

**MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT, SMEs AND COOPERATIVES
(COOPERATIVES DIVISION) 2019/2020**

1. ACCESS TO MARKET TO COOPERATIVES

Thirty-seven Cooperative Market Fairs, Women Cooperative Market Fairs, Regional and National Cooperative Market Fairs were organised to provide free marketing outlets to cooperators for sale of their produce.

2. COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT FUND'S SCHEMES

Financial assistance to the tune of Rs315,887.50 was provided to 14 cooperative societies as hereunder:

Schemes	Number of Beneficiaries	Amount Disbursed (Rs)
1) Scheme for Upgrading of Cooperative Societies	3	134,860
2) Scheme for Acquisition of IT Facilities for Cooperative Societies	11	181,027.50
Total	14	315,887.50

3. LAND AND INFRASTRUCTURE TO COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES

Land to an extent of 60 perches was provided to the Mauritius Cooperative Agricultural Federation Ltd (federation grouping the cooperative credit societies) in April 2019 for the setting up of Seedling Production Unit.

The Seedling Production Unit was set up by the Mauritius Cooperative Agricultural Federation Ltd and launched in February 2020.

4. ORNAMENTAL FISH FARM SCHEME

There are nine Cooperative Societies which are beneficiaries of the Ornamental Fish Farm Scheme. They are being provided with equipment and fishes to start ornamental fish farming as a business activity.

5. BRAINSTORMING SESSION ON 'REVAMPING OF THE COOPERATIVE SECTOR'

A brainstorming session was held with secondary and tertiary cooperatives on Tuesday 26 May 2020 to discuss on the strategies to be adopted for cooperatives for the post-COVID era.

6. TRAINING COURSE ON BIO ORGANIC FARMING

A Training Course on Bio Organic Farming is presently being held by the National Cooperative College and the Falcon Bio Organic Cooperative Society Ltd in collaboration with the Ministry. The course started on 05 February 2020 and is being attended by 46 participants. The course comprises both theoretical and practical aspects.

7. PRODUCTION OF GREEN ENERGY BY COOPERATIVES

The Ministry in collaboration with the CEB (Green Energy) Company Ltd worked out a project on production of green energy by cooperatives using photovoltaic panels. The CEB (Green Energy) Company Ltd is installing roof-mounted grid tie PV kits of 2 kilowatt peak (kWp) capacity for some 20 cooperatives and the cooperatives would not incur any investment. This project is being financed jointly by the Ministry and the CEB (Green Energy) Company Ltd.

8. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO SECONDARY AND TERTIARY COOPERATIVES

The following cooperative organisations benefit from annual grants from the Ministry to carry out their activities:

- Mauritius Cooperative Alliance Ltd
- Mauritius Agricultural marketing Cooperative Federation Ltd
- Mauritius Livestock Marketing Cooperative Federation Ltd
- Mauritius Women Entrepreneurs Cooperative Federation Ltd

9. AWARDS FOR COOPERATIVES

The National Awards for Cooperatives was organised in October 2019. The Award aimed at gearing cooperatives to business excellence while adhering to cooperative principles and values. There has been a continual improvement in the emergence of sustainable cooperative organisations.

10. ISO CERTIFICATION OF THE COOPERATIVES DIVISION

The Cooperatives Division has been certified MS ISO 9001:2008 since 2010 and went for recertification in 2016 for the MS ISO 9001:2015. The Cooperatives Division has been MS ISO 9001:2015 certified since November 2017. The Cooperatives Division has aligned itself to the new standard and upgraded its quality system.

11. ENGENDERING THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT - SPECIAL SUPPORT TO WOMEN COOPERATIVES

Special support is provided to women cooperatives in terms of financial and technical assistance, training, access to markets and development projects. Today,

there are many active Women Cooperatives and a Women Cooperative Federation namely the Mauritius Women Entrepreneurs Cooperative Federation Ltd, set up with the main objective of providing necessary assistance/support to women grouped in cooperatives, undertaking various activities for enhancing the economic and social welfare of women and promoting the development of women cooperatives. Also, financial assistance is provided on a yearly basis to the Mauritius Women Entrepreneurs Co-operative Federation Ltd for operating a Cooperative Shop – the Elle Co-op Shop and a tailor shop at Port Louis and a shop in the Craft Market at Flacq to provide a permanent place for women cooperators to sell their products.