The Cooperative Movement brings together over one billion people around the world and provide 250 million jobs worldwide.

There are three countries with over half the population in cooperative membership and are all in Europe. These are Ireland (70%), Finland (60%) and Austria (59%). The countries with the most significant numbers of people in cooperative membership are India (242 million), China (160 million) and the USA (120 million). 27% of the population in Malaysia and 50% of the population in Singapore are members of cooperatives (source: Global Business Ownership 2012 & ICA).

The country with the widest cooperative shareholder ownership across its population is Japan (31%). (source: Global Business Ownership 2012).

In the fast-growing BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India and China), there are four times as many cooperative members as direct shareholders. (source: Global Business Ownership 2012).

In France, 21,000 cooperatives provide over 1 million jobs representing 3.5% of the active working population. (source: Coop FR, Top 100 des Entreprises Cooperatives et panorama sectoriel, 2010).

In the United States, 30,000 cooperatives provide more than 2 million jobs. (source: National Cooperative Business Association).

MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE, AND COOPERATIVES (COOPERATIVES DIVISION) 3rd Floor, LIC Centre, John Kennedy Street, PORT LOUIS Telephone: 405 0770, Fax: 208 9263 Email: pcoop@govmu.org Website: http://cooperatives.govmu.org

REGIONAL COOPERATIVE CENTRES

| 1. Goodlands          | Tel 283 6339 |
| 2. Solitude           | Tel 261 8512 |
| 3. Rose Belle         | Tel 627 7824 |
| 4. St. Felix          | Tel 622 5001 |
| 5. St. Pierre         | Tel 433 3695 |
| 6. Bon Accueil        | Tel 418 6787 |
| 7. Beau Champ         | Tel 417 6895 |
| 8. Henrietta          | Tel 684 9962 |
| 9. Unité              | Tel 416 8616 |
| 10. Port Louis (North)| Tel 208 8139 |
| 11. Port Louis (South)| Tel 208 8139 |
| 12. Terre Rouge       | Tel 249 1257 |
| 13. Tamarin           | Tel 483 8161 |
| 14. Quatre Bornes     | Tel 467 1116 |

National Institute for Cooperative Entrepreneurship (NICE) Bois Marchand Street, Terre Rouge Tel: 249 0111, Fax:249 1832

June 2015
**A Cooperative Society**

- **WHAT IS A COOPERATIVE?**
  A Cooperative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise.

  Cooperative societies in Mauritius are regulated by the Co-operatives Act 2005 as amended. A cooperative society may be set up with at least five members and a minimum share capital of Rs5,000. The Cooperative Societies are owned and managed by their members.

- **WHY FORM A COOPERATIVE?**
  - Increasing bargaining power
  - Sharing cost of production
  - Empowerment of members
  - Gaining access to new markets
  - Sharing of risks
  - Purchasing in bulk at lower prices
  - Providing credit under reasonable terms
  - Providing opportunities for employment

- **COOPERATIVE VALUES**
  - Self-help
  - Self-responsibility
  - Democracy
  - Equality
  - Equity
  - Solidarity

- **COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES**
  - Voluntary and open membership
  - Democratic member control
  - Member economic participation
  - Autonomy and independence
  - Education, training and information
  - Co-operation among cooperatives
  - Concern for community

**Our Cooperative Movement**

- **COOPERATIVES IN MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES**
  - 1072 active cooperative societies
  - Engaged in around 40 different socio-economic activities
  - Turnover over Rs5.5 billion
  - 85,000 active members

  **Main economic activities of our cooperative movement:**
  - Production and marketing of sugar cane
  - Production and marketing of vegetables and fruits
  - Fishing
  - Livestock breeding
  - Public transport (bus owners)
  - Savings and credit
  - Cooperative retail shops

  **Cooperatives account for:**
  - 65% of onion production
  - 70% of fresh green vegetables production
  - 45% of potato production
  - 10% of national sugar production -40% of sugar-cane planters are grouped in cooperatives
  - 40% of the national bus transport

In Mauritius, there are some 160 Cooperative Credit Unions registered at the level of private companies, parastatals, Ministries, hotels, educational institutions, religious bodies and at community level. The total number of active members is around 75,000, with loans issued nearing Rs2 billion.

There are 90 active women cooperative societies involved in various types of businesses to assist women to earn an additional source of income to support their families.