**MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, SMES AND**

**COOPERATIVES (COOPERATIVES DIVISION)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD**

**01 JULY 2020 TO 30 JUNE 2021**

1. **ACCESS TO FINANCE**

**1.1** **BOOST TO LOCAL PRODUCTION SCHEME FOR COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES**

The Boost to Local Production Scheme for Cooperative Societies, which is a budgetary measure 2020/2021, has been devised and is operational since July 2020. The Scheme finances 90% of the costs of the projects of cooperative societies up to a maximum of Rs150, 000 per society provided it is involved in

local production of goods and services:

(a) purchase of livestock; and

(b) acquisition of equipment, machineries and other related accessories.

30 cooperatives have benefited from financial assistance of some Rs 4.4 million in financial year 2020/2021.

**1.2 ASSISTANCE TO COOPERATIVES UNDER THE COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT FUND’S SCHEMES**

The Cooperative Development Fund is operating several financial schemes with a view to assisting in the development of cooperatives. A sum of Rs177,080/- has been disbursed under the following schemes to eight cooperatives:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Schemes** | **Number of beneficiaries** | **Amount Disbursed (Rs)** |
| 1. Scheme for Cooperatives in Rodrigues for the purchase of water tanks, fittings and accessories
 | 4 | 39,900 |
| 1. Scheme for Upgrading of Consumer Cooperative Stores
 | 1 | 90,000 |
| 1. Scheme for Acquisition of IT facilities for Cooperative Societies.
 | 2 | 27,180 |
| 1. Grant Scheme for the Upgrading of Cooperative Societies
 | 1 | 20,000 |
| **TOTAL** | **8** | **177,080** |

1. **ACCESS TO MARKET TO COOPERATIVES**

**2.1 COOPERATIVE FAIRS**

Cooperative Market Fairs are held to provide a platform to cooperative societies to market their local products, establish business networks, and also increase the visibility of the goods and services of the cooperative societies.

34 Cooperative Fairs were organised as hereunder to provide marketing outlets to cooperators for sale of their produce:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Details** | **Number** |
| **Cooperative Market Fairs**  |  |
| (i) Quatre Bornes | 5 |
| (ii) Vacoas | 6 |
| **Women Cooperative Market Fairs**  |  |
| Mahebourg | 18 |
| Port Louis | 33 3333 |
| **Regional Cooperative Market Fairs at Curepipe & Flacq** |  2 |
| **TOTAL**  | **34** |

1. **GREEN PROJECT**

**3.1 SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC REBATE SCHEME FOR COOPERATIVES**

The Ministry is operating the Solar Photovoltaic Rebate Scheme for Cooperatives. Under the Scheme, Cooperatives are benefitting from roof-mounted grid tie PV kits of 2 kilowatt peak (kWp) capacity. The Scheme is jointly funded by this Ministry and the CEB. Cooperative societies do not incur any investment cost. The CEB procures, owns and have the responsibility for operation and maintenance of the PV kits. The Solar Photovoltaic Rebate Scheme for Cooperatives is thus in line with the Renewable Energy Strategy of the Government.

Under this Scheme, 19 cooperative societies have benefitted from the installation of solar photovoltaic kits; 14 installations have been commissioned; and 5 are awaiting to be commissioned. The Solar Photovoltaic Rebate Scheme for Cooperatives is being extended to additional 8 beneficiaries with the collaboration of the SME Mauritius.

1. **ORNAMENTAL FISH FARMING**

**4.1 ORNAMENTAL FISH FARMING SCHEME FOR COOPERATIVES**

 The Ministry operated an Ornamental Fish Farming Scheme for cooperators who had followed training in ornamental fish farming organised by this Ministry in collaboration with the Albion Fisheries Research Centre and conducted by an expert from AARDO. A sum of Rs300,000 was allocated to the Ministry in the Financial Year 2020/2021. The scheme provided for equipment and other items (aquariums, pumps, accessories, fish feed etc.), where the required equipment and fish worth Rs 25, 000 have been delivered to the 9 beneficiaries of the Ornamental Fish Farming Scheme.

1. **REGISTRATION OF COOPERATIVES**

**5.1 NEW COOPERATIVES**

164 cooperative societies were registered during the period 01 July 2020 to
30 June 2021 out of which 72 cooperative societies have been registered as Multipurpose Cooperative Societies with a view to allowing the society to be engaged in various activities.

1. **SENSITISATION ON COOPERATIVES**

**6.1 SENSITISATION ON COOPERATIVES**

The Cooperatives Division carried out 57 sensitisation programmes around the island with a view to disseminating information to the public on the cooperative business model, especially amongst others regarding setting up of cooperative societies and writing-up of business plan. The sensitisation programmes were attended by 1,256 participants. Details of the programmes are as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SN** | **Sensitisation Programmes on Cooperatives** | **Locations** | **No. of sessions held** | **No. of participants** |
|  | Sensitisation programme on "Setting up of Cooperatives"- National Empowerment Foundation | Flacq, Riviere des Anguilles, Port Louis, Mahebourg, Riche Lieu, Belle Rose, Riviere du Rempart, Quartier Militaire, Terre Rouge | 10 | 810 |
|  | Talk on Writing a Simple Business Plan | Camp Carol, Bonne Mere, Union Park, Belle Mare, Argy, Mare D’Australia | 6 | 128 |
|  | Talk on ‘‘Cooperative model of doing business’’ to empower women towards business and employment | Balisson, St. Hillaire, Trois Boutiques, Nouvelle France, Cluny | 5 | 103 |
|  | Talk on ‘‘Cooperative models and its benefits of joining a business" to empower women towards entrepreneuriat | Beau Vallon, Plaine Magnien, Plein Bois, Quatre Soeurs, Ferney | 5 | 70 |
|  | Sensitisation Programme on Cooperative Credit Unions | Riviere des Galets, Camp Fouquereaux | 2 | 60 |
|  | Expo-Vente at the Esplanade of Emmanuel Anquetil Building | Port Louis | 4 | General public |
|  | Ansam avek CSU campaign | Piton, Quartier Militaire, Goodlands, Cite Vallijee, Bois des Amourettes, Montagne Blanche, Bambous, Curepipe, Riviere du Rempart, Vieux Grand Port, Flacq, Beau Vallon, Petite Riviere, Quatre Bornes, Point aux Sables, Pamplemousses, Floreal, Tamarin, Route Nicolay, Rose Belle, Grand Bay, Midlands | 22 | General public |
|  | Other sensitisations | Amitie, Britannia, Bel Air | 3 | 85 |
|  | **Total** |  | **57** | **1,256** |

**6.2 MEDIA PROGRAMMES**

 Officers of the Cooperatives Division participated in four radio programmes and one TV programme to provide information on the support and facilities provided to Cooperatives and to encourage more entrepreneurs to organise themselves into cooperatives.

**7. COOPERATIVE EDUCATION**

**7.1 TRAINING PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL COOPERATIVE COLLEGE**

With a view to building capacity of cooperatives and promoting the cooperative way of doing business, the National Cooperative College carried out training programmes and activities as hereunder:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S.N.** | **Details** | **No.** | **Number of Participants** |
| 1 | Vocational Training Programmes (Non Award) | 25 | 2,457 |
| 2 | Capacity Building Training Programmes (Non Award) | 11 | 546 |
| 3 | Training Programmes (Award) | 1 | 30 |
| 4 | Career Counselling (Grade 10,11,12 & 13) | 6 | 503 |
| 5 | Workshops | 11 | 599 |
| 6 | Online Training (mushroom cultivation) | 1 | 28 |
|  | **Total** | **55** | **4,163** |

**8. SUPPORT TO COOPERATIVES**

**8.1 AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF COOPERATIVES**

Statutory audit carried out for the financial years 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 was as hereunder:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Details** | **FY****2018/2019** | **FY****2019/2020** |
| Total Number of Financial Statement received (as at 30.06.2021) | 726 | 614 |
| Total Number of Financial Statements audited (as at 30.06.2021) | 713 | 542 |
| Number of Financial Statements audited (01 July 2020- 30 June 2021) | 242 | 542 |

**8.2 ASSISTANCE FOR PROJECT WRITE-UP**

Assistance was provided to 47 Cooperative Societies for project write-up in respect of their renovation/upgrading activities and application for state land, loan, permit and financial assistance.

**9. EVENTS ON COOPERATIVES**

**9.1 CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CO-OPERATIVES 2020**

The International Day of Co-operatives (IDC) is an annual celebration of the cooperative movement observed on the first Saturday of July. It was celebrated on the 4th of July in year 2020 and the theme for the 2020 IDC was “Cooperatives for Climate Action”. To mark the IDC 2020, the Ministry organised a “Gathering of Cooperators’ on Saturday, 04 July 2020 at the National Cooperative College, Terre Rouge, which was attended by cooperators. The event focused mainly on the contribution of cooperatives in combatting climate change which is one of the most severe challenges facing our planet during the 21st century.

**10****. BRANDING OF COOPERATIVE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES**

**10.1 COOP MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER” LOGO**

The Ministry has developed a “Coop Moving Forward Together” logo and cooperatives are encouraged to use the logo on their letterheads, signage, website and products. The logo will assist in building a cooperative identity and fostering a professional image. As at 30 June 2021, applications from 54 cooperative societies were received, and 49 were approved.

**11. MAINTENANCE OF ISO STANDARDS**

**11.1 ISO CERTIFICATION OF THE COOPERATIVES DIVISION**

The Cooperatives Division has been certified MS ISO 9001:2008 since 2010 and migrated to MS ISO 9001:2015 with effect from 2017. The Division applied for a recertification Audit in September 2020. Its certification is valid until 14 September 2023. The Cooperatives Division has aligned itself to the new standard and upgraded its quality system.

**12. SIGNATURE OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**12.1 SIGNATURE OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE MAURITIUS CONSUMERS COOPERATIVE FEDERATION LTD AND THE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARD**

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on Monday 03 August 2020 between the Mauritius Consumers Cooperative Federation (MCCF) Ltd and the Agricultural Marketing Board (AMB). The MoU relates to the supply of commodities put on sale by the AMB to the retail outlets of the MCCF Ltd with a view to providing quality products at competitive prices to different sales outlets regionwise as a ‘‘service de proximité to consumers. Four retail outlets are operational at Plaine Magnien, Terre Rouge, Bambous and La Flora. The MCCF Ltd is planning to open a fifth outlet at Rose-Belle in September 2021.

**13. COOPERATIVE CONSUMER SECTOR**

**13.1 LAUNCHING OF A “SUPERETTE”**

The La Flora Cooperative Store Ltd in collaboration with the Mauritius Consumers Cooperative Federation Ltd launched a “Superette” on 05 August 2020 at La Flora. The Superette operates under the Vival/Jumbo Express Franchise. This project aims at modernising the cooperative retail sector; uplifting the cooperative image; and providing quality products at competitive prices in a pleasant shopping environment to the inhabitants of La Flora and its surroundings.

**14. EMPOWERING WOMEN COOPERATIVES**

**14.1 SALON CULINAIRE AND AWARD OF CERTIFICATES CEREMONY**

A ‘Salon Culinaire and Award of Certificates Ceremony’ was organised on
17 September 2020by the Mauritius Women Entrepreneurs Co-operative Federation Ltd (MWECF Ltd) with the collaboration of the Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives (Cooperatives Division). The objectives of the event were to promote the economic interests of women entrepreneurs affiliated to the MWECF Ltd; promote the culture of entrepreneurship among women cooperators; and provide a platform to women entrepreneurs through the organisation of salon culinaire to showcase their culinary expertise and talents.

**15. PUBLICATION**

**15.1 COOPERATIVE NEWSLETTER**

The First Edition of the Cooperative Newsletter was launched in February 2021 with a view to providing visibility on projects, initiatives and measures undertaken by cooperative societies. The newsletter provides an insight of the engagement of cooperative in different economic activities.