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## MESSAGE OF MINISTER OF BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND COOPERATIVES



I have the great pleasure to present the **Strategic Action Plan 2018-2020** of the Cooperatives Division of the Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives.

The Cooperative Movement has been in existence since 1913, and has stood the testimony of time and been subject to various economic and social challenges. Its resilience and strength are based on its values, principles and democratic business model.

At the national level, the Movement brings together over 120,000 members, who are involved in more than 40 different socio-economic activities and are generating a yearly total turnover of above Rs 5.5 billion. The success of the cooperative business model is also adapted to three-dimensional levels, namely economic, social and environmental development.

The Action Plan 2015-2017, with the theme “Re-engineering the Cooperative Sector”, laid the foundation pillars to uplift the Cooperative Movement and I am glad that the targets therein have been successfully achieved. As Minister responsible for cooperatives, I feel that there is a need to give due visibility to the Cooperative Movement and to constantly reposition it so that it can keep pace with the challenges of the competitive business environment and thus makes itself modern, efficient and effective.

The New Strategic Action Plan 2018-2020, with the theme “Propelling Cooperatives towards Excellence”, translates our ambition to become more visible and be aligned with the new vision, mission and values of the Cooperatives Division of my Ministry. It is also aligned with Government objectives, as announced in the Budget Speech 2017/2018.

The Plan 2018-2020 has been crafted with the support of the cooperators who are the key players of the Cooperative Movement. It also encapsulates the targets of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which are in the Agenda 2030, achieving sustainable production, food security, poverty alleviation, sustainable development and empowering women, amongst others.

The Strategic Action Plan also puts forward the Vision to make “Cooperatives as the builders of the economy”, as highlighted in the ILO 2014 Report and the International Cooperatives Day 2017, which has as theme “Inclusion: Cooperatives ensure no one is left behind”.

I wish to thank the UNDP Mauritius, the European Union, collaborating Ministries and organisations, cooperators, officers of the Cooperatives Division and all those who have directly or indirectly contributed in the preparation of the Strategic Action Plan 2018-2020.

Hon Soomilduth BHOLAH  
*Minister*





**PART I:**  
**SETTING THE SCENE**





# **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Cooperatives Division had formulated a three-year Action Plan 2015-2017 for the Re-Engineering of the Cooperative Sector. It comprises programmes and activities aimed at assisting in modernising and reengineering the Cooperative Movement in Mauritius. The implementation of the Action Plan 2015-2017 has almost been completed.

A Strategic Action Plan 2018-2020 has now been formulated. The Plan comprises twelve programmes, which are in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Cooperatives have the potential to contribute to sustainable development's triple bottom line of economic, social and environmental objectives. Accordingly, the Cooperative Movement in Mauritius and Rodrigues is being encouraged to focus their activities on sustainable development, in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

## **2. THE COOPERATIVES DIVISION**

The Government of Mauritius reckons the importance of the cooperative sector and is therefore encouraging the development of the Cooperative Movement by providing the appropriate financial, fiscal and policy support. The Cooperatives Division of the Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives is facilitating the promotion and development of cooperatives through the creation and provision of a favourable and conducive legal and institutional environment, along with adequate support and incentives.

### **2.1 VISION**

A conducive legal and institutional framework for a rejuvenated, engendered and inclusive cooperative movement for the sustainability of a sound economic and social environment facilitating business development.

### **2.2 MISSION STATEMENT**

To facilitate the promotion of diversified, emerging and innovative cooperatives and involve more young persons and women in the development, consolidation and advancement of the cooperative movement.

### **2.3 VALUE STATEMENT**

‘Guided by the Cooperative Values and Principles, we are committed to provide quality services to both our internal and external customers by continuously improving our systems and procedures and creating the necessary climate for sustainable development.’

## 2.4 OBJECTIVES

Based on its Vision and Mission Statement in particular and also taking into consideration the challenges of cooperatives, the Division has defined its objectives in clear terms as follows:

- (i). to enforce the cooperative legislation and ensure that cooperatives comply with the provisions of the Cooperatives Act, other related enactments and rules;
- (ii). to devise and implement policies to ensure the development of a modern, viable and sustainable cooperative movement; and
- (iii). to build capacity of cooperatives through training, provision of incentives and support services.

## 2.5 STRATEGIES

The strategies of the Ministry to achieve its objectives are geared towards consolidating and developing the cooperative movement, empowering cooperators and creating a sustainable environment for cooperatives.

These include the following:

- (a) ensuring a conducive legal framework for the development of the cooperative sector;
- (b) adherence to the cooperative legislation;
- (c) human Resource Development Programmes for cooperatives;
- (d) promotion of the concept of ‘cooperatives’;
- (e) use of cooperative form of business as a viable organisational option;
- (f) providing cooperatives with access to market;
- (g) formation of cooperatives in non-traditional, emerging and green sectors;
- (h) engendering the cooperative movement;
- (i) attracting young persons to the cooperative movement;
- (j) promoting cooperative as a vehicle to combat poverty;
- (k) encouraging cooperatives to use information technology in their operation; and
- (l) setting up of cooperatives in professional and vocational fields.

## 2.6 MAIN SERVICES

The Cooperatives Division offers a wide range of services to cooperatives in particular but also to potential cooperatives, collaborators and other stakeholders.

The main services comprise:

- Registration of cooperative societies.
- Promoting the setting up of Cooperatives.
- Auditing of financial statements of cooperative societies.
- Guiding and supporting cooperatives for the implementation of their plans and projects.
- Monitoring and supervision of cooperative societies.
- Providing cooperative education and training.
- Conception, Implementation and Monitoring of projects for the development of the cooperative sector.
- Facilitating the provision of fiscal incentives to cooperatives.

- Seeking financial and technical assistance from foreign and local donor agencies for the implementation of cooperative projects.
- Providing free market outlets to cooperatives.
- Assisting cooperatives to secure infrastructural facilities.

### 3. THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT

#### 3.1 EVOLUTION

Mauritius adopted the cooperative formula at the dawn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to uplift the plight of the poverty-stricken section of the population.

The first cooperative society was registered in the sugar-cane sector in 1913 to reduce the dependence of the small cane planters on private money lenders and brokers. These cooperative societies which were registered as Co-operative Credit Societies were set up to provide credit and marketing facilities to the small cane planters.

People recognised the potential of cooperatives as a mean to improve their standard of living and enhancing their social status.

With time, cooperatives diversified and, after almost 104 years of existence, the movement has expanded considerably and encompasses many different socio-economic activities.

Cooperatives in Mauritius and Rodrigues are playing a significant role in the socio-economic development of the country. Cooperative as a business model is serving as a vehicle for development and is contributing to economic growth, democratisation of the economy, employment creation, poverty alleviation, women empowerment and reduction in income inequality.

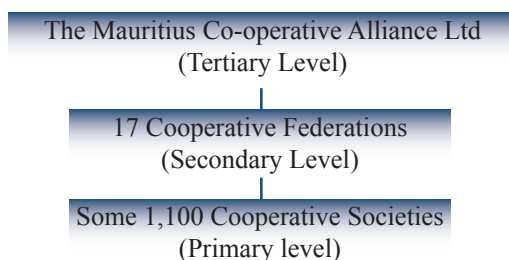
One very important feature of cooperatives is that they are based on a set of values and principles. The cooperative business model has thus many appealing components at its core that make it easily accepted and embraced.

#### 3.2 STRUCTURE

The Cooperative Movement in Mauritius and Rodrigues has a three-tier structure:

- tertiary cooperative society, comprising secondary cooperatives;
- secondary cooperatives, comprising primary cooperatives; and
- primary cooperatives.

There are presently, a tertiary cooperative society namely, the Mauritius Co-operative Alliance Ltd, 17 secondary cooperative societies which we refer to as cooperative federations and some 1,100 active primary cooperative societies.



### 3.3 ORGANISATION

Cooperative societies in Mauritius and Rodrigues are autonomous organisations, regulated by the Cooperatives Act 2016. A primary cooperative society may be formed with at least five members and a minimum share capital of Rs5,000. Cooperative Societies are owned and managed by their members. Board Directors of cooperative societies are elected by their respective members at the Annual General Meeting.

### 3.4 MAIN ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

The areas of operation of cooperatives are unlimited. In this respect, cooperatives in Mauritius and Rodrigues are engaged both in traditional and emerging sectors. The main activities undertaken by them include:

- Production and marketing of sugar cane, vegetables, fruits, tea and other food crops.
- Agro-processing.
- Fishing, processing and marketing of marine produce.
- Livestock breeding.
- Public transport.
- Thrift, savings and credit facilities.
- Wholesale and retail of consumer goods.
- Handicraft.

**Emerging Sectors:** Bio-farming, Organic Farming, Recycling and Production of Green Energy using Photovoltaic System.

### 3.5 FACTS AND FIGURES

Some essential information about cooperatives in Mauritius and Rodrigues:

- 1,100 active cooperative societies
- 120,000 active members
- Around 40 different socio-economic activities
- Over Rs5.5 billion yearly turnover
- 40% of sugar-cane planters are in cooperatives

Cooperatives account for:

- 65% of onion production
- 70% of fresh green vegetables production
- 45% of potato production
- 10% of national sugar production
- 40% of the national bus transport

Moreover, there are some 160 Cooperative Credit Unions in private companies, parastatals, government institutions, hotels, educational institutions, religious bodies and at community level. The total number of active members in this sector is around 55,000, with loans issued nearing Rs2 billion.

Further, there are about 90 active women cooperative societies involved in various business activities to assist women earning an additional source of income, to support their families.

### **3.6 MAIN CHALLENGES FACING THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT**

However, it should be recognised that there are challenges which the Cooperative Movement in Mauritius and Rodrigues has to be prepared for. These are mainly:

- (a) Cooperatives to become financially and functionally autonomous.
- (b) Cooperatives to adopt new management and accounting techniques.
- (c) Cooperatives to become digital.
- (d) Cooperatives to target business efficiency and effectiveness while adhering to their social objectives.
- (e) Cooperatives to emerge in new sectors, such as green energy.
- (f) More Cooperatives to be set by and for women and youth.
- (g) Cooperatives to implement appropriate Human Resource Development Programmes.
- (h) More cooperatives to be fairtrade certified.

## **4. STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN 2018-2020**

### **4.1 OBJECTIVES**


The objectives of the Strategic Action Plan 2018-2020 are to:

- (i). promote the cooperative model of doing business among the general public, especially among the youth and women;
- (ii). encourage the formation of cooperatives in poverty regions and in non-traditional and emerging sectors;
- (iii). ensure that cooperative societies are abiding to the new cooperative enactments;
- (iv). facilitate access to market and finance for cooperatives;
- (v). encourage sustainable agriculture and sustainable use of the oceans among cooperatives;
- (vi). empower and support cooperatives in their development process and in making use of information technology; and
- (vii). enhance the cooperative image of the Cooperative Sector.

## 4.2 PROGRAMMES

**To achieve these objectives, twelve programmes have been identified in the Strategic Action Plan 2018-2020. These are as follows:**

- 4.2.1 Greater contribution of the Cooperative Movement in the Mauritian economy.
- 4.2.2 Adoption of sustainable Agricultural Practices.
- 4.2.3 Enhanced Managerial capacity and capability in cooperative societies.
- 4.2.4 Gender equality and empowerment of women in cooperatives.
- 4.2.5 Formation of Cooperatives in non-traditional, emerging sectors and green business development.
- 4.2.6 Computerisation of the cooperative sector (E-Cooperative).
- 4.2.7 Product Differentiation through Cooperative Branding.
- 4.2.8 New Legal Framework for Cooperatives (Co-operatives Act 2016).
- 4.2.9 Increased access to finance through the Central Financing Agency.
- 4.2.10 Market accessibility.
- 4.2.11 Attracting young persons to join the cooperative movement.
- 4.2.12 A sustainable and prosperous fishing sector.



# **PART II: PROGRAMMES**





## PROGRAMME I

### 1. Goal: Greater contribution of the Cooperative Movement in the Mauritian economy

1.1 The cooperative business model is serving as a vehicle for development and is contributing to economic growth, employment creation, poverty alleviation, women empowerment and reduction in income inequality amongst others. It will create and maintain sustainable enterprises and will also pave the way for broader social and economic advancement. The promotion of the cooperative model is therefore being encouraged.

### 2. Objectives:

2.1 Increase the number of Cooperatives operating in pockets of poverty to the benefit of the community.

2.2 Promote the Cooperative Business Model.

Strategies/Outputs	Indicators and means of verification
Setting up of cooperatives to absorb the unemployed	100 Cooperatives registered each year, with at least 30% in poverty regions
Promoting the culture of entrepreneurship	2500 persons sensitized on Cooperative Entrepreneurship each year
Formation of Cooperatives Credit Union (CCUs) in pockets of poverty	5 CCUs set up each year

3. **Stakeholders/Responsible Institutions:** Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives (Cooperatives Division), National Cooperative College, SME Mauritius Ltd, Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment, Mauritius Council of Social Service, Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare, Ministry of Youth & Sports, Mauritius Cooperative Alliance Ltd, University of Mauritius, Open University of Mauritius.

### SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

**SDG TARGET 1.4:** *By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.*

## PROGRAMME II

### 1. Goal: Adoption of sustainable Agricultural Practices

1.1 The policy of the Government is to gradually shift from conventional farming practices, which rely largely on chemical inputs, to sustainable agriculture in view of producing high quality and nutritious food, free of harmful chemicals and reduce risk of environmental damage associated with heavy reliance on agrochemicals. Cooperatives are thus being encouraged to embark in sustainable agricultural and agri-business activities.

### 2. Objectives:

- 2.1 Contributing towards food security.
- 2.2 Encouraging Green Agriculture.
- 2.3 Access to new technologies, mechanisation and practices for climate resilient and green agriculture.
- 2.4 Regrouping and clustering.
- 2.5 Value addition.

Strategies/Outputs	Indicators and means of verification
Increasing number of Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Societies(AMCS)	5 Agricultural Marketing Co-operative Societies registered each year
Training in green agriculture and livestock	500 planters and breeders trained each year
Providing incentives for an optimum use of abandoned land	Yearly food production increased by 10%.
Incentives for agro-processing in addition to agricultural production	1 new incentive scheme for agro business processing for cooperatives each year

**3. Stakeholders/Responsible Institutions:** Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives (Cooperatives Division), Mauritius Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Federation Ltd, Ministry of Agro-Industry & Food Security, Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute, Agricultural Marketing Board, Development Bank of Mauritius Ltd, Mauritius Cooperative Agricultural Federation Ltd, Mauritius Cooperative Alliance Ltd, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Ministry of Tourism.

**SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.**

***SDG TARGET 2.3: By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.***

## PROGRAMME III

### 1. Goal: Enhanced Managerial capacity and capability in cooperative societies

1.1 There is a dire need to empower cooperatives through capacity building so that they can modernize their activities, become more productive, efficient and accountable. Moreover, the Ministry shall assist Cooperatives to keep pace with the dynamic business environment and provide necessary support services.

### 2. Objectives:

- 2.1 System in place for financial reporting and auditing purposes.
- 2.2 Improved cooperative entrepreneurship skills specially among youth and women in cooperatives.
- 2.3 Improved computer literacy among cooperators.
- 2.4 Recourse of international expertise and exchanges.
- 2.5 Promote transparency and good governance.

Strategies/Outputs	Indicators and means of verification
Training to Board Members	At least 2000 directors trained annually
Coaching and mentoring programmes	24 targeted cooperatives annually
Computer courses for cooperatives to assist them to use IT for accounting, minutes/report writing, submission of final accounts, website management.	1200 trained secretaries, bookkeepers, treasurers & other members annually
MOU with foreign countries/Cooperatives as per cooperatives' specific capacity needs, strategies and access to systems and processes.	2 bilateral programmes through approved Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
Sensitisation on principles of transparency and good corporate governance.	1,000 cooperators sensitized every year.

3. **Stakeholders/Responsible Institutions:** Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives (Cooperatives Division), Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, National Development Unit, National Cooperative College, Mauritius Cooperative Alliance Ltd, Financial Intelligence Unit and Financial Services Commission, National Productivity and Competitiveness Council, University of Mauritius, Open University of Mauritius.

**SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.**

***SDG TARGET 4.3: By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university.***

## PROGRAMME IV

### 1. Goal: Gender equality and empowerment of women in cooperatives

- 1.1 Cooperatives can help in strengthening women's economic capacity and also provide a supportive environment for women new to business, giving them confidence and harnessing their skills and enterprise. Further, women can use the cooperative movement as a tool for raising their status and cooperatives may create work opportunities for women. It is therefore vital to promote gender equality and empower women in cooperatives.

### 2. Objectives:

- 2.1 Equal pay for men and women.  
2.2 Increased women participation at Board Level.  
2.3 Equal opportunity in career prospect and doing business.

Strategies/Outputs	Indicators and means of verification
Cooperatives societies to devise Scheme of Service/job contract with established salary scales	Guidelines to be provided by March 2018
Increasing the number of women in the cooperative Boards.	At least one third of Board Directors to be female in 50 Cooperative Societies every year
Incentive Schemes for Women Federation/cooperatives	15 women cooperative beneficiaries annually
Providing day child care facilities in SME Parks to encourage female labour	Facilities in place by December 2018

3. **Stakeholders/Responsible Institutions:** Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives (Cooperatives Division), Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare, Mauritius Cooperative Alliance Ltd, Mauritius Women Entrepreneurs Cooperative Federation Ltd.

**SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.**

**SDG TARGET 5.1: End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.**

## PROGRAMME V

### 1. Goal: Formation of Cooperatives in non-traditional, emerging sectors and green business development

1.1 The Government Programme 2015–2019 stipulates that “*facilities for the emergence of cooperatives in new sectors, such as Green Energy, will be put in place.*” Cooperatives are being encouraged to diversify and green their business activities, and enter non-traditional and emerging sectors.

### 2. Objective:

2.1 Diversification of Business Portfolio in emerging and green sectors.

Strategies/Outputs	Indicators and means of verification
Workshops/seminars/innovation camps with a view to creating innovative ideas for businesses among cooperatives	3 national workshops annually
Cooperative development in emerging sectors	10 cooperatives set up in new/emerging sectors every year

3. **Stakeholders/Responsible Institutions:** Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives (Cooperatives Division), Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities, Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity, and Environment and Sustainable Development (Environment and Sustainable Development Division), Ministry of Health and Quality of Life, National Cooperative College, Board of Investment, Central Electricity Board, Mauritius Research Council, Mauritius Cooperative Alliance Ltd, Mauritius Council of Social Service (MACOSS), National Productivity and Competitiveness Council, Enterprise Mauritius, Mauritius Women Entrepreneurs Cooperative Federation Ltd.

**SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.**

***SDG TARGET 12.2: By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.***

***SDG TARGET 12.5: By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.***

**SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all**

## PROGRAMME VI

### 1. Goal: Computerisation of the cooperative sector (E-Cooperative)

1.1 The world is embracing the digital revolution and digital tools are proving to be an important part of each business. Cooperatives are being encouraged to computerize their activities and use Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in their businesses. To support cooperatives in this endeavour, training in ICT and access to ICT facilities will be provided to them.

### 2. Objectives:

2.1 Modernisation of Cooperatives.

2.2 Operationalisation of the e-Registration platform for on-line registration, on-line filing and on-line payment.

2.3 Improvement of efficiency and productivity in the cooperative sector.

Strategies/Outputs	Indicators and means of verification
Training in Information and Communication Technologies	2000 cooperators trained annually
Provision of grant for purchase of computer	50% matching grant up to a cap of Rs 18,000 to 140 targeted Cooperative Societies.
Equipping Regional Cooperative Centres(RCCs) with Computer Kiosks to be used by cooperators	10 RCCs to be equipped by March 2018

3. **Stakeholders/Responsible Institutions:** Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives (Cooperatives Division), National Cooperative College, University of Mauritius, Open University of Mauritius.

## PROGRAMME VII

### 1. Goal: Product Differentiation through Cooperative Branding

1.1 The creation of a Logo and a Tagline for cooperatives will be a valuable asset and competitive differentiator for cooperatives. It will help in boosting sales and increasing revenue opportunities in the cooperative fold and concurrently increasing the profit margins of the cooperatives.

### 2. Objectives:

2.1 Increasing visibility of cooperatives products and services.

2.2 Enhancement of cooperative products and service quality.

Strategies/Outputs	Indicators and means of verification
A cooperative Logo and Tagline to be devised for Cooperatives	50 cooperatives to adopt cooperative Logo and Tagline every year
Provision of technical assistance for adoption of Cooperative logo and tagline	
Facilitation of the Quality Assurance/certification process	

3. **Stakeholders/Responsible Institutions:** Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives (Cooperatives Division), Mauritius Cooperative Alliance Ltd, Mauritius Standard Bureau.

## PROGRAMME VIII

### 1. Goal: New Legal Framework for Cooperatives (Co-operatives Act 2016)

1.1 The cooperative legislation was reviewed in November 2016 and the new Co-operatives Act 2016 has been promulgated to provide for a modern and appropriate legal framework for the cooperative movement in Mauritius and Rodrigues. The Ministry will monitor compliance with the new Cooperative legislation as well as other related enactments.

### 2. Objectives:

- 2.1 Increasing operational efficiency and effectiveness of Cooperatives in line with the new Co-operatives Act 2016.
- 2.2 Promotion of Cooperative Governance and Ethics.
- 2.3 Auditing exercises undertaken according to legal processes.

Strategies/Outputs	Indicators and means of verification
Sensitization/support programmes for implementation of the new Cooperatives Act 2016	60 programmes for sensitizing 2500 cooperators annually
Alignment of rules with the Cooperatives Act 2016	Amendment of rules completed for 1200 Cooperatives by February 2018
Issue Guidelines and updated Code of Ethics	Updated guidelines and Code of Ethics and Good Governance published by February 2018
Setting up of Cooperative Audit Unit with full-fledged personnel and completion of Auditing of cooperatives within statutory provision	Cooperative Audit Unit fully staffed by June 2018 and yearly 95 % of Cooperatives audited by December.

3. **Stakeholders/Responsible Institutions:** Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives (Cooperatives Division), National Cooperative College and Mauritius Cooperative Alliance Ltd, Mauritius Institute of Directors, Office of Public Sector Governance.



## PROGRAMME IX

### 1. Goal: Increased access to finance through the Central Financing Agency

1.1 Many cooperatives are facing difficulties to obtain loans due to stringent conditions imposed by commercial banks. Accordingly, to increase access to finance, the creation of a Central Financing Agency for Cooperatives is encouraged.

### 2. Objective:

2.1 Creation of a Central Financing Agency for cooperatives.

Strategies/Outputs	Indicators and means of verification
Request for Proposal for Service Provider under the Expert Skills Scheme / Technical Assistance	Expert Skills Scheme finalised by March 2018
Establishment of a Project Steering Committee	Project steering committee in place by January 2018
Conduct of a survey on the willingness of cooperatives to establish a Central Financing Agency	Survey completed by May 2018
Report on survey and implementation of findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey Report submitted by August 2018</li> <li>• Modalities for the Agency finalised for operation by July 2019</li> </ul>

3. **Stakeholders/Responsible Institutions:** Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives (Cooperatives Division), Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Bank of Mauritius, Financial Services Commission, Mauritius Cooperative Alliance Ltd.

## PROGRAMME X

### 1. Goal: Market accessibility

1.1 With a view to creating market accessibility, co-operators will be provided with a platform to market their products and services. Accessibility to market will encourage networking among cooperators, increasing their sales revenues, promoting cooperative products and services and establishing a system of intense collaboration. Further, it will promote socio-economic development of cooperatives.

### 2. Objectives:

2.1 Facilitation of market access to cooperators.

2.2 Policy of preferential access to government contracts for cooperatives.

Strategies/Outputs	Indicators and means of verification
Organisation of monthly, regional and national cooperative fairs	50 cooperative fairs organized annually, including 3 Regional Fairs and one National Fair.
Increased margin of preference in government contracts awarded to Cooperatives.	December 2018
Establish communication with Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Enterprise Mauritius to ensure that some 'stands' are reserved for cooperatives when fairs are organized locally and internationally	March 2018

3. **Stakeholders/Responsible Institutions:** Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives (Cooperatives Division), Mauritius Cooperative Alliance Ltd, SME Mauritius Ltd, Enterprise Mauritius, All Cooperative Federations

## PROGRAMME XI

### 1. Goal: Attracting young persons to join the cooperative movement

- 1.1 There is an ageing population in the cooperative movement and to sustain this movement, it is imperative that the youth be encouraged to form cooperatives. Youth are experiencing a mix of high unemployment, increased inactivity and precarious work. Consequently, to fill these gaps, incentives will be provided to encourage the youth to join the cooperative movement.

### 2. Objectives:

- 2.1 Increase youth participation in cooperatives.
- 2.2 Promotion of cooperative education, self-employment and entrepreneurship development among the youth.

Strategies/Outputs	Indicators and means of verification
Sensitisation of youngsters at secondary and tertiary education levels and youth centres on cooperatives	500 youngsters sensitized each year
Provision of support/incentive schemes to promote more youth in cooperatives	10 Start ups led by young cooperators provided with seed capital every year
Inclusion of cooperative concept within mainstream education curricula	Education curricula to include concept on cooperatives by 2020

3. **Stakeholders/Responsible Institutions:** Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives (Cooperatives Division), Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Ministry of Youth & Sports, Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training, Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping, Mauritius Institute of Training and Development, National Cooperative College, Civil Service College, National Productivity and Competitiveness Council, Human Resource Development Council, Private Sectors, Regional and International Cooperative Societies (Agencies), Tertiary Academic Institutions (University of Mauritius, Open University of Mauritius, University of Technology), Mauritius Council of Social Service (MACOSS), International Migration Office.

## PROGRAMME XII

### 1. Goal: A sustainable and prosperous fishing sector

1.1 Cooperatives are being empowered to shift from traditional to offshore fishing with a view to promoting sustainable fishing activities. Necessary schemes and facilities are being put at the disposal of the fishermen cooperative societies to promote the development of the fishermen community and encourage them to carry out fishing in a sustainable manner.

### 2. Objectives:

- 2.1 Encourage offshore fishing.
- 2.2 Fishermen cooperatives encouraged to undertake value-added fish products for sale in hotels, restaurants and hypermarkets.
- 2.3 Increased aquaculture entrepreneurs.

Strategies/Outputs	Indicators and means of verification
Provision of a grant of 50 % of the cost of a semi-industrial vessel	4 Cooperatives to acquire semi-industrial vessels by July 2018
Provision of grants to fishermen cooperatives for the acquisition of refrigerated vehicles	July 2020
Accompanying measures to existing ten (10) Fishermen Cooperative Societies that have been provided with floating cage structures.	July 2018
Upgrading of three “Maison des Pecheurs” for value added fish produce of Fishermen Cooperatives.	July 2018 December 2018 July 2019
Provision of training to fishermen Cooperative Societies to undertake value addition of fish and to accede to local /regional/ international markets, (Taking into consideration the origin and traceability of fish & fish products)	Value addition in the fishery sector achieved by July 2019

3. **Stakeholders/Responsible Institutions:** Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping, Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives (Cooperatives Division), Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research, Ministry of Youth & Sports, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training, National Cooperative College, Civil Service College, National Productivity and Competitiveness Council, Private Sectors, Regional and International Cooperative Societies (Agencies), Bilateral Agreements, Tertiary Academic Institutions (University of Mauritius, Open University of Mauritius, University of Technology), Mauritius Council of Social Service (MACOSS), International Migration Office, Ministry of Tourism.

***SDG TARGET 14.2: By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.***

## **COOPERATIVE VALUES AND PRINCIPLES**

### **Cooperative Values**

- 1. Self-help**
- 2. Self-responsibility**
- 3. Democracy**
- 4. Equality**
- 5. Equity**
- 6. Solidarity**

### **Cooperative Principles**

- 1. Voluntary and open membership**
- 2. Democratic member control**
- 3. Member economic participation**
- 4. Autonomy and independence**
- 5. Education ,training and information**
- 6. Co-operation among cooperatives**
- 7. Concern for community**





