from different member organisations.

Several Utan Gränser (without boundaries) groups collaborate with a sister cooperative i.e. they have close contact with a project or component.

The "Utan Gränser" week

Every year, coinciding with the UN's day October 20th, the Utan Gränser week is held in several locations with different activities. The activities are mainly organised by the groups focusing on a country or specific topic with the objective of raising funds.

SCC-New address

SWEDISH COOPERATIVE CENTRE

Post Box-30214
S-104 25 Stockholm
SWEDEN

Telephone No : 6574700
Fax : 6578515

BOOK REVIEW

Training for Co-operative Leadership

A Study of SCC's International Co-operative Seminars, 1962-1983 published by the Swedish Co-operative Centre, 103 pp, ISBN 91-972181-0-3.

From 1962 to 1983, the Swedish Co-operative Centre (SCC) conducted a series of International Co-operative Seminars (ICS) in

Sweden. Participants were board members and staff of co-operatives in Africa and Asia. Altogether 512 co-operators from 36 countries benefited from the training scheme which was implemented in collaboration with ICA's regional offices in those regions.

Having received numerous requests to revive the training programme, the SCC decided to carry out a study in order to ascertain its impact on co-operative development in the two regions in general and on co-operative leadership in particular. The terms of reference also called for an assessment of present and future needs for such training, and of SCC's role in this process.

The sources of information included available documentation and statistical data on the seminars. In addition, two evaluation seminars that brought together previous participants were conducted in collaboration with ICA's regional offices.

The study, which was recently published by the SCC, traces the origin of the ICSs to the ICA Congress in Stockholm in 1957 which highlighted the need for assistance to co-operative development in developing countries. The need to streamline ad hoc arrangements for study visits to Sweden, and the "Without Boundaries" Fund which made the leadership training programme, financially possible, also contributed to the decision to launch the programme.

Although interpreted and applied differently over the years

in order to increase the relevance and effectiveness of the programme, the original objectives remained unchanged throughout the duration of the programme; i.e. leadership development, co-operative networking, and technical assistance mobilization.

What makes this study particularly interesting is that it covers a period of over 20 years. The changes in the programme in terms of participants, contents, methods and purpose thus also reflect prevailing thoughts and changes in "development thought" (one of the reasons for its eventual discontinuation was that such courses went "out of fashion" in donor circles").

Adjustments were made in the programme to increase its effectiveness and relevance. These adjustments were based on feedback and suggestions from participants and counterpart organisations in the field, particularly through the increased collaboration with ICA's regional offices. The fact that SCC continually acquired new experience and knowledge of the conditions for co-operative work in developing countries also affected the programme.

One such change was a shift from the early rather ethnocentric approach which was not unusual among donors at the time, (the title of the first seminar was "Swedish Co-operation"), to an increased emphasis on relating the Swedish experience to conditions in the participants' countries. In recent seminars the participants consequently prepared Action Plans that were submit-

ted to the authorities on the return to that honor countries.

Other modifications pertained to the programme design that went from the general to the more specific and from the academic to the practical. The seminars also became gradually shorter, and there was an increased participation of women.

After having dealt with the major trends and developments in the seminar series in terms of objectives, programme design, teaching methods, etc., the study sums up the results or impact of the training programme. It is on these findings that it finally bases its recommendations for the future involvement of the SCC in leadership development.

The study cannot provide clear cut answers to questions about the exact impact the seminars have had on co-operative development in the participants' countries. There are far too many other variables that influence co-operative development for such conclusions to be drawn. Neither is it possible to determine whether alternative ways of spending the money would have yielded better results. However, the study concludes that there is reason to believe that they did have an impact at least on the participants and their organisations.

The study also states the case for more leadership training, and suggest that the SCC should revive its support to this programme which should be designed as an integrated part of local plans and strategies pertaining to organisational development.

The study presents a wide range of data/information that provide interesting reading for people and organisations that are involved in co-operative training. That there is a tremendous need for leadership training especially in these days of turbulent change, no-one can deny. This SCC study shares with us valuable experience and information that may improve the design of future programmes.

Jan-Eiric Imbsen

Send order to :

ICA DOMUS TRUST

43, Friends Colony (East)
New Delhi 110 065, INDIA

Price : INR 100/- US\$ 15/-
(Inclusive of postage)

Please write to

**PUBLICATION SECTION/ICA
DOMUS TRUST**-and ask for a complete catalogue of publications.

Dharm Vir, "*Development of Human Interests*", New Delhi, Indian Adult Education Association, 1993 Rs. 40

It is primarily a contribution to our knowledge in the field of adult psychology and developmental disciplines. The study surveys major empirical studies in men and women's interests, and educational needs of adolescents, young adults and older people engaged in self-development in rural India. Also it discusses how adult interests and other variables of human personality can be developed in terms of cultural values. At some length, the study deals with *mem-*

bers' interests in rural cooperative societies, cooperative values, motivation for cooperation and the socio-economic development efforts, under the cooperative movement. Never the less, the main study on adult interests (Chapter II) focusses on the reading and other leisure-time pursuits of Hindi-Speaking villagers, living in the northern plains of India. Based on this field study, some general conclusions have been drawn and some suggestions for Adult/Co-operative Education are made by the author.

The study argues that interests are emotional attitudes energising motives and thoughts. Interests are personality traits which are considered stable. It is said that one's occupations may change but not his/her interests. Based on the knowledge of hu-

man psychology the educators may be able to guide mature adults to some extent in their educational endeavour. However, for enduring success learners' interests and educational needs be objectively studied and should cater to them in youth and adult education programmes by providing information on the results and techniques of his studies.

In conclusion, the author points out some of the scientific advancements made in psychology and allied sciences and again emphasizes on the need for adopting scientific outlook by the researchers and field workers in developing various facets of learners' personality through well planned educational programmes. Towards the end, he presents the Eastern and the Western views on human devel-

opment, the development of human personality (interests and values).

The book also deals in brife with the modern advances in Psychology (consciousness, spiritual psychology and New Psychology) and anticipates more studies in the field of sciences related to Human Development (HD). For that interdisciplinary approaches involving social sciences such as psychology, sociology, anthropology, human ecology, management, communication and education are to be used, in the East as well as in the West.

At the end, a select bibliography on subject is given which includes books, doctoral theses and papers/articles on Adult/educational psychology, as published in the Indian Journal of Adult Education till 1990.

ICA/ROAP DIRECTORY

(Member organisations and contact persons in the Asia-Pacific Region)
1994

Compiled by Prem Kumar, Manager Administration at ICAROAP

Directory is divided into IV parts.

- I : Contains ICA Head Office and Regional Offices of ICA
- II : Contains National Member Organizations in Asia-Pacific Region. They are from the following Countries which ROAP covers.
1. Australia 2. Bangladesh 3. China 4. Fiji 5. India 6. Indonesia 7. Iran 8. Iraq 9. Israel 10. Japan 11. Jordan 12. Korea, Republic of 13. Kuwait 14. Kyrgysta 15. Malaysia 16. Mongolia 17. Myanmar 18. Pakistan 19. Philippines 20. Singapore 21. Sri Lanka 22. Thailand 23. Turmenistan 24. Uzbekistan 25. Vietnam
- III : International Member Organizations
- IV : Non-Member organizations.

The directory also provides addresses, Telephone Numbers; Telefax; Telex and Cable Address of institutions listed. Besides member organizations it also provides list of other contact organizations/persons. It will be an useful reference tool to all interested.

For copies please write to the following address:-

ICA ROAP

"Bonow House", 43 Friends Colony (East)
New Delhi-110065

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ASIA-PACIFIC COOPERATIVE NEWS

Issue No.2

April-June 1994

International Cooperative Alliance

72nd International Co-operative Day (Saturday, 2 July 1994)

Message from the International Co-operative Alliance

The 150th Anniversary of the Rochdale Pioneers

This year the British Co-operative Movement is celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Rochdale Pioneers, whose great achievements were establishing the first successful Consumer Co-operative Society and laying down the Principles by which Co-operatives should be governed.

Today 700 million people around the world share the co-operative legacy of the 28 founders of the Rochdale Equitable Pioneers Society. The co-operative movement has spread from 28 consumers in a small town in the North of England, who joined together in 1844 in order to have access to unadulterated

goods at fair prices, to include more than one million co-operative societies of all sizes, in all sectors of the economy, and in more than 100 countries worldwide.

The world is now going through a period of rapid change which often has far-reaching effects on individual men, women and children. The social and cultural dimension of co-operatives profoundly influences the way changes affect our society. This is because co-operatives empower individuals by giving them the chance to shape and implement decisions which have an impact on their everyday lives, thus involving them directly in the search

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Support ASPACON, feeding with news and events in your country and organisation. We also invite your suggestions and opinions to further improve ASPACON.
-Editor

for solutions to their economic and social needs.

The ICA recognises that it is only through mutual understanding, co-operation and co-existence that world peace, and thus healthy economic and social development will be globally possible. All member co-operatives of the ICA have pledged to co-operate actively in every practical way with other Co-operatives at local, national and international levels, aiming to achieve unity of action by co-operators throughout the world.

While the history of Rochdale Pioneers will certainly never be forgotten, the future challenges for co-operators is to reach a new and wider audience with the Co-operative message of ordinary people improving their prospects and those of the whole of mankind, by working together co-operatively.

The International Co-operative Alliance calls on its more than 700,000,000 individual members worldwide to use the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the International Co-operative Alliance in 1995, as an opportunity to gain maximum publicity for our movement, for our present achievements and, more importantly, to promote greater understanding of our future goals.

**INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP BY REGION**

WORLD TOTAL

725, 676, 982 INDIVIDUALS

225 NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

9 INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

101 COUNTRIES

AFRICA

32 ORGANIZATIONS

21 COUNTRIES

19,521,735 INDIVIDUALS

THE AMERICAS

36 ORGANIZATIONS

19 COUNTRIES

87, 438, 162 INDIVIDUALS

EUROPE

95 ORGANIZATIONS

35 COUNTRIES

155,705,774 INDIVIDUALS

ASIA and the PACIFIC

62 ORGANIZATIONS

26 COUNTRIES

463,011,311 INDIVIDUALS

ICA REGIONAL OFFICE NEWS

Meeting of the ICA Regional Assembly for Asia & the Pacific, New Delhi (India) : 5-7 October 1994

On the invitation of Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, President, National Cooperative Union of India, the next meeting of the ICA Regional Assembly will be held in New Delhi from October 5-7, 1994. Preparations are being made to host the Assembly.

As per the rules of the ICA Regional Assembly, every member organisation of ICA ROAP shall be entitled to appoint/nominate at least one voting representative and the total number of voting representatives from any country

shall not exceed the maximum number of member organisations from any country in the region.

Each representative/observer will have to pay a Registration Fee of US\$ 100.

Member organisations from the region shall have the right to send non-voting observers to the meeting, with no limit imposed on their number, upon payment of registration fee for observers.

The meeting will be held on self-financing basis.

EIGHTH ICA/JAPAN MANAGEMENT TRAINING COURSE CONCLUDES

The Eighth ICA/Japan Training Course for Strengthening Management of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia, held in four countries, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Japan, from October 20, 1993 to April 21, 1994, successfully concluded in Tokyo on 21st April 1994. Fifteen participants from eleven countries, i.e. Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam, participated in the Training Course for its entire duration.

The concluding session held in IDACA was attended by Mr. Seiichi Igarashi, Director, International Cooperation Division of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of the Government of Japan. Certificates of participa-

tion from the ICA ROAP as well as Certificates of Attendance from IDACA were awarded to the Participants.

The Second Part of the Training Course was held in Japan from February 21 to April 21, 1994. The Japan Part included Project Appraisal Sessions for appraising the Projects prepared by the 8th course participants, study visits to agricultural cooperatives in Fukuoka and Aichi Prefectures of Japan and lecture introductions to Japanese Agricultural Cooperative movement and its management policies.

The End of the Course Evaluation by participants emphasised the importance of the training course for

development of management capabilities of agricultural cooperatives in the Region and the need for the donors to continue this useful training programme for years to come for the benefit of member movements in the region.

NINTH TRAINING COURSE PROGRAMME ANNOUNCED

A Preliminary Announcement announcing the holding of the next ICA Japan Management Training Programme from October 20, 1994 to April 22, 1995, has been made and all ICA Member Organizations in the Region have been approached through notification to initiate the process of identifying their participants for nomination. Special emphasis and more information has been provided to the member organisations of the ICA to inform the potential participants of the need for advance planning and discussion on their Project Proposals that will have to be prepared by them as part of the training course. As in the past, fifteen participants will be selected from out of the nominations received from the member organisations.

NATIONAL FOLLOW - UP REVIEW WORKSHOPS HELD IN SRI LANKA AND THAILAND

As a part of the programme of the Eighth ICA/Japan Management Training Course, two National Review Workshops of former participants from Sri Lanka and Thailand were held in Colombo and Bangkok respectively. The Sri

Lankan Workshop was held in Colombo on 29th and 30th December 1993 while the Thai National Workshop was held in Bangkok on 3rd and 4th January 1994. Nine out of ten past Sri Lankan participants attended the Workshop in Colombo, while six out of 12 past Thai participants attended the Workshop in Bangkok. All participants presented Status papers detailing the work done on their respective project proposals.

The Sri Lankan Workshop was attended by Mr P.E. Weeraman, Mr. R.B. Rajaguru, former Regional Directors of the ICA from Sri Lanka; Prof. A.H. Kalro from IIM, Ahmedabad, as Resource Persons.

Out of the nine Sri Lankan project proposals for which status positions were discussed, five projects are already in different stages of implementation and two out of the five are fully functional. Three project proposals prepared by former participants have been accepted in principle for implementation by the Boards of respective cooperatives and it is envisaged that they will be implemented in the next two or three years. One Project proposal has been abandoned. The participants of the 8th training course had the benefit of visiting the Dunagaha Coconut

Producers Cooperative Society and the Ruwanwella Multipurpose cooperative society and studied the functioning of the implemented projects.

The Thai National Follow Up Workshop was attended by Mr Shiro Futagami, Managing Director of IDACA; Mr A Miyazaki, Chief, General Affairs Department of JA Zenchu; Mr Hiroshi Terunuma, Programme Coordinator, IDACA; and Mr Norong Marukatut, Director, Cooperative League of Thailand, as Resource Persons.

The Thai Workshop status papers revealed that all the six participants who had attended the Workshop were successful in implementing their respective projects. In two cases the project proposals have been changed to suit the needs of the members of the Societies and have been implemented in the revised form.

Several important suggestions were made by the participants, the nominating and sponsoring organisations and member organisations of the ICA to make the programme more useful and facilitate the implementation of the project proposals prepared by the participants in future.

FOURTH ICA/JAPAN TRAINING COURSE PROGRAMME FOR WOMEN COOPERATIVE LEADERS OF ASIA

The fourth training course for Rural Women Cooperative Leaders of Asia, funded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Government of Japan, will be held at IDACA, Tokyo, from Octo-

ber 17 to November 12, 1994. Six women cooperative leaders will be selected from India, Jordan & Sri Lanka to participate in this year's programme.

Regional Consultation on "Cooperative-Government Collaborative Strategies in the Asia-Pacific Region"

The Regional Consultation on "Cooperative-Government Collaborative Strategies in the Asia-Pacific Region" was held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia between 17 and 22 April '94. It was attended by 39 delegates from the governments and ICAROAP member-countries, namely Fiji, Israel, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. Besides observers from Australia (representative of the Department of Local Government & Co-operative), Canadian Cooperative Association (CCA), Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organisation (AARRO), Swedish Cooperative Centre (SCC), International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Asean Cooperative Organization (ACO), Societe de developement international Desjardins (SDID), etc. were also present.

On the basis of the discussions on various issues arising from the contextual framework, some conclusions categorized according to Cooperative-government relations, cooperative-business relations, and cooperative-member relations were made by the Consultation. Dr. R.C. Dwivedi attended the Consultation as ICAROAP consultant.

Seminar on Cooperative Trade and Export Opportunities

On 17th May 1994 a Seminar on Cooperative Trade and Export Opportunities was held in Sydney, Australia, and about 40 directors and managers of Australian cooperatives and officers of relevant State and Federal Government Departments attended the seminar. Mr. G.K. Sharma, Regional Director; and Mr. Guo Yong Kang, Agricultural Cooperative Development Advisor, ICA ROAP, attended the seminar. Mr. Sharma presented a paper on "International Trade by Cooperatives and Role of International Cooperative Alliance" which briefed the history and objectives of ICA in promoting international cooperative trade. The opening remarks of Mr. Garry Payne, Director General, Department for Local Government and Cooperatives NSW, and presentation on Promoting Trade between Cooperatives and the Facilitating Role of the Registry of Cooperatives by Mr. Garry Cronon, Manager of Cooperative Development Branch, Registry of Cooperatives NSW, clearly explained the objectives of the Registry in promoting cooperative trade. All the information given at the seminar were well received by the participants.

As a follow-up, Mr. G.K. Sharma and Mr. Guo Yong Kang together with officers of the Registry had separate meetings with directors of five cooperatives, namely, Australian Pulse Cooperative, Ausgro Cooperative, Murray Grey Beef Marketing Cooperative, Orange Export Marketing Cooperative, and Sunny Coast Export Cooperative in Dubbo on 18th May 1994 and discussed about their needs

and the ways in which the ICA could facilitate them to explore export opportunities. Through the discussions several coop trade proposals were identified.

Mr. G.K. Sharma and Mr. Guo Yong Kang had discussions with Hon'ble Garry West, Minister for Local Government and Cooperatives, NSW Australia; Mr. Garry Payne, Director General, Department of Local Government and Cooperatives; and Ms. Dianne McDougall, Executive Officer to the Minister. They also attended the ceremony of presenting Certificates to students attending the APCC Course in Sydney.

Seminars on Student/University Cooperatives in India

The Seminar was jointly organized by ICA and Dept. of Marketing and Cooperation, University of Agriculture and Sciences, Bangalore with Dr. Dongre from Mangalore University as a coordinator. The main objectives of the Seminar were to promote, develop and improve student/university cooperatives within the region. Forty nine (49) participants (Professors, Lecturers, members of Board of Directors of University Coops. etc.) attended the seminar on 12-13 April, 1994. They discussed about (1) the Japanese experiences in organizing and managing Univ. Coops in Japan, (2) situations of student/univ. Coops in Karnataka, (3) problems and recommendations for changes and improvement. The outcome was quite good. It was agreed that in future, universities or colleges should try to send MA/MS students to make studies or case stud-

ies on student/university cooperatives and at the same time try to help improve them. Besides, the Dept. of Economics, Social Studies or Marketing should collect data on cooperative operations in all fields in order to use them in teaching and at the same time to use analysed facts to improve the operations of cooperatives.

Another Seminar was jointly organized by ICA and Institute of Cooperative Management (ICM), Madurai, Tamil Nadu, between 15 and 17 April, 1994. The objectives and the seminar programme was similar to that of Bangalore, but more intensive and better prepared. The outcome was very encouraging. The participants were motivated, well equipped with real situations and ideas as to why student/univ. coops do not work properly in India, as in Japan. The seminar had raised many new ideas as to how to re-structure and improve student/univ. coops in Tamil Nadu. For example, (1) facts and information (data) on student/univ. coop. operations must be collected, analysed and used regularly, (2) joint purchase among student/univ. coop. operations must be encouraged, (4) regular meetings among coop. leaders must take place, and (5) formation of student/univ. coop. federation be encouraged. It is expected that the performance of student/univ. coops within the region will be improved very soon. Of course, it needs technical advice and support from ICA, NFUCA and College/University authorities.

Meeting on Health Medical Coops in Colombo

The meeting was jointly organized by the Medical Coop. Committee of JCCU and the NCC of Sri Lanka

at the Hotel Holiday Inn, Colombo, on 19 and 20 April, 1994. Thirty five (35) participants from 4 countries, India (8), Japan (8), Malaysia (1), Sri Lanka (17) and ICA ROAP attended the meeting.

The meeting discussed about (1) impact of medical coops in providing better facilities and service to coop. members, (2) medical coop. operations in Asian countries, (3) development of medical coops in Asian countries and (4) future plans for the development of medical coops in Asia and the Pacific. The outcome of the seminar was quite good. The next seminar will be organized in India in 1996.

Sub-Regional Seminar on Consumer Coop. Development in India

The seminar was jointly organized by ICA, NCCT and Apna Bazar Dept. Coop. Store, Bombay, at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Bombay, between 24 April and 3rd May, 1994. Twenty one (21) participants from three countries - India (15), Myanmar (3), and Sri Lanka (3) attended the Seminar. The seminar's main objectives were to upgrade the modern management techniques of consumer coops., improve consumer coop. perfor-

mance, and to build up better relationship among participants.

The seminar was divided into 5 main parts - (1) theory, (2) presentation of country papers and case studies, (3) field visit, (4) group discussions, and (5) exercise. The outcome was very good.

During the Seminar, Mr. M. Ohya, Chairman of Consumer Committee for Asia and the Pacific spoke at the inaugural session and also gave a talk on "World Consumer Cooperative" to the participants. He also invited 4 consumer coop. leaders and key managers from Apna Bazar Coop. Dept., Store, Sahakari Bhandar, Nana Chowk and Grahak Panchayat, Bombay, to visit Japan for 10 days in July this year. It was a big boost to encourage all the participants of the seminar.

On 28th April, Mr. Mallimaratchi, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Food and Janasaviya, Govt. Of Sri Lanka, Mr. Divaratne, Commissioner and Registrar of Coop. Societies of Sri Lanka, and Mr. G.K. Sharma, Regional Director, ICA ROAP, visited the participants and delivered short speeches. This important visit had given more weight to the success of the seminar. It is expected that the participants will step up their efforts to improve consumer coop. operations in their respective home states/countries in the near future.

COLLABORATION ON DATA BANK

Mr. Ram Prakash Technical Officer, DATA Bank, ICA ROAP visited following organisations in Thailand during 16-21 May 1994.

1. Cooperative League of Thailand

2. United Nations/Economic and Social Commission for Asia & the Pacific (ESCAP)

3. Co-operative Promotion Department (C P D)

4. FAO/NEDAC-Network on Development of Agricultural Co-operatives in Asia and the Pacific

5. Association of Asian Confederation of Credit Unions (ACCU)

During his visit Mr. Prakash met the concerned officers in respective organisations and had discussions with them on the working of their data bank systems and explained the working of ICA ROAP data bank. He also explored the possibilities of joint activities with the organizations he visited including holding regional workshops on data bank etc. in near future. A detailed mission report had been submitted to ICA ROAP authorities for necessary follow-up.

4th World CICOPA Conference

4th World CICOPA Conference was held in Spain from 6th to 10th June, 1994 at Palacio de Congress Europa, VITORIAGASTEIZ, 360 kms north of Madrid. Around 200 delegates from more than 25 countries attended the Conference. The theme of the World Conference was Industrial and Craftsmanship Cooperation in the World (at the beginning of 21st century). The Conference was hosted by the Government of Basque countries in Spain.

President of the Basque Government Mr. Ardanza inaugurated the Conference on 6th June 1994. Other dignitaries present at the inaugural session were Mr. Cuerda, Mayor of Vitoria-Gasteiz, Mr. Luesma, Minister of Labour and Social Security of the Basque

Government, Mr. Lars Marcus, President of ICA, Mr Fazio, Head of the Cooperative branch of the ILO Geneva and Mr Regis, President of CICOPA.

The Conference was divided into Plenaries and Workshops on various important issues governing the changing socio-economic factors resulting metamorphosis of the cooperatives worldwide. Main topics which caught the attention of the delegates were :

1. Modern Industry and Effective Democratic Participation.
2. Development, Craft Industry and Women
3. Job Creation, the Young and Different Forms of Cooperatives in the Future
4. Cooperative Development and Solidarity
5. Formal and Participative Democracy

WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA AND PACIFIC

Ms. Akiko Yamauchi, ICA ROAP Gender Programme Advisor, attended the UN ESCAP Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development in Jakarta, from 7 to 15 June, 1994.

This conference was held to review and appraise the progress achieved in the region in implementing the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. It was also a regional preparatory activity for the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing 1995.

The conference was attended by representatives from 49 member

6. Indivisible Reserves and

7. The Social and Humane Mission of Cooperatives in production

Besides, a field visit was organised to Mondragon Cooperatives, 100 kms away from Vitoria. The visit to Mondragon was an eye-opening experience especially for the delegates from the third world countries. Mondragon cooperatives have adopted totally transformed concept of cooperative companies with enterprising spirits which is convulsing the souls of cooperative thinkers and policy makers in developing countries

Conference was concluded with the recommendations of the delegates on all the issues deliberated. The Conference was of a special significance in the light of forthcoming ICA CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS.

countries of the ESCAP, 9 countries from other regions, including government ministers and senior officials. The 17 UN bodies, specialised agencies and related organizations, 5 intergovernmental organizations and 83 non-governmental organizations also attended the meeting.

Today's women's situation in the region can be summarised as follows;

The region as a whole and East Asia and South East Asia in particular had made remarkable economic progress. Social progress had also improved female literacy, maternal mortality had de-

creased and female life expectancy had increased since 1985.

However, there were other indicators, such as a drop in the percentage of female parliamentarians, which reflected deteriorating situation of women in decision-making and access to power. The benefits of economic growth were distributed unevenly in favour of men rather than women. Also, the short-term direct impact of liberalization and structural adjustment policies had been negative with regard to the situation of women, thus the "feminization of poverty" had accelerated in some parts of the region.

Viewed in the Women in Economic Development, it was noted that negative impact of structural adjustment and economic transition on the social services provided by the state and it was stressed that efforts be made to protect public expenditure on health care, educational opportunities and poverty alleviation.

It was also referred that the problems of women who migrated outside their communities or overseas for employment. These migrant women are vulnerable and were on many occasions subject to not only economic exploitation, but also sexual exploitation and physical abuse.

In the social development, it was observed that reductions in infant, child, and maternal mortality rates had been unevenly distributed among and within countries and sometimes between sexes and that in many countries the mortality and morbidity rates had remained unacceptably high. The problems of malnutrition, particularly among girl children, remained in some countries.

It was also noted that absolute poverty remained a serious problem in the more populous countries. The need of elimination of absolute poverty was emphasized. The importance of credit, training, employment, management skills, social security and self-employment opportunities was stated.

Regarding empowerment of women, it was mentioned that women's role in decision-making process not only in the political arena but also in formal business enterprises still remained marginal. It was also recognized that the empowerment of women was often constrained by traditional attitudes and socio-cultural mores.

Furthermore, discrimination exists in the work places. Discrimination in wages exists in some countries.

A Drafting Group was appointed to deliberate and finalize the draft plan of action for the advancement of women in the region. It examined the draft and revised it, the Plenary Meeting discussed revised draft and amended it further. The draft was finally approved unanimously.

In the plan of action, ten issues, such as feminization of poverty,

women's participation in economic activities, women's role in environment, access to power and decision-making, violation of women's rights, access to health, education and literacy, portrayal of women in the media, mechanism for promoting the advancement of women and women's role in peace building, stated as critical area concerned in the region and goals, strategic objectives and action to be taken were suggested in each area.

Regarding statements of "co-operative", it was referred three times in the chapter of "the goals, strategic objectives and action to be taken", in terms of enhancement of women's participation in economics.

The Fourth UN World Women Conference will be held in Beijing at the Beijing Convention Centre from September 4 to 15 and the NGO Forum will be convened at the Beijing Ports Service Centre for Workers from August 30 to September 8 in 1995.

(For further information particularly on women and cooperative please contact Ms. Akiko Yamauchi, Gender Programme Advisor, at ICA ROAP New Delhi.)

ICA SUPPORTS PGPBA SUMMER PLACEMENT PROGRAMME OF VAMNICOM

The ICA ROAP has agreed to receive in June-July 1994 two students of Post Graduate Programme in Business Administration (Cooperation) PGPBA of the Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management, Pune (VAMNICOM) for studies and preparing project reports during their Summer Placement Programme. The PGPBA is of two-years duration and the Summer Placement Programme of approximately two months.

The two students, Mr Maheshwar Khillar and Mr Rajat Kumar Pattanaik, both from Orissa State, are pursuing their Placement studies on two different subjects: i) Value Addition Concept in Agro-Processing Cooperative with special reference to Cashew Nut, and ii) Sustaining Environment through Cooperative Action.

The PGPBA provides an opportunity to students interested in man-

agement career in cooperative sector or corporate sector, with a programme having a curriculum designed in a fashion to meet the needs of changing business scenario. It aims at developing knowledge, skills and foster attitudes among the students, essential for their growth into competent and responsible managers, capable of assuming leadership in management positions in cooperative corporate sector. The first batch taken in by the VAMNICOM for the term 1993-95 consists of 41 students selected from various disciplines throughout India.

The Summer Placement which is an integral part of the main course gives the students an opportunity to put the management concepts and analytical tools assimilated in the classroom to practical use. They return to the class-room with a visibly greater level of confidence, enthusiasm and understanding of the cooperative corporate world and its demands. Further, the projects assigned to the students are expected to equip the students to handle responsibilities, apply classroom concepts to the job, plan work and deliver results within specified time frame.

The summer placement programme for the two VAMNICOM students is being guided by Dr Daman Prakash, Project Director of the ICA/ Japan Agri-coops Management Training Project.

SDA Visits Cooperatives in Israel

The cooperatives in Israel are part of the General Federation of Labour "Histradut". The ICA member organisation is Hevrat Ha'Ovdim, which is the General Cooperative of Labour in Israel, owned by the members of Histradut. This means that all cooperative members are at the same time members of Histradut. Hevrat Ha'Ovdim con-

sists of two components, the institutional sector with companies and enterprises owned by Hevrat Ha'ovdim; and the cooperative sector with companies, institutions and enterprises owned by their members directly. The cooperative movement is a workers movement and the overall objective is to create employment opportunities.

In the national economy the cooperatives play a very important role as their share in manufacturing is 15%, banking 31%, insurance 14%, construction 8%, transport 82%, and agriculture 80%. The movement has 137,000 employees, including working members.

Of special interest are the Kibbutz and the Moshav settlements. They are the major producer of agricultural products in Israel. The Kibbutz is a collective settlement with collective ownership in all fields.

The Moshav is composed of individual family farm units.

The Kibbutz and Moshav settlements are not only producing agricultural products but have also established industries both on local and regional basis. They also offer vacation and recreational facilities as part of the tourist industry.

The International Institute for Labour, Development and Cooperative Studies was founded by Histradut in 1958. Since 1st February a new constellation has emerged through amalgamation of the above with two other training and research institutes all part of the Histradut. The name of the "new" institute is "The International Institute (Histradut, Israel) and its training facilities are located 25 kms north of Tel Aviv in Bet Berl. The Institute organises international leadership training courses for

labour union and cooperative leaders, specialised courses on the role of women in development, youth problems, cooperatives and community development, farm management of agricultural cooperatives etc. The Principal of the Institute, Mr. Yehuda Paz, has been elected to the Board of the ICA. He is also the Vice-Chairman of the ICA ROAP HRD Committee. ICA ROAP will develop a closer collaboration with the Institute through scholarships, joint programmes, resource persons and use of consultants.

Mr. Malte Jonsson, SDA, also paid a visit to the Registrar for Cooperative Societies in Jerusalem. The office of the Registrar has computerised all information about every cooperative society or organisation in Israel. In addition to the office in Jerusalem, the Registrar has four regional offices closely linked to the Head Office.

NEWS FROM THE REGION

AUSTRALIA

Australian League admitted into the ICA membership. Its address is given below

THE AUSTRALIAN COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE LTD.,
87 Gloucester Street, THE ROCKS, SYDNEY, NSW 2000, Australia

Tel : (61-2) 252 24 77
 Fax : (61-2) 252 29 50
 Mr. James McCall : Executive Director

BANGLADESH

NORWAY CONTRIBUTES TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Norway has contributed a \$1.91 million grant to the Asian Development Bank-supported Rural

Poor Cooperative Project in Bangladesh. Of the grant, \$1.31 million will finance the training of cooperative and field staff under the project and \$600,000 will finance an associated technical assistance for institutional strengthening of the Bangladesh Rural Development Board.

Rural development has been an essential component of the devel-

opment strategy in Bangladesh where more than four-fifths of the population live in the countryside and where agriculture is the mainstay of the economy. The rural sector is characterized by a number of major problems: the vast majority of people are unemployed or underemployed, almost one-third are landless and about half of the households have incomes below the poverty line.

The primary objective of the Project is to help reduce poverty in Bangladesh by creating sustainable nonfarm employment that will improve incomes. The secondary aim is to improve the productivity of marginal farmers and the viability of farmers' cooperatives by expanding irrigated areas and im-

proving marketing facilities. The Project beneficiaries will be the rural poor, the landless as well as marginal farmers who are disadvantaged by the lack of employment opportunities and lack of access to productive assets.

Source : ADB Release No. 55/94

INDIA

Conference on Cooperative Insurance System

The Agriculture Minister has asked the cooperative sector to take advantage of the economic reforms and usher in a revolution in the rural sector. The Government has finalized legislation to make the cooperatives independent and ensure their democratic functioning, Mr Bal Ram Jakhar said at the inaugural function of the National Conference on Cooperative Insurance System organized by the National Cooperative Union of India.

The Minister said that the cooperatives must face the challenges even from the multinationals. The setting up of the National Cooperative Bank would also help the cooperative sector to take up agribusiness projects and become commercially viable.

An insurance system in the cooperative sector would reach out to the poor villagers, where the other insurance systems are not able to do so. He said that the cooperative insurance system would foster a very august bond between the client cooperatives and the cooperative insurance system.

However, he stressed that the insurance institutions have primary obligation to the policy holders whose money they hold in trust.

Source : *The Statesman*, 2.6.1994

Rs 3.8 billion NCDC outlay okayed

The general council of the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) has passed an annual outlay of Rs 3.8 billion for 1994-95 at its 38th meeting here today.

Agriculture Minister Mr. Bal Ram Jakhar said major chunk of the proposed outlay would go to agro-processing sector and the weaker sections from fisheries, tribals and handloom sectors.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Arvind Netam, Minister of State for Agriculture and vice-president NCDC general council.

Mr Jakhar said cooperatives would continue to play a leading role in the distribution of chemical fertilizers.

He said cooperative sector would also market agricultural produce worth Rs 7.4 billion next year as against the current year's estimated achievement of Rs 7.2 billion.

He also visualised a new strategic role for NCDC in helping the cooperative sector respond to the fundamental changes in the economy.

Source : *The National Herald (New Delhi)*, 30.3.1994.

Focus on....

Fishermen's Cooperatives

Development of fisheries though has been a part of planned development for a long time, yet the results are sporadic. On the one hand, the country has witnessed a revolution in fish production and export of marine products, but on the other, much needs to be done for the uplift of small fishermen. The total fish production in the country, has increased from

2.8 million tonnes in 1984-85 to 4.37 million tonnes in 1992-93. In this, marine sector's contribution has been significant.

As far as small fishermen are concerned, they constitute the bulk of traditional marine fisheries and inland fisheries sectors. Out of 9100 primary level fishery cooperatives in the country, majority are in inland fisheries sector. The total membership of these societies is about 900,000 which is around one third of the active fishermen population.

Although fisheries is a group activity, yet there is lack of awareness in fishermen about the advantages of cooperatives. Inadequate leadership, lack of financial management and infrastructural support are the major stumbling blocks for small fishermen's societies. A comprehensive survey of fishery cooperatives may have to be undertaken to prepare an action plan to strengthen potentially viable fishery cooperatives and to organise new viable ones. Adequate working capital and investment finance has to be provided to hire professional services and improve local skills. Also, since the viability of inland fisheries depends much upon the water area available, a long-term lease of water bodies to fishery cooperatives has to be ensured by the State Governments.

Development of fisheries is a thrust area for NCDC. The activity is being promoted by the Corporation since 1974. The emphasis now is on implementation of Integrated Fisheries Development Projects envisaging integration of the gamut of activities, right from production to marketing with proper forward and backward linkages and

built in management, extension and training, components. Upto 1992-93 NCDC has sanctioned thirteen such projects involving a total block cost of Rs. 1.32 billion. Also, a massive inland fisheries development project with EEC aid of Rs. 3.42 billion is in pipeline.

Source : NCDC BULLETIN, FEBRUARY 1994

NCDC New Managing Director

Sh. J.P. Singh has assumed charge as the new Managing Director of NCDC on 7th March, 1994. Sh. Singh belongs to the Rajasthan Cadre of the Indian Administrative Service which he joined in 1972.

Contribution for Farm Forestry Development

The Board of Management of NCDC in its 68th meeting held on Sep. 30, 1993, has approved NCDC's membership in the newly formed Indian Farm Forestry Development Coop. Ltd., which is a National Level Federation. The Corporation's initial contribution would be Rs. 50,000 towards share capital of this society. It has also been decided to make total investment of Rs. 1 million, including the initial contribution of Rs. 50,000 on receipt of feasible and viable projects.

INDIAN TOURISM COOPERATIVE LIMITED

There was tremendous scope for developing pilgrimage tourism, particularly directed at catering to the Indian population settled

abroad. This was observed by Shri Kama luddin Ahmed, Union Minister of State for Commerce while inaugurating the National Seminar on "Role of Cooperative Sector in the Strategy for Development of Tourism" organised by Indian Tourism Cooperative Limited (COOPTOUR) on 24th May 1994 at New Delhi.

Cooperative can play a key role in the development of infrastructure, particularly hotels, motels for encouraging tourism in the country. This was stated by Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Union Minister of Tourism, in the valedictory address to the seminar. He promised his whole-hearted support to COOPTOUR in this behalf. Reacting to the resume of the Seminar, which was presented by Shri S. Chandra, Vice Chairman of COOPTOUR, the Minister assured that his Ministry would give serious consideration to the recommendations of the Seminar and suggested that COOPTOUR should formulate an Action Plan for development of tourism infrastructure in the Cooperative sector. Shri Azad informed the Seminar that Tourism was the third largest foreign exchange earner for the country and was contributing Rs. 4600 million. He further said that as a result of the promotional efforts made by the Govt. of India and his personal visits to as many as 36 countries during the last one and half year he was confident that foreign exchange earning on account of tourism will reach the targeted figure of Rs. 100 billion by the year 1997.

Shri Nawal Kishore Sharma, Chairman of the Steering Committee, presided over both the Inaugural and Valedictory sessions of the Seminar. In his presidential address, Shri Sharma stated that COOPTOUR started with a humble beginning and faced many teething problems. However, with

the dedicated efforts of the management and staff the COOPTOUR is standing on its own feet. He further said that the object of COOPTOUR was not merely to work as a travel agency. It has to play the role of a torch bearer to provide leadership for development of tourism in the cooperative sector. This was important in view of the huge potential in the tourism sector available in the country and for providing employment.

Shri C.B. Holkar, Chairman, COOPTOUR, welcomed Ministers, guests and participants and informed about the achievements of COOPTOUR. Addressing the Seminar in the inaugural session, Shri B.S. Vishwanathan, President, National Cooperative Union of India, spoke about the many potential areas where cooperatives can develop infrastructural facilities for tourism. He promised to extend full support of NCUI to COOPTOUR.

Recommendations :-

- 1) COOPTOUR should make constant efforts to improve its services and ensure better liaison with its clients. It should approach all such cooperatives which are eligible to become its members to join the membership of COOPTOUR and liberally contribute to its equity.
- 2) COOPTOUR should formulate a detailed 'Action Plan' which among others should include:-
 - a) Plan to raise its equity from cooperatives as well as Govt.
 - b) Plan for promotional activities including conduct of surveys, training, formulation of projects, organisation of tourism cooperatives and seek support from the Govt.

of India, Dept. of Tourism, for its implementation.

- c) Plan to prepare package of pilgrimage tours in India especially for Indians settled abroad, setting up of Cooperative Tourist complex, opening more branches, conduct domestic as well as International study tours for cooperators.
 - d) Plan to approach the Union Ministry of Tourism to sanction funds for formulation of projects for development of infrastructure, particularly hotels and motels in places of tourist interest in a phased manner.
- 3) Existing members of COOPTOUR should interact with it for improving its services and should provide support to COOPTOUR by liberal share capital contribution and finances to set up Cooperative Tourist Complexes.
 - 4) Indian Airlines should liberalize its norms for COOPTOUR to open its branches.
 - 5) Domestic and International Airlines should not apply the same norms on COOPTOUR as are applied on private agents in view of the status of COOPTOUR, which is supported by strong cooperative membership and is a registered body under the Cooperative law. They should not insist on bank guarantee and give more stocks of tickets to COOPTOUR. In order to ensure that the clients of the COOPTOUR are properly served they should also indemnify the clients of COOPTOUR, if they suffer on account of any fault at the level of airlines.

6) In view of the need to develop tourism in the cooperative sector, the Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India should provide support to COOPTOUR in the following manner:-

- a) contribute liberally to the equity of COOPTOUR.
- b) provide funds to COOPTOUR by way of grant in aid to take up various promotional activities included in COOPTOUR 'Action Plan' and also to set up a Research cum Development Cell.
- c) liberalise its terms and conditions to extend support to COOPTOUR for implementing its Plan to set up Cooperative Tourist Complexes.
- d) include representatives of COOPTOUR in delegations going abroad to promote tourism and also provide funds for COOPTOUR to sponsor its own delegations abroad for promoting tourism.
- e) recognise COOPTOUR and other tourism cooperatives by giving them a suitable place in the Action Plan for tourism 1992.

IFFCO Chairman honoured by Senegal Govt

The President of Senegal, on 31st March '94, conferred the title of "The National Order of the Lion" on Mr Pellakuru Ramachandra Reddy, Chairman of the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Ltd. (IFFCO). The title, presented by His Excellency Moustapha Niasse,

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Senegal, on behalf of the President of Senegal, was in recognition of IFFCO's contribution to a joint venture between the two countries for production of phosphoric acid.

Source : *The Financial Express*, 2.4.1994

NDDB project meets with success

The animal foot and mouth disease control project initiated by the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) in the mid-eighties in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala has met with considerable success. As a result, the incidence of disease has been reduced from endemic to sporadic and the outbreaks have substantially declined, according to a NDDB release.

A total of 18.09 million vaccinations were carried out under the project between 1984-85 and 1992-93, covering 70.9 per cent of the target population of 25.52 million animals.

Source : *The Financial Express*, 3.5. 1994

Amul plans Lankan entry via coop outlets

THE AMUL range of milk products, produced at Anand, is all set to hit the lucrative Sri Lankan market through the Island's biggest state-run chain of cooperative stores.

The Cooperative Workers Establishment (CWE) will market the Amul range of milk products through its outlets throughout the Island. It will compete with established international brands.

Sri Lanka depends on imports for almost 90 per cent of its milk requirements. The Island imports 36,000 million tonnes of milk powder annually, the local supplies being around 6,000 million tonnes.

India, at present, the second largest milk producer in the world, is set to replace the current number one, the US, in milk production by the year 2000.

Source : *Economic Times*, 2.6.1994.

NABARD plans to revamp co-op banks

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) will launch an action plan for improving the viability of state and district level co-operative banks after signing MoUs with the concerned state governments in 1994-95.

The bank has also created a Cooperative Development Fund (CDF) with an initial corpus of Rs 100 million to support training of staff of cooperative banks, publicity, recovery computerisation and deposit mobilisation.

During the year ended March 31, 1994, the aggregate refinance support to banks from NABARD reached a peak of Rs 66,360 million as against Rs 62,140 million in the previous year. Refinance support along with the banks' own resources was expected to exceed the ground level disbursement of Rs 150 billion comprising production credit, investment credit, weavers' finance and others.

NABARD had registered a 16.4 per cent growth as refinance support to various financing banks, up from Rs 23,590 million to Rs 27,450 million.

Under production credit, it sanctioned credit limits to co-operative banks and RRBs aggregated Rs 38,640 million, with RBI making available additional limits of Rs 10 billion.

Source : *Indian Express*, 3.4.1994

NABARD may frame new norms

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development is thinking of making elections to cooperative societies a condition to extend financial assistance.

The lack of a democratic set up in cooperative institutions would affect their functioning. "However no decision on this yet" has been taken.

Source : *The Statesman*, 7.4.1994.

Committee stresses on Model Act

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on agriculture has said in its report that more attention should be paid to the co-operative movement for its development.

As cooperation came under the purview of the states, they had enacted their own cooperative acts. The restrictive provisions in these acts have severely impeded the development of the cooperative movement, the report noted. A model cooperative act was therefore a prerequisite for the healthy development of cooperatives.

The Committee is of the view that continuous efforts should be made by the Central Government to prevail upon the state governments to amend their cooperative laws in line with the Model Act.

The Centre, meanwhile is taking its own time over amendments to cooperative law which would give more autonomy to cooperatives. The Bill with amendments to the Multi-state Cooperative Societies Act 1984, continues to gather dust in government offices.

Some of the amendments suggested in the draft bill:

restriction on the number of government nominees to the board of directors to "one" and that too only when the government has equity in the cooperative;

government debarred from investing in a cooperative unless specifically requested to do so by the cooperative's general body.

Source : *CDF NEWSLETTER No.6 April 94.*

Kerala Co-op Bank launches credit card system

The Kerala State Co-operative Bank has become the first state co-operative bank in the country to introduce a credit card.

The bank credit card system was formally launched when the State's Minister for Co-operation, Mr M V. Raghavan, handed over the first credit card to the Minister for Sports, Mr Pandalam Sudhakaran, on April 6, '94.

Source : *The Financial Express*, 6.4.1994.

Rs. 900 million from Sweden, Canada for tree growers co-op

The chairman of the National Tree Growers Cooperative Federation, Dr Amrita Patel, has said Rs. 900 million aid from Swedish and Canadian Governments was now

available and it was the responsibility of the member cooperatives to utilise the money efficiently.

Speaking at the seventh annual general meeting of the Federation Dr Patel, urged members to identify people committed to working in rural areas.

Source : *The Financial Express*, 12.6. 1994

AN N.G.O. IN AID OF CO-OPERATIVES

The COUNCIL FOR RURAL AND COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT, is engaged in the work of providing services like research, evaluation, consultancy, training and promoting studies in the field of rural development and cooperation. Dr. B. Venkatappiah formerly Dy. Governor Reserve of India, was its founder president. Since 1990, Sh. MMK Wali formerly Lt. Governor and a veteran cooperator is its president. A number of stalwards, having life-time experience in rural development and cooperation, are its members.

Its fields of expertise include Rural Development Banking, Consumers Cooperative Management, Supplies and Marketing Management, Processing of Agricultural Produce, Training and Education Methodology, Integrated Cooperative Development and connected fields. On sponsorship from the Government of India, various State Governments, National Cooperative Development Corporation, and various National level Cooperative Federations it has undertaken a number of large projects involving field studies and operational research the fields of rural development and Cooperation.

Installation of FAX in NCHF

It is notified that National Cooperative Housing Federation of India has obtained the FAX facility. For inland purpose FAX No. of NCHF is 11-6452450 and 11-5435951. For International, it is 91-11-5435951.

New Address of AARRO

The Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organization (AARRO) Secretariat has shifted its offices. The New Address is as follows:-

Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organization

Plot No.2

State Guest Houses Complex

Chanakyapuri

New Delhi - 110 021 (INDIA)

Telephone Nos. :

Secretary General

6888361
6877784

PABX : (i) 600475

(ii) 6877783

Fax No. : 91-11-672045

Telex No. : (31) 72326 AARO IN

IRAN

SHARAKI APPOINTED MINISTER

Mr. G.A. Sharaki has been appointed as Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Division for Agricultural Production Market Issues and Managing Director for CORC.

JAPAN

Number of Agricultural Cooperatives Declines 30% over Past Eight Years

With the deregulation of financial services as an impetus, mergers of

agricultural cooperatives have continued apace, and at the end of March 1993 there were 3,083 such bodies in Japan. The figure represents just 70% of the number of agricultural cooperatives registered in 1985, when interest rates on large time deposits were liberalized. The ultimate goal of the Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives (ZEN-CHU) is to reduce the number to approximately 600 agricultural cooperatives.

ZEN-CHU Elects new President

At the general meeting of the Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives (ZEN-CHU) on March 4, 1994, Mr. Hakaru Toyoda, President of the Tochigi Prefectural Union of Agricultural Cooperatives, was elected Chairman of ZEN-CHU.

Mr. Toyoda stated at a press conference at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) that Japanese agriculture is now at a critical turning point as the nation deals with partial opening of the rice market. He expressed the intention to steadily realize the revitalization of agriculture and rural villages by returning to the original ideals of the agricultural cooperative movement. He also stressed that he is determined to take a step-by-step approach to dealing with the challenges presented by the newly emerging environment surrounding agriculture and rural villages.

Source : *Japan Agrifino News Letter*, Vol. 11, No.9.

JA GROUP'S EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

Outline of Educational Activities

Educational activities are so vital to JAs in the implementation of their undertakings that the cooperative movement is said to be identified with an educational movement.

The JA Group's educational activities can be roughly divided into (1) the education of member farmers, (2) the education of cooperative managers and (3) the education of cooperative employees.

(1) Education of Member Farmers

The education of member farmers is conducted by two methods, one through everyday activities, such as JA festivals and other programmes of entertainment, and cooking classes, and another through educational events, including seminars and visits to agriculturally advanced areas. Publications, such as "The Nihon Nogyo Shimbum," a daily paper, and "Ie-no-Hikari," a monthly magazine, are also important means of education of member farmers.

(2) Education of Cooperative Managers

A high level of quality is demanded of JA managers as excellent leaders in the JA movement and also as persons responsible for cooperative management. The primary purpose of education of JA managers is to enable them to acquire the knowledge, expertise and mettle they are required to possess as such.

(3) Education of Cooperative Employees

Cooperative employees receive seniority-based or specialist education.

For example, seniority-based education is provided to train newly employed personnel, chief clerks and newly appointed management staff according to the length of their respective services. Specialist education is conducted to train those in charge of financial and mutual insurance affairs, computer operators and farm advisers.

Creation of Dynamic Workshops

In recent years, competition between JAs and companies in general has been intensifying in a wide range of areas. The crucial problem now facing JAs is how they can offer better goods and better services to consumers. Under the present severe business conditions, JAs need personnel who are capable of effectively responding to the needs of member farmers, who are equipped with the professional expertise and mettle to perform their duties. Because of this, personnel training has become extremely important to JAs, and innovating the management attitude has also become a pressing necessity.

One of the important steps that should be taken in this direction is the establishment of CI (corporate identity). This is aimed at enabling cooperatives to build their own images that are attractive to member farmers and community residents by adopting the name of "JA", and also to innovate the attitude of cooperative personnel.

The JA Group is also implementing such activities as organizing small-group discussions (group-based discussions on workshop problems), and a suggestion monitoring system (designed to enable

cooperative personnel to freely offer personal suggestions on the revamping of services) and studies by individual personnel (by encouraging self-improvement, education by correspondence and helping them acquire official qualifications).

However, the basics of education lies in on-the-job training. Guidance of subordinates by seniors in the cultivation of service attitudes and manners, as well as of working knowledge, through routine activities is very important. It is in no way an overstatement to say that the success of "development of personnel capabilities" will decisively influence the future development of agriculture.

Source : JA-ZENCHU NEWS No 3 March 94.

Agricultural cooperatives merge to bolster business

A total of 139 agricultural cooperatives across Japan merged into 31 new ones on April 1, 1994 to help strengthen their business capacity amid ongoing financial liberalization.

As a result, the number of the nation's agricultural co-operatives was reduced to 2,727 from last year's 3,012, the Central Union of Agricultural cooperatives (Zenchu) said.

In Yamagata Prefecture, 10 cooperatives from five towns in three cities joined to become the biggest of its kind in Japan, with a total of 25,451 members.

Industry watchers see the mergers as a way to bolster competitiveness

through increasing both the number of members and financial capacity.

They said in the face of financial liberalization, agricultural cooperatives had lately found the profitability of their credit business declining due to increasing competition from other types of financial institutions.

In addition, the nation's farmers have come under stronger international competition, they said.

Zenchu plans to reduce the total number of the cooperatives to about 1,000 by the year 2000, and

merger moves will increase from now on, they said.

Source : *The Japan Times, Tokyo.*

New representatives of ZEN NOH to the ICA :-

Mr. Moto Motohashi
(Chairman and President, ZEN-NOH)

Mr. Tatsuo Hashimoto
(Executive Vice Chairman,)

Mr. Kikuya Aoki
(Senior Managing Director,)

KOREA

New member from Korea admitted into the membership of ICA.

Korean Federation of Community Credit Cooperatives (KFCCC)

1093, Hwa Gok-Dong, Kang So-Go, Seoul, Korea

Tel : (822) 698-8101-9
Fax : (822) 698-3275, 8597

Chairman & President : Mr. Kyu-E Lee

OBITUARY

Tribhuvandas Patel

Mr Tribhuvandas Patel, who died at Anand at the ripe old age of 91, was one of the makers of modern India. A pioneer in the cooperative field, he organised in the fifties, the milk producers of Kaira district in Gujarat into a well-knit, cohesive union. The Kaira District Cooperative Milk Producers' Union thus formed under his chairmanship and popularly known by the name Amul not only blazed a trail in the cooperative field but made the dusty, little town of Anand the milk capital of India. The cooperative venture had to face a lot of problems and opposition from several well-entrenched national and multinational forces and it was Mr Patel's leadership abilities that stood the fledgling union in good stead. It was not accidentally that Mr Patel strayed

into cooperatives for he had an impeccable record of public service as a freedom fighter, who frequently flitted in and out of jails, before the farmers of Kaira reposed their abiding faith in him.

Mr Patel's greatest asset was the support he received from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel when he set about the task of selling the idea of cooperatives to the hitherto unorganised farmers. Both were passionate in their belief that true independence was not merely a matter of having one's own flag and Parliament. Mr Patel utilised his political connections, including a stint as a member of Parliament, to further the cause of his constituents. It is a measure of the greatness of Mr Patel that he preferred to remain away from the limelight and did not allow any of his relations to misuse his position. Even after his retirement from

active public life, he devoted all his time in the pursuit of milk cooperatives. The result is there for all to see. Today Amul represents a vast conglomerate with a total turnover of over Rs 10,000 million which could be the envy of any blue chip private sector company. If India was a chronically milk deficient country a few decades ago, today it has the fastest growing dairy industry in the world which in terms of size is second only to that of the US. By the turn of the century it is poised to be the largest dairy industry in the world. All this owes in the main to Mr Tribhuvandas Patel who lived a spartan life in a modest quarter of the Tribhuvandas Patel Foundation premises at Anand. His was a life dedicated totally to cooperative.

Source : *The Hindustan Times (Editorial)*, June 6, 1994.

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