

**MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, SMES AND
COOPERATIVES (COOPERATIVES DIVISION)**

ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD 01 JULY 2021 TO 30 JUNE 2022

1. ACCESS TO FINANCE

1.1 BOOST TO LOCAL PRODUCTION SCHEME FOR COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES

The Boost to Local Production Scheme for Cooperative Societies is operational since July 2020. The Scheme finances 90% of the cost of the following up to a maximum of Rs150,000/- per cooperative society related to local production of agricultural produce and food items:

- (a) Purchase of livestock; and
- (b) Acquisition of equipment, machineries and other related accessories.

A provision Rs 5million was made for Financial Year (FY) 2021/2022. Thirty-three (33) cooperative societies have benefited from the scheme to the tune of Rs 4.83 million.

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. In FY 2021/2022, a sum of Rs 292,063/- has been disbursed under the following schemes to seventeen (17) cooperative societies:

Schemes	Number of beneficiaries	Amount Disbursed (Rs)
1. Grant scheme for Cooperatives in Rodrigues for the purchase of water tanks, fittings and accessories	1	10,000.
2. Grant scheme for Acquisition of IT facilities for Cooperative Societies.	13	259,613.
3. Grant Scheme for the Upgrading of Cooperative Societies	1	16,450.
4. Grant Scheme to Cooperative Societies availing Internal Control Services from the Mauritius Cooperative Alliance Limited (MCA)	2	6,000.
TOTAL	17	292,063.

1.3 GARMENT MAKING/TAILORING PROJECT

The Garment Making/Tailoring Project is one of the new sectors in which the Ministry is encouraging cooperatives to venture into with a view to encouraging more production at local level, thus saving on foreign currency, and also to making services available to the population in their proximity.

The Garment Making/Tailoring Project has two main components as hereunder:

- (a) Training in garment making/tailoring by the National Cooperative College (NCC) with the collaboration of the Fashion and Design Institute (FDI); and
- (b) A maximum financial assistance of Rs200,000 per cooperative for the following:
 - 90% of the costs of equipment for garment making/tailoring shop up to a maximum of Rs150,000
 - Six months' rental costs of the garment making/tailoring shop up to a maximum of Rs6,000/month (Rs 6,000x6 months)

- Signage and advertising materials to a maximum of Rs14,000

The first component has been completed and for the second component applications were received from six cooperative societies. For the period under review, disbursement was made to three cooperative societies as hereunder:

Cooperative society	Amount of grant disbursed (Rs)
a) F.E.R Tailoring Women Entrepreneurs Cooperative Society Ltd	162,500
b) Paille en Queue Tailoring Women Entrepreneurs Cooperative Society Ltd	158,660
c) Perfect Ladies' Tailoring Women Entrepreneurs Cooperative Society Ltd	186,535
Total	507,695

2. 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.

Thirty-seven (37) Cooperative Market Fairs were organised as hereunder to provide marketing outlets to cooperators for sale of their produce:

Details	Number of fairs
Cooperative Market Fairs	
(i) Quatre Bornes	13
(ii) Vacoas	1
Women Cooperative Market Fairs	
Mahebourg	23
TOTAL	37

Some 100 cooperative societies participate in the above fairs.

3. GREEN PROJECTS

3.1 SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC REBATE SCHEME FOR COOPERATIVES

The Ministry operated a Solar Photovoltaic Rebate Scheme for Cooperatives. Under the Scheme, Cooperatives have benefited from roof-mounted grid tie PV kits of 2 kilowatt peak (kWp) capacity. Cooperative societies did not incur any investment cost. The CEB procured, owned and had the responsibility for operation and maintenance of the PV kits.

An official launching of the Solar Photovoltaic system was made on 18 September 2021 at L'Escalier Cooperative Credit Society, which is one of the beneficiaries of the Solar Photovoltaic Rebate Scheme for Cooperatives. The official launching was made by Hon. Soomilduth Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives.

For Financial Year 2021/2022, 6 cooperative societies have benefited from the installation of solar photovoltaic kits which was part-financed by the SME Mauritius Ltd.

3.2 WORKSHOP ON RECYCLING FOR COOPERATIVES

With a view to promoting recycling activities among cooperatives, a one-day workshop on Recycling was organized by the Cooperatives Division of the Ministry in collaboration with the National Cooperative College, Bois Marchand, Terre Rouge. The workshop was attended by 32 cooperators.

4. REGISTRATION OF COOPERATIVES

4.1 NEW COOPERATIVES

118 cooperative societies were registered during the period 01 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 out of which 40 cooperative societies have been registered as Multipurpose Cooperative Societies with a view to allowing the society to be engaged in various activities.

5. EVENTS ON COOPERATIVES

5.1 CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CO-OPERATIVES 2021

The International Day of Co-operatives (IDC) is an annual celebration of the cooperative movement observed on the first Saturday of July. For year 2021, the International Day of Cooperatives was celebrated on the 3rd of July.

The theme of the International Day of Cooperatives 2021 is “*REBUILD BETTER TOGETHER*”. The theme was chosen to support Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 on Good Health and Wellbeing. Cooperatives were thus provided an opportunity to showcase how they are meeting the Covid-19 pandemic crisis with solidarity and resilience and offering communities a people-centered and environmentally-just recovery.

In Mauritius, to mark the International Day of Cooperatives 2021, the Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives (Cooperatives Division) had organized a gathering of co-operators at the National Cooperative College, Terre Rouge.

6. RE-ENGINEERING OF THE COOPERATIVES DIVISION

6.1 WORKSHOP ON “RE-ENGINEERING OF THE COOPERATIVES

The Cooperatives Division of the Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives organised a half-day workshop on the theme “*The Re-engineering of the Cooperatives: The Way Forward*” in October 2021 at the Labourdonnais Waterfront Hotel, Caudan Port-Louis. The workshop was attended by cooperators, officers of the Division as well as representatives of the Union for Technical Staff of the Cooperative Societies Section.

The main objectives of the workshop were *inter-alia* to:

- (i) Provide information on how the re-engineering will foster growth and modernisation of the cooperative sector while focusing on the promotion and development of new fields of activities;
- (ii) Sensitise cooperatives and officers of the Division on the re-engineering strategy and the mechanism for its implementation so as to ensure the smooth transition;
- (iii) Establish the sense of belonging from different stakeholders to the project; and
- (iv) Obtain the views/proposals/suggestions from the different stakeholders.

6.2 LAUNCHING OF COOPERATIVES BUSINESS CENTRES

The Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives (Cooperatives Division) solicited the assistance of the Office of the Public Sector Governance (OPSG) to carry out a restructuring exercise with a view to providing appropriate institutional set up to foster growth

and for the modernisation of the Cooperative Sector, while focusing on the promotion and development of new fields of activities.

Based on the recommendations of the OPSG Report, the Cooperatives Division prepared an Action Plan for the Re-engineering of the Cooperatives Division. One of the measures of the Action Plan is the re-organisation of the 12 Regional Cooperative Centres (RCCs) into five Cooperative Business Centres (CBCs). The RCCs have thus been re-organised into CBCs. An official launching of the CBCs was held in February 2022.

7. SENSITISATION ON COOPERATIVES

7.1 SENSITISATION ON COOPERATIVES

The Cooperatives Division carried out 56 sensitisation programmes around the island with a view to *inter-alia* 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 820 participants. Details of the programmes are as follows:

Sn	Sensitisation Programmes on Cooperatives	Locations	No. of sensitisation of held	No. of participants
(a)	Sensitisation programme on Cooperatives during NCC Programmes	Bel Air Rivière Sèche, Rose Belle, Terre Rouge, Surinam, St Pierre, Montagne Blanche, Beau Plan, Helvetia, Pamplemousses	14	278
(b)	Sensitisation on Cooperatives and Incentives/Facilities	St. Pierre, Curepipe, Rose Belle, Terre Rouge, Cote D'Or, Rivière du Rempart	6	192
(c)	Sensitisation on Cooperative Development Fund (CDF) Schemes	Terre Rouge, Port Louis, Rose Belle, St Pierre, Beau Champ, Candos, Belle Mare, Solitude, Grand Bois	21	225
(d)	ANSAM Avek CSU Campaign	Cascavelle, Grand Bay, Trianon, Flacq, Medine Camp de Masque	5	General public
(e)	Open Day at Trou d'Eau Douce	Trou d'Eau Douce	1	General public
(f)	Promotion of Cooperative Business Centres	Terre Rouge, Triolet, Rose Belle, Grand Bois, St Felix, Vacoas, Candos, Curepipe	9	125
	Total		56	820

7.2 RADIO AND TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

Officers of the Cooperatives Division had participated in two radio programmes on the occasion of International Day of Cooperatives 2021 and 2022 and television programme namely "Magazine de L'Emploi et des Métiers" at the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation, to

provide information on the support and facilities provided to Cooperatives and to encourage more entrepreneurs to organise themselves into cooperatives.

8. SUPPORT TO COOPERATIVES

8.1 AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF COOPERATIVES

Total number of Financial Statements Audited for the period under review was 638 detailed as hereunder:

Details	FY 2017/2018	FY 2018/2019	FY 2019/2020	FY 2020/2021
Total number of Financial Statements audited as at 30 June 2021	782	716	546	-
Total number of Financial Statements audited (01 July 2021 - 30 June 2022).	11	27	136	464
Total number of Financial Statements audited as at 30 June 2022.	793	743	682	464

8.2 ASSISTANCE FOR PROJECT WRITE-UP

Assistance was provided to the following 39 Cooperative Societies for project write-up in respect of their renovation/upgrading activities and application for state land, loan, permit and financial assistance:

Sn	Society	Type of Project
1	Hill Side Multipurpose Co-operative Society Ltd	Request for loan and state land
2	Awesome Co-operative Society Ltd	Request for land
3	Elevage et Saveur de chez nous Co-operative Society Ltd	Request for state land
4	Frangipane Mixed Farming Co-operative Society Ltd	Request for land and financial assistance
5	St Beatrice Multi-purpose Co-operative Society Ltd	Request for state land
6	BH Farmers Mixed Farming Co-operative Society Ltd	Request for State Land
7	Chick and Veg Lovers Mixed Farming Co-operative Society Ltd.	Request for Loan and state land
8	Kafka Multi-purpose Co-operative Society Ltd	Request for land
9	Camp Fouquereaux Cooperative Stores Ltd	Request for financial assistance
10	Tiyan Mixed Farming Co-operative Society Ltd	Request for land
11	Peacock Multi-purpose Co-operative Society Ltd	Request for land
12	Bois Marchand Multi-purpose Co-operative Society Ltd	Project for request of grant from institutions for purchase of equipment
13	RBH Mixed Farming Co-operative Society Ltd	Request for land
14	Coastal Organic Mixed Farming Co-operative Society Ltd	Request for land
15	Sanjivni Mixed Farming Co-operative Society Ltd	Request for land
16	Squash Co-operative Society Ltd	Request for land
17	Madison Entrepreneur Co-operative Society Ltd	Request for state land
18	La Ruche Multi-Purpose Co-operative Society Ltd	Request for state land

19	Graciere Livestock Co-operative Society Ltd	Request for state land
20	Mofarm Multi-purpose Co-operative Society Ltd	Request for state land
21	Garuda Multipurpose Co-operative Society Ltd	Request for state land
22	Point Legumes Agricultural Marketing Co-operative Society Ltd	Request for state land
23	Palmetto Mixed Farming Co-operative Society Ltd	Request for state land
24	Mofarm Multi-purpose Co-operative Society Ltd	Request for state land (second request)
25	SHI Enterprise Agricultural Marketing Co-operative Society Ltd	Request for land
26	Emerge Mixed Farming Co-operative Society Ltd	Request for land
27	SHI Enterprise Co-operative Society Ltd	Request for Loan (second project)
28	Canine Crew Mixed Farming Co-operative Society Ltd	Request for loan
29	Grande Source Co-operative Society Ltd	Request for State Land
30	Flourishing Fields Mixed Farming Co-operative Society Ltd	Request for State Land
31	Bittern Multi-purpose Co-operative Society Ltd	Request for state land
32	Maho Mixed Farming Co-operative Society Ltd	Request for state land
33	Madjvic Mixed Farming Cooperative Society Ltd	Request for state land
34	A.M.E.N. Multi-purpose Co-operative Society Ltd	Request for state land
35	Earth Durable Mixed Farming Co-operative Society Ltd	Request for Land
36	Benn Mixed Farming Co-operative Society Ltd	Request for Land
37	Digital Signage Ads Multi-Purpose Co-operative Society Ltd	Request for Loan
38	Fresh Suppliers Mixed Farming Co-operative Society Ltd	Request for land
39	Akhil Mixed Farming Co-operative Society Ltd	Request for State Land

9. BRANDING OF COOPERATIVE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

9.1 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. For the period under review 21 applications were approved.

10. MAINTENANCE OF ISO STANDARDS

10.1 MS 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.

11. EMPOWERING WOMEN COOPERATIVES

11.1 WORKSHOP ON E-MARKETING FOR WOMEN COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

With a view to promoting e-marketing among women cooperative societies, a two-day Workshop on E-Marketing for Women cooperative societies was organised on 19 May 2022 by the Mauritius Women Entrepreneurs Cooperative Federation Ltd (MWEFCF) in collaboration with Cooperatives Division of the Ministry and the National Cooperative College

(NCC). The main objectives of the workshop were to enlarge the scope of business of women cooperators through digitalization; and increase the customer base of women cooperatives. The workshop was attended by 30 women cooperators.

12. COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

12.1 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) (Women and Youth)	14	447
2.	Capacity Building Training Programmes (Non-Award) (Cooperators / Cooperative Member)	11	217
3.	Training Programmes (Award) (Cooperators / Cooperative Member)	02	56
4.	Sensitization Programmes (Grade 10 & 12) (Secondary Students)	05	415
5.	Workshops (Tertiary Students & Cooperators)	15	449
Total			1,584

Details on the courses provided are at **Annex I**

Training Programmes and activities of the National Cooperative College**(i) Vocational Training Programmes (Non-Award)**

- No. of training programmes held: 14
- No. of participants: 447

S.N.	Training Programme	No. of Participants
1.	Ayurvedic Massage Therapy (Basic)	30
2.	Beauty Care, Hairdressing & Henna Application (Basic)	12
3.	Beauty Care, Hairdressing & Henna Application (Advance)	24
4.	Fancy Jewellery (Basic)	22
5.	Fibre / Craft & Basketry	15
6.	Food Preservation & Desserts (Basic)	41
7.	Garment Making (Advance)	12
8.	Glass Painting & Pyrogravure (Advance)	16
9.	Home Decoration (Basic)	52
10.	Jute Fabric and Handicraft (HRDC)	40
11.	Leather Craft (HRDC)	45
12.	Pastry Making (Basic)	64
13.	Textile Recycle Craft (Basic)	45
14.	Rodriguan Cuisines	29
	Total	447

(ii) Capacity Building Training Programmes (Non-Award)

- No. of training programmes held: 11
- No. of participants: 217

S.N.	Training Programme	Learning Mode	No. of Participants
1.	Basic ICT Skills for Cooperators	Face-to-Face	11
2.	Bio Organic Farming for Cooperatives	Face-to-Face	22
3.	Book keeping and Accountancy Standards	Face-to-Face	18
4.	Book-keeping and Accountancy for Cooperatives	Face-to-Face	24
5.	Cooperative Banking and Financial Services	Online	12
6.	Cooperative Law & Practices in Mauritius	Face-to-Face	18
7.	Costing and Budgeting for Cooperatives	Face-to-Face	24
8.	Internal Control for Cooperatives	Face-to-Face	10
9.	Marketing and Customer Care for Cooperatives	Face-to-Face	31
10.	Quality Control and Management in Cooperatives	Face-to-Face	30

11.	Cooperative Management & Administration	Face-to-Face	17
	Total		217

(iii) Training Programmes (Award)

- No. of training programme held: 02
- No. of participants: 56

S.N.	Training Programme	No. of Participants
1.	National Certificate Level 3 in Garment Making and Tailoring	33
2.	Diploma in Cooperative Business Management	23
	Total	56

(iv) Sensitization Programmes (Grade 10 & 12)

- No. of sensitization programmes held: 05
- No. of participants: 415

S.N.	Secondary School	Class	No. of Students
1.	Sebastopol State Secondary School (Boys)	Grade 10 & Grade 12	93
2.	Dunputh Lallah State Secondary School (Girls)	Grade 10	97
3.	Dunputh Lallah State Secondary School (Girls)	Grade 9 & Grade 12	46
4.	Windsor College (Boys)	Grade 10	92
5.	Rivière Des Anguilles State College (Girls)	Grade 10 & Grade 12	87
		Total	415

(v) Workshops

- No. of workshops: 15
- No. of participants: 449

S.N.	Theme	Venue	No. of Participants
1.	Workshop on "Importance of Board of Directors, Rights and Obligations of Directors"	Training Hall, Maison des Eleveurs, L'Agrément, St Pierre	18
2.	Workshop on "Promote Co-operative Entrepreneurship"	Lecture Room, National Co-operative College, Terre Rouge	33
3.	Workshop on "Concept of Co-operative Entrepreneurship"	Polytechnic Mauritius Ltd, Montagne Blanche	22
4.	Awareness Raising Webinar on Climate Change	Webinar (Online)	57

5.	Workshop on "Women Empowerment through Co-operative Entrepreneurship"	Trou D'Eau Douce Village Hall	14
6.	Workshop on "Women Empowerment through Co-operative Entrepreneurship"	Ecroignard Recreational Centre	16
7.	Workshop on "Promote Co-operative Entrepreneurship"	Lecture Room, National Co-operative College, Terre Rouge	19
8.	Workshop on "Promote Co-operative Entrepreneurship"	Polytechnic Mauritius Ltd, Montagne Blanche	10
9.	Workshop on Recycling for Cooperatives	Lecture Room, National Co-operative College, Terre Rouge	50
10.	Workshop on "Promote Co-operative Entrepreneurship"	MITD, Cote D'Or Training Centre, Royal Road, Cote d'Or, St Pierre	47
11.	Workshop on "Promote Co-operative Entrepreneurship"	Université des Mascareignes, Beau Plan, B18, Pamplemousses	67
12.	Workshop on "Promote Co-operative Entrepreneurship"	Bus Industry Employees Welfare Fund, Royal Road, Helvetia, St Pierre	15
13.	Workshop on "Promote Co-operative Entrepreneurship"	Bus Industry Employees Welfare Fund, Royal Road, Helvetia, St Pierre	15
14.	Workshop on "Promote Co-operative Entrepreneurship"	Polytechnic Mauritius Ltd, Powder Mills, Pamplemousses	16
15.	Workshop on "E-Marketing for Women Cooperatives"	Lecture Room, National Co-operative College, Terre Rouge	50
Total			449