



INDIAN COOPERATIVE REVIEW

IN THIS ISSUE

**CAN WORKER COOPERATIVES HELP
INDUSTRY TURN-AROUND?**

—V.N. BABU & T. PARANJOTHI

**ENSURING SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD THROUGH
FINANCIAL LIQUIDITY : CASE STUDY OF
A MARKETING COOPERATIVE**

—YASHAVANTHA DONGRE

**ROLE OF AWARENESS IN CLIMATE CHANGE
MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION STRATEGIES OF
COOPERATIVES IN INDIA : ROLE OF TRAINING**

—SANJAY KUMAR VERMA

**PERFORMANCE OF MAA MAHAMAYA SAHKARI
SHAKKAR KARKHANA MARYADIT KERTA
IN SURAJPUR DISTRICT OF CHHATTISGARH**

—*DR. BHAG CHANDRA JAIN & UMESH JAISWAL*

GOVERNANCE IN COOPERATIVES FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH

—BISHWA MOHAN ACHARYA

PACCS CAN ACHIEVE MORE IN AGRICULTURAL PROMOTION

—*DR. S. DHARMARAJ & DR. R. GOPALSAMY*

**GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT
— A CASE OF LIJAT PAPAD, PUNE**

—SHEFALI PARDESHI

NATIONAL COOPERATIVE UNION OF INDIA

3, Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, Hauz Khas, New Delhi - 110016

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The Cooperator is an illustrated monthly of cooperative news and views. It provides an open forum for the discussion of all facets of the Cooperative Movement in India as well as overseas. It carries such regular features as Success Story, Cooperation Abroad, From the States, News & Views, Cooperative Law etc., and attempts to provide a regular communication channel in the world of cooperation.

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The National Cooperative Union of India is the federal organisation of apex cooperative institutions in the country, both at the State and Inter- State level. Organised in 1929 as an association of State Cooperative Unions, mainly for providing a forum for exchanging information and sharing of experiences in the field of cooperation through convening All-India cooperative conferences periodically, the Union has grown over the years into a full-fledged national organisation of cooperatives of all types.

The objectives of the Union are : to promote and develop the Cooperative Movement in India: to educate, guide and assist the people in their effort to build and expand the Cooperative Sector, and to serve as an exponent of cooperative opinion.

In furtherance of these objectives, the Union undertakes the programmes of cooperative member education, training of cooperative employees, research and evaluation of important cooperative problems, convening of National Cooperative Congress and Seminars, Publication of Literature and Journals and the task of representing the Indian Cooperative Movement in the National and International spheres.

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No. 2

Can Worker Cooperatives Help Industry Turn-around? —V.N. Babu & T. Paranjothi	91
Ensuring Sustainable Livelihood Through Financial Liquidity : Case Study of a Marketing Cooperative —Yashavantha Dongre	....	99
Role of Awareness in Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies of Cooperatives in India : Role of Training —Sanjay Kumar Verma	....	107
Performance of Maa Mahamaya Sahkari Shakkar Karkhana Maryadit Kerta in Surajpur District of Chhattisgarh —Dr. Bhag Chandra Jain & Umesh Jaiswal	....	116
Governance in Cooperatives for Inclusive Growth —Bishwa Mohan Acharya	....	135
PACCS Can Achieve More in Agricultural Promotion.... —Dr. S. Dharmaraj & Dr. R. Gopalsamy	....	140
Gender Equality and Women Empowerment — A Case of Lijjat Papad, Pune —Shefali Pardeshi	....	144

RESEARCH PAPERS INVITED

Research papers on various sectoral areas in the Indian cooperative sector are invited for publication in

INDIAN COOPERATIVE REVIEW

Send the articles by e-mail to :
Editor, Indian Cooperative Review
ncui.icr@gmail.com

or

ncui.pub@gmail.com

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
N. Satya Narayana

EDITOR
Sanjay Kumar Verma

INDIAN COOPERATIVE REVIEW publishes articles having a bearing on current topics and problems of the Cooperative Movement. The authors, suggest solutions from their own point of view. The views contained in the articles are, therefore, the views of the authors themselves and do not necessarily reflect the policy of the National Cooperative Union of India. Views opposite to those contained in the articles published in the Journal would be welcomed for publication.—Editor

Can Worker Cooperatives Help Industry Turn-around?

V.N. BABU* & T. PARANJOTHI**

The Coffee House was established in 1957-58 in a bid to accommodate workers expelled from Indian Coffee Board. All over the country, Indian Coffee House is run in the same style and it maintains the same standards.

Formerly, Indian coffee was almost entirely exported. Very little was consumed within the country. The export market completely collapsed on account of the World War II. The coffee planters panicked. The only way out was to popularize coffee within the country. The British opened Coffee Houses all over the country in order to encourage the beverage among the natives. That's how the first Coffee House were established in Bombay and Hyderabad during the year 1936. The Indian Coffee Promotion Board was established in 1940, which was reconstituted in 1944 as Indian Coffee Board. By 1948, there were 48 coffee houses, one coffee van, three depots which altogether employed 1500 employees. "The coffee house employees did not have any justifiable scale of pay. After working long hours, they often had to do odd jobs for the top officers of the Board", said Mr. N .S. Parameswaran Pillai who took the initiative of rehabilitating employees who were dismissed. In 1956, the Plantation Enquiry Commission report recommended the closing down of all the coffee houses and retrenching all employees. The commission said that the objective of popularizing coffee had already been achieved. Com. A K Gopalan, MP protested but could not prevail upon the government to revoke the decision. He suggested that the coffee houses should be run by the employees themselves as cooperatives. In January 1958, the first Coffee Board Workers' Cooperative Society was registered at Bangalore. It was N S Parameswaran Pillai who led the movement in Kerala. Two units were registered in Thrissur and

* Member of Faculty, Institute of Cooperative Management, Kannur,

** Director, Agricultural Cooperative Staff Training Institute, Thiruvananthapuram

