

Seminar on Current Trends in Development of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asian Countries with Special Reference to Legislative Changes and Policy Initiatives and NEDAC General Assembly, 2011

**27 November – 3 December, 2011
Tagaytay City, Philippine**

SECTION-01

INTRODUCTION

NEDAC Seminar on Current Trends in Development of Agricultural Co-operatives in Asian Countries with Special Reference to Legislative Changes and Policy Initiatives and NEDAC General Assembly (NEDAC G.A.) was held at Taal Vista Hotel, Tagaytay City, Metro Manila, Philippines from 27 November – 3 December 2011. The Seminar and the General Assembly including one day field visit to two co-operative societies were generously hosted by the Co-operative Development Authority, (CDA) Philippines.

MAJOR OBJECTIVES

- A. Major objectives of the seminar were :
- (i) To share experiences and information on current trend of the agricultural cooperative development in Asian countries with special reference to legislative changes and policy initiatives.
 - (ii) To review and analyze the legislative changes and policies for suggesting reforms in the legal and policy issues for development of agricultural cooperatives.
 - (iii) To examine whether the current legislations/laws and existing policies have provisions for capacity building/strengthening of agricultural cooperatives so that the agricultural cooperative can perform better with less or no external support.
 - (iv) To suggest/recommend country level legislative and policy issues for development of agricultural cooperatives and also to suggest/recommend specific kind of support/assistance on legislative and policy matters from Government, Cooperative movements as well as Regional or International Agency (ies) for development of agricultural cooperatives.
- B. Specific objectives of the general assembly were :
- (i) To review NEDAC activities undertaken during the period September 2009 to October 2011 and to examine and approve the NEDAC financial report (income and expenditure) from July 2009 to October 2011.

- (ii) To elect office bearers of NEDAC Executive Committee (EXCOM) for the next term 2012 – 2013 and to formulate/approve NEDAC workplan/ programme for 2012 – 2013.
- (iii) To discuss/suggest measures for increased income of NEDAC through enhanced membership drive and also to examine the possibility of increasing NEDAC membership fee.
- (iv) Also to discuss how NEDAC activities could be made more visible/attractive and explore possibility of HRD/training of cooperative personnel at minimal cost or no cost.

ATTENDANCE

The Seminar and the General Assembly was attended by participants from NEDAC organizations in 7 countries (Bangladesh, China, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Thailand) Three delegates from India (NCDC, NCCF and HAFED) could not join the meeting due to unavoidable circumstances for which they cancelled their travel on 26 November, 2011. The technical officer from FAO Bangkok who provides technical backstopping/guidance to NEDAC also could not join due other commitments. The list of Participants is at Annex I.

INAUGURAL/OPENING SESSION

The opening session was inaugurated by Hon'ble Congressman Mr. Agapito Guanlao. Before the inauguration welcome address was delivered by Ms. Felicitas S. Acosido, Administrator CDA, on behalf of Mr. Emmanuel M. Santiagué, Ph. D, Chairman CDA. Mr. W.I. Khan Programme Adviser NEDAC, on behalf of the Chairman NEDAC, delivered "Introductory Remarks". Hon'ble Congressman, Mr. Isidro Lico, House of Representatives, Philippines diverted the vote of thanks

WELCOME ADDRESS BY CHAIRMAN, CDA (Delivered by Administrator Dr. S.A. Acosido on behalf of the Chairman)

Most Distinguished Guests from the NEDAC-Member Countries and the NEDAC Secretariat, NEDAC Resource Person, Dr Daman Prakash, Fellow workers in government and Movement, ladies and gentlemen.

Good morning and Welcome to the Philippines!

The Cooperative Development Authority is a Philippine Government Agency that is mandated by its Charter to promote the growth and development of cooperatives as instruments for social justice and economic development. We perform these roles through advisory and guidance services, conduct of training, education, policy formulation, consulting and the provision of technical assistance.

We often times refer to our policy and programs role as "partnership-building" since it is in performing this role that we bring together all individual and

organizational stakeholders of cooperative development with the end in view of discussing and agreeing on what best we can do to ensure the safe and sound operation of cooperatives. In doing so, build a more effective and efficient working partnership between and among those involved.

In the same vein the Regional Network for the Development of Agricultural Cooperatives for Asia and the Pacific [NEDAC] was established to implement a program of action to promote the development of agricultural cooperatives in the Asia Pacific region through: [i] exchanges of relevant information and experience among member-countries; [ii] education and training of personnel and cooperators; and [iii] research and development programmes.

I would particularly want to thank our partners from NEDAC member-countries/organizations for traveling long hours and far distances because this is a demonstration of your great interest in discussing how agricultural cooperatives can be developed to become engines of growth in your respective countries.

The definition of co-operatives is built on four major catch words; first, they are formed by groups of people, who have a specified need or problem. Second, the organization is formed freely by members after contributing to its assets. Thirdly, the organization formed, is governed democratically in order to achieve desired objectives on equitable norms, and, fourth, it is an independent enterprise promoted, owned and controlled by people to meet their needs.

We consider that there are some areas of intervention that need to be addressed in the development of agriculture cooperatives and in rural development which we can look at during the meeting:

- Organizational and business development;
- Gender equality;
- Market information and analysis;
- Sustainable agricultural production and climate change;
- Market access and sales;
- Financial services;
- Policy development and advocacy.

We all know that a cooperative is an association and business enterprise. Therefore, cooperatives need to have membership and the potential to develop economically. I believe that in most of our countries, agriculture cooperatives are still village-based. One main consequence of this is very small membership base. Rural cooperatives with very few members never achieve the business volume that is required to develop and become an efficient tool for business development. This is one underlying reason why we have identified increasing membership of cooperatives as one of the priority agenda of CDA.

Members of agricultural cooperatives must be able to access sufficient land and affordable credit and develop knowledge and techniques. The farmer needs to have access to market information and networks. Agriculture Cooperatives need to give

perspective to strategic alliances even starting locally and progressing to inter regional trade alliances when ready.

From within the Cooperative Movement itself, agricultural co-operatives face the challenge of leadership, management and general governance complexity. Liberalization needed a new type of leadership and managerial capacity. Apart from legislative set backs, co-operatives came to face the realities of markets in that they needed entrepreneurial leaders and managers. But to date, many agricultural co-operative organizations have not developed right leadership and qualified management due to lack of appropriate incentives and facilities. This has put more strains on the implementation of good governance programs of transparency, accountability and member participation.

It is indeed timely and laudable that we have this meeting of the NEDAC Executive Committee and General Assembly. While we don't expect to come up with a "one-size-fits-all" strategy to address the challenges, we are hoping that through this convergence, we could come up with clearer directions towards a framework on how we can situate the role of government and the cooperatives to really achieve the benefits of NEDAC. By bringing together people like you, who have the best interest of cooperatives to an exercise like this, can contribute to accelerate development processes in our respective countries through the agricultural cooperatives.

On behalf of the Cooperative Development Authority and our partners in cooperative development, I would like to welcome again all of you to the Philippines. May we have a fruitful and productive three days ahead. Thank you very much, good day to all of you and Mabuhay!

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY MR.W.I.KHAN, PROGRAMME ADVISER NEDAC ON BEHALF OF CHAIRMAN, NEDAC

At the outset, on behalf of Chairman NEDAC, NEDAC members, NEDAC Secretariat and on my own behalf, I would like to express our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to CDA in general and Dr.Santiaguel Chairman CDA in particular for kind offer to host the Seminar and NEDAC General Assembly in the Philippine which is the second time that CDA one of the founder members of NEDAC is hosting the NEDAC sessions in 2011, the pervious one was held in November 1999. This year we are in the beautiful City of Tagaytay. Our special thanks to the Chairman CDA for his suggestion concerning the seminar topic. The basic theme/topic of the seminar was suggested by CDA which was later slightly modified/changed to the present form "Current Trends in the Development of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asian countries with special reference to Legislative Changes and Policy Initiatives" on which you all have prepared papers for presentation in the seminar. I am sure the seminar will be found immensely useful by the delegates/cooperative leaders/policy makers of 19 NEDAC member organizations from 9 countries of Asia. The main purpose of the seminar would be largely achieved not only to share experiences/information amongst the NEDAC members but also to make all out

efforts to translate/implement the suggestions/recommendations into action in respective organizations after return to home country. I am very much impressed and happy to see kind the presence of two honorable congressmen of the house of representatives, Philippine in this opening ceremony which is a clear evidence of the importance given to agricultural cooperative development by the policy makers, parliament members, cooperative movements and the government. NEDAC members would be grateful if Hon'ble congressmen, parliament members visit the agricultural cooperatives and guide them with policy advice. I hope with active participation of all, the seminar will bring out useful recommendations for subsequent follow up in different NEDAC member countries. I would like to express our special thanks to CDA for sending the invitation letters to NEDAC delegates which helped a lot in obtaining visa for travel to Philippine.

Mr.Khan stated that Government cooperative departments, non government cooperative movements are members of NEDAC. NEDAC with mix between government and non government organizations was thus created for synergy in policies/programmes of government cooperative department and cooperative movements at country level as well as for synergy between the technical competence/priorities and efforts of FAO or any other UN organization say ILO, UNDP (intergovernmental organization) and ICA (international non governmental organization of cooperative movement) for sustainable agricultural/rural development and poverty alleviation through agricultural cooperatives and support to food security and small farmers' livelihood.

Mr.Khan mentioned that the major objective of the meeting would be to focus our attention on capacity building in NEDAC member organizations for adjusting to the changing situation due to market liberalization and other factors like climate change, depletion/preservation of natural resources, preparedness for natural disasters, food safety and quality standard etc and our combined efforts should be directed to transforming agricultural cooperatives/small holders/farmers' organization into viable rural institution for sustainable agricultural/rural development. Agricultural cooperatives/small farmers organizations also need to respond to the changing scenario, otherwise survival would be at stake. In this context a Resource Paper on capacity building/strengthening of agricultural cooperatives in support of food security and better livelihood of small holders will be presented by Dr.Daman Prakash who is a strong supporter of cooperatives and NEDAC. You will be benefitted from this paper. Your support and wisdom will frame the future of NEDAC and its workplan for 2012 – 2013.

Due attention need to be given on the observance of International Year of Cooperatives (IYC) 2012 as proclaimed by the UN General Assembly for which your support to observe the IYC will be important for growth and promotion of cooperatives in coming years. While formulating the workplan for 2012 – 2013 I would request you to keep in mind that though development has been made in cooperative sector in many counties, yet the major problems/factors for development of agricultural cooperatives mainly arise from lack of professionalism, skill in business planning and management, diversification of activities, weak membership or lack of membership participation, linkage with technical line ministry or department and limited information on market trend, demand and prices of commodities. While formulating the NEDAC workplan, I hope you will keep in

view the above limitations/factors for which capacity building/ corrective measures need to undertaken/implemented.

Mr.Khan wished a productive/fruitful seminar and a successful NEDAC General Assembly as well as comfortable stay of the delegates in the beautiful city of Tagaytay and thanked the host for making all arrangements more enjoyable, pleasant and memorable.

KEY NOTE ADDRESS BY HON'BLE CONGRESSMAN MR. AGAPITO GUANLAO

Cooperatives have long been existing in the Philippines. In fact they owe their humble beginnings to Dr. Jose P. Rizal, our national hero when he organized the first recognized farmers marketing cooperative during his exile in Dapitan.

Since then, four (4) laws were passed to focus on the provision of financial assistance namely the Rural Credit Act, Act 2818, Cooperative Marketing Law and the Commonwealth Act 116, from the period covering 1915 to 1927. These events were followed in 1938 by the organization of church – based cooperatives led by Fr. Allen Huber of the Church of Christ that eventually led government to support and strengthen other types of cooperatives; (1) inspired the government to establish the National Cooperative Fund; (2) exempted cooperatives from paying taxes for the first five (5) years of its operation; and, (3) created a national regulatory body to administer cooperatives and their funds.

Cooperatives thrived even during World War II and were tasked in distributing relief goods to war victims. In 1947, and as an attempt at consolidating cooperatives that folded – up during the war, government created the Cooperative Office Administration (COA) to administer large non-collateral loans with USAID funding counterpart through the Agricultural Credit and Cooperative Financing Corporation (ACCFA) and the Farmers Cooperative Marketing (FACOMA).

In 1990, President Corazon Aquino enacted into law Republic Act 6938 or the Cooperatives Code of the Philippines and created the Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA) by virtue of Republic Act 6939. Today, cooperatives remain decisive vehicles ending poverty, and in nation building activities. The cooperative movement in the Philippines continues to gather strength. As of the moment, the Cooperatives Development Authority reports of about 18,484 cooperatives in its list with a total membership of 6.5 m with combined assets of about 72,564.5 m Peso. There are 2,154 agricultural cooperatives 44 cooperative banks with assets amounting 12 Billion Peso.

Agricultural and farmers cooperatives operate where 70% of the country's poor could be found, and thus play a critical role in ending poverty. Cooperatives play important roles in increasing productivity and the distribution of wealth among farmers. Historically, cooperatives have been viewed as the most effective rural organization that has the capability of unifying small producers and consumers. Agricultural cooperatives have always been hand-in-hand with government in the

pursuit of rural development. The focus therefore should be on capacity building and strengthening of agricultural cooperatives.

Expand and consolidate agricultural organizations/networks. The challenge is to strengthen, cooperatives for that matter, in building the organization and network, that will engage the most number of small farmers, farm workers and fisher folk in cooperative and multi-function economic activities that will serve their members. As a matter of strategy, cooperatives must ascertain the effective ratio between membership and the population. Small cooperatives must also be federated or consolidated into one for better integration of their economic and social activities.

Strengthen marketing cooperatives as an alternative marketing and procurement arm of small farmers. For effective distribution of cooperative products it requires the development of cooperative-based market and marketing networks. This will provide for its members assured market for their produce and ensure increased incomes. The imminent restructuring or de-coupling of the National Food Authority is in my opinion provides impetus enough for agricultural and marketing cooperatives to function as an alternative arm in procurement and marketing. Strong focus on agricultural and farmers cooperatives is needed to be attained if rural development is to be achieved. Thus, government instrumentalities including the Cooperatives Development Authority and Congress must come in one direction.

Sustained provision of low-cost financing facility, strengthen farmers financing Institutions and integrate social protection mechanism; which means working towards a single digit interest rates and making cooperatives conduits to improved provision of credit facilities, guarantee and crop insurance. There is now a proposal in Congress to unify all support mechanisms.

Total modernization of agriculture through the promotion of farm mechanization and development of agricultural equipment and facilities in broader farming communities, will lead to farmers added value and profits for their products. We must work towards legislation against land use conversion and those that impinge upon food security. We must provide support for increasing resilience and protection of farmers during disasters.

While government has limited resources at the moment, the same must be channeled in full to cooperatives, if we endeavor to transform rural communities to its best. Cooperatives on the other hand must also develop their own fund and improve access to resources other than from the government as its own contribution to rural development. I congratulate the organizers for a job well done. Full text of the speech is at Annex IV

VOTE OF THANKS BY HON'BLE CONGRESSMAN MR. ISIDRO LICO

First of all let me express my gratitude to the Regional Network for the Development of Agriculture Cooperatives in Asia and the Pacific (NEDAC) for

giving me the honour and the privilege to come and represent the sector in this important event on agricultural cooperatives.

Let me start with a quote from the most influential diplomat and development activist in the world, the former Secretary General of the United Nations, he said: “That the contribution of cooperatives can build to achieve the millennium goals of full and productive employment, eradicating poverty, enhancing social integration and promoting the advancement of women. For the Cooperative movement to fulfil this potential, government needs to develop and sustain a supportive environment that allows autonomous cooperatives to grow. The values of cooperation – equity, solidarity, self help and mutual responsibility – are cornerstones of our shared endeavour to build a fairer world “KOFI ANNAN, 29/06/2001

In the Philippines today, there are more than twenty thousand cooperatives operating in the country with a total membership of more than seven (7) million people - farmers, fisherfolk, women, workers, small vendors, people with disabilities, teachers, the military, government employees, mostly people from underprivileged groups who believe in cooperativism and desire for a better life for themselves and their families through the coop movement. These people have combined their small income, and collectively, they organized cooperatives, for their mutual benefit and welfare.

Starting with a minimal amount of capital, these cooperatives have grown and are now servicing more members of their communities, guided by the principles of accountability, transparency and democracy. Presently, the country’s more than twenty thousand cooperatives have combined assets of PHP 158.6 billion. Cooperatives help not only their members; but most importantly, through the help of other different cooperative federations and the CDA, they have gone beyond their organizations, and are now venturing into causes concerning the whole citizenry. Agriculture Cooperatives, specifically, have been instrumental in creating more employment opportunities for our lowly farmers, economic empowerment, and helping them have stable food in their homes.

Today, I would like to extend my sincerest felicitations to members of NEDAC who strive to help each other strengthen the spirit of cooperativism through agriculture and for providing an environment conducive for the success and development of the sector.

On behalf of the Ating-Koop Partylist, I would like to express my gratitude to all the prime movers of the movement, especially all our guests present today, and we assure you, that your objectives of reform for the agriculture industry will not be put to waste, as I will earnestly move for the adoption in Congress of the laws that will

empower our Agricultural Cooperatives. Full text of the vote of thanks is at Annex V

ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND TIME TABLE

Before the start of the seminar, Mr.W.I.Khan with the permission of the Chair stated briefly the Tentative Programme – the agenda and time table of the seminar, field visit and NEDAC General Assembly including the EXCOM meeting and requested suggestions, changes, modifications, if any from the participants. The programme was unanimously adopted without any change and the programme is at Annex VI

Procedure of the Seminar and General Assembly and Chairmanship of sessions each day

Mr.Khan informed the meeting that generally it is the existing Chairman of NEDAC who chairs the session each day till a new Chairman of NEDAC EXCOM is elected by the General Assembly members. As the Chairman was not there, Mr.Khan suggested that in absence of the Chairman, NEDAC, the Chairmanship for morning and afternoon session each day will be rotated as follows:

28 November	Pre lunch session	Dr.Dina Nath Thakur MOA, India
	Post lunch session	Dr.Preecha Wongsgulgeard Director, Foreign Relations CPD, Bangkok
30 November	Morning session	Mr.B.K.Mishra M.D, FISHCOPFED, India
	Post lunch session	Dr.Mohammad Ali Khan Joint Secretary, R.D. & Coop Division Dhaka, Bangladesh
1 December	Morning session & Post lunch session	Dr.Emmanuel M. Santiaguel Chairman, CDA
2 December	whole day	Dr.Emmanuel M. Santiaguel elected Co-Chairman NEDAC EXCOM acted as Chairman. (The Chairman elected was in absentia from NCDC, New Delhi, India)

Mr.Khan also informed that there would be two working groups for discussions and suggestions/recommendations on policy and legal matters for development of agricultural cooperatives. Final decision about the suggestions/recommendations will be taken by the plenary session of the General Assembly.

Introduction of Resource Person and NEDAC delegates

The Chairman of the session suggested that it would be nice if the Resource Person and NEDAC delegates (though many were known) introduce themselves and briefly state their major activities in the field of agricultural cooperative development. After the self introduction of the NEDAC members and other officials including the Resource Person, the general body welcomed them by clapping hands.

II TECHNICAL PAPER

Capacity Building and strengthening of Agricultural Cooperatives in support of food and better livelihood security – A Resource paper by Dr. Daman Prakash, Director, Rural Development and Management Centre (RDMC), New Delhi, India

The theme/Resource paper on the above topic was presented by Dr. Daman Prakash RDMC and former Chief Technical Adviser of an ILO Project in Indonesia and now a consultant with IFFCO, New Delhi, India who acted as Resource Person of NEDAC for the NEDAC seminar as well as the NEDAC General Assembly 2011. The major thrust of the paper was on capacity building and strengthening of Agricultural Cooperatives in support of food security as well as better livelihood security of small farmers/holders including rural women. The main points discussed were as follows :

Capacity Building and Strengthening of Agricultural Cooperatives in support of Food and Better Livelihood Security

Background

The Asia-Pacific Region accounts for nearly half the world's population. India and China together are home to over 75% of the Region's population. Majority of the Asian people depend upon land and agriculture for their livelihood.

Agriculture continues to be the engine of economic growth in most developing countries of the Region. The success of the Green Revolution was experienced in several Asian countries where the rapid adoption of modern agricultural technology resulted in dramatic gains in productivity. However, despite significant achievements in food production, problems of food and nutrition security, poverty alleviation and regional imbalances still persist. Small farmers in the region have common features being e.g., seasonal producers, fragmented buyers and suppliers unable to exploit economies of scale, and dominated by household economies where functions such as consumption, investment, work and social activities are undifferentiated and unspecialized.

While on the one hand the WTO regime is opening up new opportunities for the farming community in the world market place, the large majority of small and marginal farmers, who are not yet organised enough to take advantage of the world market perceive the new order as a threat to their livelihood. Lack of resources,

inadequate market access, poor knowledge of post-harvest processing and value-addition and weak infrastructure tend to put small farmers at a disadvantage in a competitive global market. This is further compounded by low levels of education and lack of group organisation which weakens their bargaining capacity. To enable small farmers to reap the fruits of liberalisation and globalization, governments must play a proactive role in empowering them to take advantage of the opening up of market opportunities.

Experience shows [especially from the Japanese and Korean agricultural sector] that the strength of small farmers lies in group mobilisation for meeting diverse agricultural needs including land leasing, accessing inputs, pooling resources, sharing information, agro-processing/marketing of produce and above all credit and thrift groups for consumption and production loans.

Agriculture plays a significant role in national economies and a considerably large number of people depend on agriculture. In 2008, for instance, 66.8% of the total land was under agriculture in Bangladesh, 56.9% in the case of India while only 12.7% was the case in Japan. In China also just 13.1% of the total land was under agriculture. On an average 15.9% of the total land was under agriculture in Asia-Pacific region. 58% of agricultural land was irrigation in the case of Bangladesh, 54.4% in Japan and the lowest, 14.8% was in the case of the Philippines. On an average 37.9% of agricultural land was under irrigation in the Region, which has improved from 32.6% in 1998.

93% of the national population in Nepal was involved in agriculture, 62% in China and just 2.4% in the case of Japan. The regional average was 49.8% in 2008 as against 55.1% in the year 1998 which indicates that more people were moving out of agriculture. As to the status of agricultural production indices in Asia during 1998-2008, 3.9% was the highest in Bangladesh [moving from 84% to 135 in 2008 index], 3.7% in the Philippines [moving from 89 in 1998 to 132 index in the year 2008] while the regional index was 3.0% growth.

As to key commodity food grains [wheat and paddy rice] there has been a steady growth in the region. Wheat production has gone up considerably. However, the regional production has been just 0.8% growth in wheat. In the case of paddy rice, there has been a considerably growth in the case of the Philippines [5.2% during the period 1998-2008]. While Bangladesh achieved 3.3% growth, the regional average has been 1.3%. The increase in the production of paddy rice in 3.1% in Thailand, 2.7% in Sri Lanka and just -0.6% in Japan.

Three Services of Agricultural Sector

The agricultural sector provides three main services to all societies. They are: [a] food security; [b] management of natural resources; and [c] maintenance of the vitality of the rural communities and a thriving countryside. Ironically, in most developing countries, the farmers and fisherfolks remained marginalized, hence, co-operatives among this sector must be strengthened to ensure their role towards maintaining food security, protection of the environment and cushioning the impact of globalisation.

In many developing countries co-operatives are accorded considerable official recognition as instrument of socio-economic development. They are, therefore, consciously promoted, supervised and controlled by government at varying degrees. The degree of control, however, depends on the financial capabilities of members of the Co-operative Movement. Such co-operatives, thus, does not really meet with the guidelines of the Principles of Co-operation but it is assumed by the promoters that such co-operatives will get converted into real and genuine institutions after the members gain experience in running such institutions on democratic lines and in accordance with the Principles of Co-operation.

Capacity Building Efforts in Agricultural Cooperatives

Capacity building efforts at national and local level should begin with a practical-oriented evaluation and they should take into consideration key elements such as the following:

- Work with methods and techniques which are specifically designed for co-operatives;
- Support the development of capacities at local level;
- Observe and learn from good practices and experience gained by others;
- Convince the members and others about the utility of co-operative enterprises
- Give emphasis to the development of human resources;
- Adopt tools and methods to Web environments, facilitating growth and modernization of co-operatives.

Capacity building means an answer to at least the following areas of intervention, aiming at sustainable development of smallholder farmers and reduction of poverty in rural areas:

- Membership mobilisation and education;
- Organisational development;
- Capital formation in co-operatives;
- Leadership development for men and women;
- Sustainable agriculture production;
- Capitalisation of the farming family;
- Business development;
- Entrepreneurial opportunities for women;
- Market access and sales;
- Financial services; and
- Policy development and advocacy.

Training of people is usually designed to improve performance and raise productivity as well as efficiency. In the Co-operative Movement, education and training can be geared to improving the knowledge of basic business principles either in the management of the co-operative enterprise or in the running of their members' businesses. Co-operative education can also be used to propagate co-operative principles and practices as well as to expand the spread of the Movement.

Members of co-operatives have much to learn in order to sustain their membership and the Movement. Members have to know and understand their rights and obligations. This enables them to avail themselves of opportunities offered by the co-operative enterprise and to address themselves to their role as customer and 'stakeholder' in the co-operative organisation. Education is as important to the outsider as it is to members. Public response to the co-operative idea determines the growth of the movement also.

Continuing education is essential for the co-operative leadership. Every organisation requires an enlightened, knowledgeable leadership to function effectively. Co-operative leaders such as presidents, treasurers, secretaries and other members of committees of management do not only need to be conversant with co-operative rules and principles. It is necessary for them to be familiar also with basic management techniques and possess adequate knowledge of the particular business of the co-operative concerned. Education of leaders enhances the knowledge.

In the Region there are around 280,000 agricultural co-operatives, which means that there are as many managers. Arranging training and development for them is an enormous task which needs a broad-based infrastructure. Many of the countries have their own training and development arrangements in the form of training institutes, centres and colleges which offer a variety of training programmes for managers. The variety of training needs is also very broad. The resources at the command of co-operatives are rather limited. However, all the countries do recognise the need for human resource development.

Initiatives in Capacity Building

Some of the initiatives in the sector of capacity building for agricultural co-operative sector are the following:

- National level co-operative training centres run by the co-operative unions and government, e.g., Japan's IDACA [Institute for the Development of Agricultural Co-operation in Asia], It is a technical arm of the Japanese Agricultural Co-operative Movement under the umbrella of JA-Zenchu [Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives]. India's National Council for Co-operative Training's institutes of co-operative management including one national level management institute; NCDC's Topic Training Centre; Bangladesh's Co-operative Training College and the Academy of Rural Development; Philippines' NATCCO's training structures and the ACCI [Agricultural Credit and Co-operative Institute of the University of the Philippines]; Nepal's Co-operative Training Centre; Sri Lanka's National Institute of Co-operative Development; and Thailand's Co-operative Training Centre.

- In addition to the above, several national and international initiatives are also available to agricultural co-operatives in the Region e.g., ICA's international training programmes which are available to the Movements; Colombo Plan's training programmes; NEDAC's Regional Study-cum-training programmes; and several other bi-lateral and multi-lateral programmes offered by various agencies in the Region.

Study tours to some selected countries in the Region will enhance the knowledge of agricultural co-operative development and good policies and regulations for development through professionalism and business planning and management are good tools for capacity building of agricultural co-operatives. In the same way, documentation of success stories of agricultural co-operatives are important in agricultural co-operative societies. NEDAC has been trying to develop these practices in some way but with obvious resource constraints.

Recommendations

Based on the foregoing, some of the recommendations which may be considered for various stakeholders including co-operatives and their members are as follows:

- Co-operatives should provide integrated services to the members as multipurpose business institutions and they should undertake business development planning for diversification of their business with a view to sustain themselves and the members' interest in their own co-operatives;
- Co-operatives should not shy away from being in partnership with other private and government business ventures;
- Co-operatives enter into agro-processing activities to generate employment and income for their members;
- Promotion of proper leadership should be encouraged through education and awareness programmes so that the members may take keen interest in the affairs of their societies and members should be exposed to the successful co-operative institutions in order to broaden their knowledge;
- Managers and board members of co-operative societies should be inducted for training and refresher courses in order to improve their knowledge and enhance capacities to take proper decisions. Professionalisation is the 'mantra' to stay in the competitive market;
- Realistic business development plans should be developed for a systematic development of co-operatives;
- Institutions like NEDAC should, in concert with its member-countries, offer training opportunities to progressive members of Managing Committees and managers of co-operative institutions;

Farmers' organisations including co-operatives have potential of supporting farmers for farm productivity and income enhancement through information, extension, value-chain and capacity building. With reasonable planning and diversification, agricultural co-operatives are capable of ensuring livelihood security of smallholders. For this, co-operatives themselves need strengthening and revitalization and require reasonable autonomy and freedom from government and other external controls.

Strong capacity building programmes should be implemented for strengthening primary co-operatives. Special attention should be given on providing professional information to members to empower them. Co-operatives should not shy away from being in partnership with other private and government business ventures. Co-operatives enter into agro-processing activities to generate employment and income for their members. Promotion of proper leadership should be encouraged through education and awareness programmes so that the members may take keen interest in the affairs of their societies.

Members should be exposed to the successful co-operative institutions in order to broaden their knowledge. Managers and board members of co-operative societies should be inducted for training and refresher courses in order to improve their knowledge and enhance capacities to take proper decisions. Professionalisation is the 'mantra' to stay in the competitive market. Realistic business development plans should be developed for a systematic development of co-operatives. Regional development governmental and non-governmental institutions like NEDAC should, in concert with its member-countries, offer training opportunities to progressive members of Managing Committees and managers of co-operative institutions

III COUNTRY PAPERS ON CURRENT TRENDS IN DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATIVES IN ASIAN COUNTRIES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO LEGISLATIVE CHANGES AND POLICY INITIATIVES

BANGLADESH (Presented by Dr.Mohammad Ali Khan)

Bangladesh situated in the north-eastern part of South Asia has a land area of about 147,570 square kilometres (56,977 square miles). It is the eighth most populous country in the world and most densely populated. The present population is 147.9 million (estimated). The Constitution of Bangladesh gives proper importance of cooperatives that guided other acts, policies and rules on cooperative activities. Cooperative has been playing an important role in socio-economic development of Bangladesh starting its journey in 1904, to raise agricultural production and rural economic advancement through production and processing services. The cooperative movement has expanded in other sectors like fishery, dairy, housing, micro finance and service sectors. Rural Development and Cooperatives Division, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives is responsible at the highest level to oversee the development of cooperatives. It has four Departments, a) Department of Cooperatives (DoC), Bangladesh, b) Bangladesh

Rural Development Board (BRDB), c) Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) and d) Rural Development Academy (RDA).

Bangladesh is mostly densely populated agricultural country in the world. Farmers are the main catalyst for agricultural as well as rural development. Historically promotion of cooperatives has evolved with a bias toward agriculture as the predominant segment of the rural population. However, in the context of changing environment there has also been a recent shift towards service sector as new areas of co-operative development both in the rural and urban setting. According to the latest Annual Statistical Report (2010) published by the Department of Cooperatives (DoC), there are about 1,69,305 co-operative societies in Bangladesh involving 8814769 individual members, operating everywhere from the capital city to the most inaccessible parts of the country covering almost all types of socio-economic activities. Among them 22 societies belong to national level, 1089 belong to central level while the rest are primary societies. About 75% of primary societies are government sponsored or initiated while 25% are independent or self initiated. As regards to class of societies, 67660 societies account for either agriculture or agricultural production related societies with 3712095 individual members. It is revealed that 91.90% co-operatives in Bangladesh locate in the rural areas while 9.10% operate in urban areas. In Bangladesh agricultural cooperatives can be divided into sub groups based on their activities such as: *Farmers Cooperatives, Fishermen's Co-operatives, Dairy and Milk Producers Cooperatives, Water Management Cooperatives, Forestry etc.*

Bangladesh had formulated a national cooperative policy in 1989 for the first time for development of cooperatives, but it was not properly implemented due to several reasons. A draft new cooperative policy 2011 is being formulated. The cooperative policy 2011 consists of new vision, objectives and strategies, which may be helpful for the implementation of Vision 2021 and Digital Bangladesh. At the beginning of new century cooperative Act 2001 has already been enacted.

There are some difficulties/problems in this area and the causes of failures of co-operative in fact pose the challenges of the co-operative movement. Several

suggestions are put forward to improve the agricultural cooperative system. It reveals that any future plan for strengthening the co-operative movement in Bangladesh should be based on the following actions: *a. National Cooperative Policy, b. Cooperation as a Specific Sector in Five Year Plans, c. Amendment in Cooperative Law, d. Separate Cooperative Laws for Major Types of Cooperative, e. Establishment of a Financial Institute, f. Need for Effective Support to Cooperative Credit, g. Capacity Building for Improving the Service Quality of Cooperatives etc.*

To improve the living and working conditions of the people of the country as well as making essential infrastructure and services available even in areas neglected by the state and investor-driven enterprise, cooperative can play the vital role. Cooperatives in Bangladesh have been for hundred years though it is yet at the developing stage. To that end continued government support in the form of enabling policy and legislation along with necessary infrastructure and privilege is vital. Besides, a concerted effort of public, private and international organisations can hopefully help reaching the desired goals of development of cooperatives.

CHINA (Presented by Mr.Zhao Liang)

Chinese Specialized Farmers' Cooperatives 2001—2010

Background

China is a rising industrial country, but also a traditional agricultural country. According to National Bureau of Statistics of China total population is 1340910 thousand, rural population is 671130 thousand which accounts 50.05% of the total, and rural households is 260949 thousand in 2010. Total land area is 9600 thousand square kilometres, cultivated land area is 121720 thousand hectares, which accounts 12.68%. GDP is 39798300 million yuan, primary industry is 4049700 million yuan, which accounts about 10.2%. Per capita annual net income of urban households is 5919 yuan, while that of rural poor is 1274 yuan in 2010, the population of rural poor is 26880 thousand.

Brief on Chinese Specialized Farmers Cooperatives

Generally speaking, cooperatives include agriculture cooperative, consumer cooperative, financial cooperative, insurance cooperative, housing cooperative, etc. They widely exist in urban and rural region. But in China, lawful cooperative style is specialized farmers' cooperative. According the statistics of State Administration

for Industry and Commerce of China, at the end of 2010, the total number of specialized farmers' cooperatives is 379.1 thousand units, the amount of members' capital contribution is 454577 million yuan. Registered number of members of rural households is 7155.7 thousand, however the actual number is 29000 thousand. The business scope of specialized farmers cooperatives covers as below.

“Law of the People's Republic of China on Specialized Farmers Cooperatives”

The law, which consists of 9 chapters and 56 articles is enforced on 1 July 2007. It mainly stipulates definition, principles, establishment and registration, membership, organizational structure, financial management, merger and division, dissolution and liquidation, supportive policies, legal responsibility, etc.

Five essential principles of the law are :

1. The majority of members must be farmers.
2. Must serve their members, working for the common interests of all the members.
3. Voluntary to join the cooperatives and free to withdraw from them.
4. The members are equal in status and democratic management is practiced.
5. Profits are to be distributed mainly in proportion on the volume (amount) of the transactions effected between the cooperatives and their members.

Differences between the principles of Chinese specialized farmers cooperative and international cooperatives

We have broken through principles of ICA at five aspects. The first is loosing properly the limit on rights of assets so as to attract funds, and encourage cooperatives to extend their business by vertical integration. The second is loosing the limit on becoming a member in order to attract more funds and talents. The third is repealing the control of managing business, in order to raise competitiveness of cooperatives. The fourth is decreasing the standard of joining a cooperative in order to make more farmers become a member. The fifth is noticing the flexibility of inner structure of managing. Of course, all these differences have not changed the essential characteristics.

National policies

Besides the law, there are lots of national policies mated with the law to support cooperatives in the meanwhile, such as financial support, preferential treatment in taxation, financial services, construction projects support, etc.

Effect of Enforcement of the Law and National Policies

Thanks to the law and national policies, specialized farmers cooperatives have grown by leaps and bounds.

1. Statistics show that the income of rural household who joins cooperative is 20% higher than the other. 11 thousand cooperatives make a stable cooperative relationship with supermarkets and circulation enterprises.
2. In the whole country, there are more than 40 thousand cooperatives manage agriculture production in line with quality standards for farm products, 24 thousand cooperatives passing the quality authentication for farm products, 25.6 thousand cooperatives owning the registered trademark by themselves.
3. Owing to joining cooperatives, more and more farmers have mastered lots of knowledge of technique and appeared to deeply realize the democracy and mutual-help.

Problems faced by Specialized Farmers Cooperatives

1. **Inside credit of cooperative.** The financial support will be an important issue in the future for specialized farmers cooperatives, especially on the condition of lacking of funds from outside.
2. **Registration of association of some specialized farmers cooperatives.** By now, there are two types of associations. One is longitudinal, being consisted of according to same specialized business. The other is lateral, being consisted of according to same region. Although two types are necessary, the law doesn't give a rule of registration.
3. **Standardizing of specialized farmers cooperatives.** When the number of specialized farmers' cooperatives increases every day, how to standardize them and make them operate under the law will be a major problem to be faced by competent authorities.

Suggestions and Recommendations

1. The state should create more and better supportive policies such as financial support, preferential treatment in taxation, financial services, construction projects support, etc.
2. The competent authorities should respect the law of cooperative development and not artificially provoke cooperative development by executive order. The counseling organization of specialized farmers' cooperatives should be strengthened and provide more training for managers for business operation and technicians.
3. The international organizations should strengthen cooperation with MOA, P.R. China, and offer Chinese specialized farmers cooperatives more opportunities of educating and training. Meanwhile, they should improve mutual understanding of cooperatives in different countries and introduce some countries' excellent experience to other countries who need it.

INDIA (Presented by Dr.Dinesh)

Some of the special features of the Indian Cooperative Movement are as follows:

Total Number of cooperatives of all types	...	...	...	600,000
Total combined membership of cooperatives	...	...	...	250 million
Farmers' Cooperatives...	111,531Members	...	...	153 million
Dairy & Livestock cooperatives	145,000Members	...	...	14 million
Fishery Cooperatives	...	15,000 Members	...	1.9 million
Villages covered by all types of cooperatives	...	...	...	98%
Fertiliser Production and Distribution in national economy	...	...	...	30%
Milk production in national economy	...	...	...	10%

Major legislative and Policy Changes

The Multi-state Cooperative Societies Act-2002 was enacted with a view to consolidating the provisions relating to the multi-state cooperative societies with objects not confined to one state and serving the interests of members in more than one state to facilitate the voluntary formation and democratic functioning of cooperatives as people's institutions. In view of the recommendations and suggestions made by various committees and people's organisations, the Act has been placed before the Parliament to amend its certain provisions, inter alia, to:

-Make the management more responsible to the members and accountable by making provisions for: [a] constitution of interim board, [b] accounting standards,

[c] constitution of audit and ethics committees; [d] calling for explanation and information by the Central Registrar; [e] Special audit;

-Strengthen the provision relating to election of the members of Board of multi-state cooperatives;

-Reservations for women and other weaker sections of the society;

-Facilitate the building of self-reliant, democratic and professionally-efficient cooperative institutions;

-Bringing transparency in the business performance.

-The Constitution Eleventh Amendment Bill-2009 was introduced in Lok Sabha in November 2009 for consideration. The Bill aims to address the following issues through the proposed constitutional amendment:

-Inclusion of Cooperative Principles;

-Insertion of the Directive Principle of State Policy for voluntary formation of cooperative societies;

-Timely conduct of elections;

-Maximum time limit for suppression or suspension of a managing committee;

-Regular and timely conduct of general body meeting;

-Right of members for access to information;

-Compulsory system of filing returns;

-Provisions for offences and penalties.

-The policies of government remained tilted towards cooperatives.

-The Government proposes to introduce Direct Tax Code. Cooperatives were enjoying income tax, sales tax and other concessions which have been withdrawn;

-A national cooperative development policy has been introduced;

-Cooperatives have created their own brands. AMUL, IFFCO, KRIBHCO, NAFED etc. have appeared on the horizon of successful and professionally sound organisations.

-Cooperatives have excelled in national and international trade in many agricultural commodities;

-Cooperatives have well absorbed the technical guidance received through agricultural extension.

Challenges faced by agricultural cooperatives

Some of the problems faced by cooperatives, especially, agricultural cooperatives are as follows:

- Due to poor economic situation, several of primary level agricultural cooperatives are facing financial problems;
- Lack of adequate infrastructure;
- Weak Professionalisation due to lack of skill development;
- Low level of technological infusion in cooperative structure;
- Overloading cooperatives with government programmes without proper compensation;
- Poor marketing linkages;
- Inadequate capital mobilisation;
- Low level of participation by women and youth;
- Low level of coordination in cooperative affairs by government agencies.

Suggestions and Recommendations

- Investment in agriculture and cooperative infrastructure need to be stepped up;
- Credit delivery system needs to be revamped;
- Delivery of input system needs to be improved considerably;
- Marketing and other infrastructure need to be strengthened;
- Induction of technology, innovations, research and extension need to be taken up;
- Functioning of primary cooperatives needs to be improved;
- Cooperative banks must be capitalized;
- Tax and concessions should be restored for cooperatives;
- Export of agricultural commodities by cooperative needs to be stepped up.

INDIA (Presented by Mr.Dina Nath Thakur)

There are two separate organisational structures for providing short-term production finance and long-term investment finance. In the wake of introduction of economic reforms with emphasis on globalisation and liberalization, various initiatives have been taken to promote the process of modernization in the agriculture sector and the

focus of Indian agriculture has changed from subsistence farming to that of generation of marketable surplus for many agricultural commodities.

In the wake of WTO agreement on agriculture and with the removal of quantitative restrictions on import of various agricultural commodities effective April 2001, cooperative marketing organisations have been taking steps to improve their competitive edge in terms of cost-effectiveness, quality standards and control on management and operational costs.

Farmers marketing information mechanism is being developed to provide information to the farming community in terms of demand for their products in export markets and the agencies through which such exports could be facilitated. Investments are being made for development of post-harvest and cold chain infrastructure facilities nearer to the farmers.

Sectors of considerable significance in cooperative sector are: agricultural cooperatives, credit cooperatives, dairy cooperatives, cooperative sugar sector, and Cooperative fertiliser sector

Constraints in Cooperative Sector

Some of the challenges and constraints are as follows:

- Lack of well-defined corporate mission;
- Lack of clear understanding by cooperative leaders and managers;
- Lack of capability of organisations to changed work environment;
- Lack of Professionalisation;
- Weak financial base;
- Inadequate capacity building infrastructure and opportunities;
- Lack of coordination among federations and primaries.

Features of Multi-State Cooperative Act-2002 are related to: Autonomy, Supersession of Boards of Directors, Directives, Nominations on the Board, Elections, Audit, Democratic management [Timely conduct of elections, Annual general meetings, Representation of societies, etc.], Members' rights, Depoliticisation, Professionalisation, Financial management, Dispute settlement and Members awareness etc.

Agenda for the Future

There is a strong need to restore the democratic character of cooperatives both in management business process. There is also a need to create awareness among leaders and members of cooperatives and to ensure Professionalisation among employees. Some of interventions may aim to the following issues:

- Members awareness to improve skills through training and education;
- Strengthening behaviour and processes relating to decision-making;
- Improving organisational structures and technologies;
- Understanding organisational goals, strategies and culture.

If there is one key to success in operating profitability in fast-changing environment, it is the ability of top management to turn the perception, capabilities and relationships of individuals into the building blocks of organisation. Management should aim at guiding its people how to manage complexity instead of merely to make room for it. Change succeeds only when those assigned to the tasks understand the overall goals and are dedicated to achieving them.

INDIA (Presented by Mr.Bimal Kumar Mishra)

India has a population of over 1.1 billion, We have a per capita income of less than Rs.44,000/- at current rate. The total land area of India is 3.28 million sq.kms, with a coastline of 7517 sq. kms. India has 150,593 Primary Co-operatives, with 31518 Federations of Co-ops and 600,0000 Members of Co-ops.

The percentage of people involved in agriculture is 67, of which about 17% is involved in fishery activities. Agriculture contributes to 24% of GDP, It provides food to 1 billion people and sustains 65% of the population, helping to alleviate poverty.

National Federation of Fishermen's Cooperatives Ltd. (FISHCOPFED) is the apex National Level Cooperative Organization for the development of fishery cooperatives movement in India. Registered in 1980, the federation started its operation in the year 1982. FISHCOPFED has 80 member institutions all over the country besides Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).

Parity of fisheries with Agriculture is the need of the hour to protect the poor fishers from exploitation. Since the Fishery sector is not covered by the Multi-state Co-operative Societies' Act, which is being revised since 2002, does not apply to the Fishery sector in the States. It will be in the interest of co-operatives as a whole if fishery co-operatives are covered under a separate ministry and provided benefits that are due to them.

The financial situation of agricultural co-operatives is not very robust and in the Fishery sector, the financial situation of the poor fishers is very poor. The need is continued financial support for the upliftment through a planned approach. The poor fishermen are in need of training and education, health facilities, infrastructure development, etc.

The government also needs to provide the poor fishers with livelihood systems, provide them huts and health facilities, sanitation and such other things to maintain a balanced sustainable life. Fishermen are victims of social inhibitions, superstitions, uncertainties of weather and old technology. India is a unique case in fishermen cooperatives. It is tool to eliminate poverty, and hence an important socio-economic development driver.

Fisheries research, especially the communication between fisheries research institutions, administrations and fishermen should be improved in order to provide the latter with more detailed information related to fishing grounds, species and seasons.

Measures and incentives to promote cooperation and coordination of fishing vessels on offshore fishing grounds should be introduced. There is need to introduce focused measures to increase the share of fish marketable for exports through scientific advice and improved selectivity of fishing methods. Financial support should be considered to improve the storage of fish onboard vessels (better-isolated fish holds, refrigeration equipment etc.) and for improving navigation and fish finding equipment in order to facilitate more selective fishing practices and achieve higher safety standards for vessels and crews.

Incentives and support should be provided to promote cooperation among fishermen on shore. Improvement of handling and refrigeration equipment at landing ports will facilitate quick offloading of catches and guarantees an uninterrupted refrigerated chain with positive effects on quality and prices. It is high time the Government of India and the provincial governments consider the importance of this sector and provide more financial and other support to the sector. The poor fishermen are in need of training and education, health facilities, infrastructure development, etc.

It is suggested that groups of fishermen be deputed to countries where the fishery sector is strong, study their modus operandi and try to replicate the findings of this study visit. The fisherfolk will be able to learn very quickly and replicate what they see as ideal situation.

This is also very important as the Global food security depends on the 'catch' these fishermen make. With ever-decreasing farm lands and more and more land is used for industrialization, the possibility of increasing the production of food grains in India and globally is 'Nil' even if modern techniques are used to produce food grains using high yield, hybrid varieties of grains and pulses. However, thankfully the availability of fish from the seas and oceans across the globe has not diminished. It cannot be stated that there is no effect of the global warming, etc. but considering the production of food grains, this is still a viable option.

Financial support should be considered to improve the storage of fish onboard vessels (better-isolated fish holds, refrigeration equipment etc.) and for improving navigation and fish finding equipment in order to facilitate more selective fishing practices and achieve higher safety standards for vessels and crews. Training programmes for fishermen and crew members should be encouraged and accompanied by arrangements for compensation for loss of earnings of fishermen and crew members who participate in such trainings. Apart from financial support, technical advice for engine reinforcement and purchase of additional/complimentary fishing gear should only be given to well-experienced and qualified fishermen.

Improvement of handling and refrigeration equipment at landing ports will facilitate quick offloading of catches and guarantees an uninterrupted refrigerated chain with positive effects on quality and prices.

As one can expect and imagine, while the Government of India (and other governments in other parts of the world) are providing considerable support for the fishing sector and fishery co-operatives, we are still not doing enough for the sector.

INDIA (As per paper prepared by Mr. Bhima Subrahmanyam)

Rural Cooperative Credit System:

The Rural Cooperative Credit System (RCCS) consists of two wings namely ST and LT. The ST cooperative credit structure deals with short and medium term credit and also credit disbursement for agricultural purposes and it is federal in character. It is mostly based on a three tier pattern with the State Cooperative Banks (SCBs) at the Apex Level, District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) at the intermediary level and Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) at the village level.

At national level the National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Ltd (NAFSCOB) was established on May 19, 1964 with a view to facilitate the operations of State and Central Cooperative banks in general and development of cooperative credit in particular.

Major legislative and Policy Changes:

Major legislative and policy changes regard to cooperatives are:

- a) Multi-Unit Cooperative Societies Act (1942/1984/2002/amended up to 2007):
- b) The Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2010– Bill No.123 of 2010:
- c) The Constitution (One Hundred and Eleventh Amendment) Bill, 2009 – Bill No.107 of 2009:
- d) Task Force on Revitalisation of Cooperative Credit Institutions and Memorandum of Understanding (MoU):
- e) Financial Sector Legislative Reforms Commission:
- f) Other Legislative Amendments Undertaken:
 - The Legal Services Authority Act, 1987 that has conferred the statutory basis to the Lok Adalats (people's courts).
 - The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act), has been extended to cover cooperative banks.
 - The Enforcement of Security Interest and Recovery of Debts Laws (Amendment) Act, 2004 has amended the SARFAESI Act, Recovery of Debts

due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and the Companies Act, 1956.

- The Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act, 2005 is aimed at providing for regulation of credit information companies and at facilitating efficient distribution of credit.

Regulatory Frame Work:

- a) Capital to Risk Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR):
- b) Prudential Norms/First Phase of Basel-I:
- c) Basel III - International regulatory framework for banks:
- d) Know Your Customer (KYC) Standards:

Special Programmes for Agricultural Development:

- i) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)
- ii) Extending Green Revolution to the Eastern States
- iii) Pulses and Oilseeds villages
- iv) Saffron Mission in J&K
- (v) National Food Security Mission (NFSM)
- vi) Initiation of MIS
- vii) National Horticulture Mission:
- viii) Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH)
- ix) National Mission on Micro Irrigation (NMMI)
- x) Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM)

Performance of STCCS:

Numbers of SCBs increased from 28 to 31, DCCBs from 351 to 372 and PACS from 82905 to 94647 during period from 1990-91 to 2009-10. The membership of SCBs, DCCBs and PACS increased from 82480, 13,01,694 and 80 million in 1990-91 to 2,00,772, 35,28,802 and 126 million in 2009-10 respectively. Deposits collected by STCCS shown an increasing trend during the period from 1990-91 to 2009-10. During the period, the loans disbursed from PACS to rural sector increased from Rs. 46,788 million to Rs.7,49,375 million. The number of borrowers increased nearly by three fold from 26 million in 1990-91 to 60 million in 2009-10. Most of the borrowers of the PACS are marginal, small farmers, rural artisans and landless laborers etc.

Difficulties faced by Rural Cooperatives:

- a) Problem of imbalance in rural cooperative credit structure.
- b) Profitability and viability of the SCBs/DCCBs.
- c) Accumulated losses.
- d) Mounting overdues due to poor loan recovery and poor recovery environment
- e) High level of NPAs.
- f) Poor management due to various constraints.
- g) Absence of professionalisation.
- h) Absence of appropriate HRD Policies.
- i) Systemic gap.
- j) Lack of computerization/MIS.

- k) Absence of avenues to deploy surplus resources in a remunerative manner.
 - l) Absence of Democratic Managements in the cooperative credit institutions.
 - m) Duality of control.
 - n) Politicisation of credit.
 - o) Absence of National Cooperative Policy for a very long period.
 - p) Non-cooperation among cooperatives.
 - q) Lack of social cohesion.
- It was in fact, a case of utter neglect.

Issues of concern:

- a) Business management
- b) Funds management
- c) Recovery management
- d) Human Resource Management
- e) Others

STCCS has an impressive network of outlets for institutional credit in India particularly in rural area. The number of persons/farmers covered by STCCS is more than that of Commercial Banks (CBs). STCCS has been serving rural people through its grass root level agencies viz., PACS. The suggestions for further strengthening of cooperatives in general and STCCS in particular are mentioned in main paper of the same subject.

NEPAL (Presented by Mr. Bijaya Raj Ghimire)

Socio-economic Situation

Nepal is located in the south East Asia bordering with India and China and has a land area of 14741 sq. km. It is the country of Mt. Everest and birth place of Lord Buddha. Its climates vary from place to place - Himalaya, Hills and Terai (Plain Land). Country has administrative 14 Zones and 75 districts and 3916 village committees and 58 municipalities. Total population is 26.6 million with growth rate of 1.6 percent. The literacy rate is 62.7 percent male and 34.9 percent female. Life expectancy rate is 64 years.

Agriculture is the main the economic sector. It employees about 70 percent of the total population and contributes 50 percent to Gross Domestic Products (GDP) Per capita. GDP is US\$ 562 (2009/10). Major agriculture crops include paddy, maize, wheat, sugarcane, potato, furits and vegetables, while the livestock include Buffalo, goat/sheep, Pig, poultry, fish, eggs etc.

Development of Cooperatives

The cooperative development initiation took place in Nepal in 1956 with the first five economic development plans (1956-1961). The cooperative development activities were carried out with the government guidance until the Cooperative Act, 1992 was enforced. The Act started to recognize cooperatives as autonomous and independence bodies. It has brought a dramatic change in a number of primary cooperative from 830 to 22,646, secondary level unions from 26 to 204, tertiary level union 12, one National Cooperative Bank and one National Cooperative Federation of Nepal.

Out of total primary cooperatives there are 9427 i.e. 41.18 percent agriculture cooperatives which includes dairy, multipurpose, agriculture, coffee, small farmers, tea, herbal, fruits and vegetables and beekeeping. Agricultural inputs supplies are major activities of agricultural cooperatives.

After the enactment of the Cooperative Act, 1992, a lot of changes in the cooperative development have taken place. However, a focus is emphasized on more numerical growth than the quality growth. It seems that necessary attention has not been paid for the quality growth.

The Interim Constitution of Nepal, 2006 has recognized that cooperative sector is a base for the national economic development as private and public sectors. The three-year economic development plan (2007-2010) has accepted that three pillars for economic development of which cooperative sector is one of them. In the plan more priority was given cooperative development than in the earlier plan. In the absence of national cooperative development policy the achievement of the plan activities was found to be very negligible.

The government owned National Cooperative Development Board is responsible for making formulating cooperative development policy which is still in the formulation stage.

The Agricultural Perspective Plan (APP) which is 20 year agricultural development plan has also incorporated some provisions for the development of agricultural cooperatives for regular and adequate supply of agricultural inputs- credit, fertilizers, insecticide and pesticide and equipments and extension services.

But it has failed to effectively translate the plan provision made in APP. The New Agriculture Development strategic (ADS) plan is in the process of draft in order to improve the shortcoming of APP implementation. It is expected to be implemented in 2015 just after APP expires. ADS, particularly, will support a transformation from subsistence farming to commercial farming.

Challenges for Agricultural Cooperatives

Agricultural cooperatives have some challenges for the development. Major challenges are:

- a. To maintain cooperative values and principles.
- b. To make regular supply of agricultural inputs
- c. Maintain value chain and supply chain system
- d. To make a strong base for meeting the national economic development
- e. To create awareness among the cooperative members and general mass about the cooperative development
- f. To develop management capabilities
- g. To maintain coordination at the various levels of cooperatives vertically and horizontally.
- h. To give price guarantee and loan guarantee.
- i. To provide continuous consultancy in terms of management, extension services and technical services.

NEPAL (Presented by Mr.Netra Prasad Neupane)

Agriculture in Nepal is extremely important in the sense that it contributes two fifth of GDP while providing jobs to almost four fifth of population. Rural Economy particularly is dependent on agriculture. It is particularly important for rural poor, for whom it accounts for about three fifth of total income on average.

In Nepal agriculture and rural development are synonymous. Hence the issue is how to improve the agriculture sector, thus making it a vehicle of rural development of Nepal. Agriculture sector should be developed through cooperatives. But cooperatives in Nepal are still at a crossroad. They need attention to make Nepal's rural development. They need long term vision, objectives, mission and recommendations for development.

- Cooperatives should play a greater role in promoting networking.
- Cooperatives would need to provide better consultancy and other services to the members.
- The government should identify the potential areas of production of different crops based on market orientation and commercial viability and involving agriculture cooperatives on production and marketing activities.
- The government should create necessary environment and support mechanism to promote commodity based Agro-processing cooperatives.
- A comprehensive national policy on cooperative development should be formulated by the government.
- To incorporate ICA cooperative identity statement (CIS) and accordingly the cooperative act should be amended.
- Structural reforms in agricultural cooperatives are highly needed and desirable.

Population (Estimated in 2011)

Total population	26.6 million
Urban population	19%
Population growth rate	1.59%
Literacy	57%
Life expectancy	67 years

Economy of Nepal

Nepal is a developing country with an agricultural economy. In recent years the country's efforts to expand manufacturing industries and other technological sectors have achieved much progress, and farming is the main economic activity followed by manufacturing, trade and tourism. The chief source of foreign currency earnings are merchandise export services, tourism and remittances.

Agriculture

Eight out of 10 Nepalese are engaged in farming and it accounts for more than 40% of GDP. Rolling fields and neat terraces can be seen all over the Terai flatlands and the hills of Nepal, Even in the highly urbanized Kathmandu Valley, large tracts of land outside the city areas are devoted to farming, rice is the staple diet and Nepal produces around three million tons rice annually. Other major crops are maize, wheat, millet and barley, besides food grains, cash crops like sugarcane, oil seeds, tobacco, jute and tea are also cultivated in large quantities.

Per capita Income	645.00 (USD)
GDP growth rate	3.35%
Agriculture	1.05%
Non agricultural	5.10%

(Source : UN Report 2010)

Land use ('000 hact.)	
Agricultural Land cultivated	3091 (21%)
Agricultural Land uncultivated	1030 (7%)
Forest	4268 (29%)
Others	43%
Irrigated Land	1227

Total number of live stock

Cattle & buffalos	9.71 million
Sheep & goats	4.3 million
Poultry	4.9 million

- A small number of pigs, horses, mules, Yaks and Chauries.
- 9.7 million people are engaged in agricultural sectors.

(source : Ministry of agriculture & Cooperatives, Nepal)

PHILIPPINES (Presented by Mr.Emmanuel M. Santiaguel/Mr.Orlan R. Ravanera)

Empowering the Farmers through Cooperatives

Social scientists and development experts have come up with studies disclosing that rural poverty is rooted not in the lack of resources, but in the powerlessness of the farmers to have access and control over their resources. They have no control over the mode of production and in the marketing of their produce. That to combat poverty measures must be taken to empower them.

The difficulties in empowering the peasants is not in the implementation but in the social preparation to a level where they realize that it is only they who can solve their own problems and the problems the society is facing. To put it simply it is not people power that is difficult but the process of empowering them. The poor must build their own coalition to collectively have access and control over their resources which are fast slipping through their fingers. Such can be done through cooperatives which are increasingly becoming the vehicles of empowerment and socially-equitable and ecologically sustainable kind of development.

To concretely show the essence of Cooperativism in the light of contemporary realities, Cooperativism creates the breakthrough and transforms a highly skewed social order to make life better for the farmers. It is indeed paradoxical that while the farmers are producing the food in the country, yet their own dining tables lack food.

Agricultural system in the Philippines is anchored on planting cash crops to satisfy the market, increase production through chemical farming using HYVs including GMO. It subsists through the support of agri-chemical giants and big biotechnology firms. Their objective is to produce food not for self-sufficiency, not to meet the needs of the local communities but to produce crops with market value to sell in the world market.

Sustainable agriculture is the liberating force that will unfetter the farmers from the vicious cycle of poverty. It is that farming paradigm that cultivates not only the land, but also the human spirit to nurture principles and values worthy to be true stewards of God's creation.

Agrarian Reforms through Cooperativism

- Agrarian reform is both a poverty reduction and a social justice programme of the Government, one of the few in the Asian region. While the legislated Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Programme [CARP] currently implemented has its own inadequacies not limitations, the past 10 years of programme implementation had showed concrete gains among farmers and rural workers;

- Land distribution and support services are the two key components of CARP;

- Need to institute an effective receiving mechanism which empowers the community and the farmers;

- Cooperatives are now considered as the main vehicles of agrarian reform;

- Need to overcome the inefficiency of the bureaucracy with the empowerment of the beneficiaries;

Legislative Changes and Policy Initiatives

-Full implementation of asset reform laws;

-Institute labour-first policy;

-Strengthen regulation of corporations and the financial sector;

-Safeguarding essential goods and services;

-Upholding the primacy of peace building measures.

Existing Situation

The country has remained as an agricultural country where 75% of the total population is in the rural areas and who are in agriculture or doing agriculture-related activities. Two-thirds of the total export receipts come from agriculture. Oppressive marketing system continues to roar at the expense of the poor consumers because everything sold passes at least seven marketing layers. Poverty, hunger, ecological disasters, corruption, violence, greed and apathy throw the country in disarray. The goals related to agriculture in the Philippines Development Plan 2011-2016 are as follows:

Goal-01: Improved food security and increased rural incomes;
Goal-02: Increased sector resilience to climate change risks; and
Goal-03: Enhanced policy environment and governance.

Changing Demands in Agriculture

The inclusion of agriculture in international trade has opened opportunities towards attaining sustainable and equitable agricultural development. To satisfy these requirements would require capital, partnership, access to information and market linkages. In the past this critical function has been provided by traders, private entrepreneurs and big corporations.

Relevance of Cooperative Clusters

Some of the market requirements are beyond the influence of small cooperatives. They have to be with allied organisations particularly marketing cooperatives, consumer cooperatives, cooperative banks and other development providers. They also have to collaborate with local governments, national government agencies and donor institutions;

Better coordination can be achieved among participating stakeholders, duplications are avoided and transactions become more efficient. This enhances transparency and facilitates better information management;

Clusters can be in a better bargaining position with government and regulatory bodies in pushing for favourable policies, better services and better economic environment for the business;

Cooperative clusters facilitate market participation by connecting the value chain from production to distribution;

Cooperative cluster would include farm input supplies, farmer producers, traders, millers and processors, transport sector and marketing groups. Each would have their own role to play in the value chain and therefore is a stakeholder;

Product quality is a function of market information,. Product quality improvement is vital for a sustained and competitive rural enterprise. Marketing groups are ready to transact business with cooperatives provided strict quality standards are followed and price is competitive.

Role of CDA

CDA plays a critical role in initiating collective and long-term solutions. They can effectively facilitate field processes, provide quality extension services and have a strong commitment to work with cooperatives on a sustained basis.

SRI LANKA (Presented by Mr.Jayathilaka H. S. Bandara)

An Overview - Co-operative Societies:

- 14,000 primary co-op societies
- 45,000 Co-operative employees
- 6.5 million Members
- 14 Apex Coops
- 37 Island-wide Coop Societies

Co-op Sectors & Activities:

- Multi-purpose Co-operative Societies (Consumer and Trade)
- Agriculture & Marketing
- Rural Banking, Saving and Credits (SANASA)
- Agro Industry, Textile and Home-based industry
- Tea, Rubber and Coconut industry
- Dairy products
- Fishery
- Housing State Housing
- Rural Tourism
- Co-op Hospitals
- Youth, Women, Children & other social services
- Schools & Universities
- Arts & Crafts

Initiation of Co-Operative Movement:

Introduced as Movement by British Rulers to overcome (a) Farm indebtedness (b) To facilitate credit disbursement (c) To systemize agricultural credit & inputs and (d) To distribute farm produces

An Overview of Co-operatives:

- The origins of the Co-operative Movements in Sri Lanka could be traced to the formation of the first Co-operative society in 1906- the Dumbara Co-operative Credit Society.
- The first Co-operative law was enacted in 1911 with the registration of the Co-operative Credit society's ordinance of 1911. This Act made it possible for the registration of only credit societies but, subsequent amendments made it possible for the establishment of other types of societies as well as secondary and tertiary institutions.
- In 1930 the Department of Co-operative Development was established. The Movement developed gradually under state sponsorship and it was felt that an organization at the Apex level was required for expression of collective views on matter of Co-operative policy, education, training, extension and publicity.

With this in view the Co-operative Federation of Ceylon was established in 1955.

- In 1970, according to the recommendation of the Royal Commission appointed to look into Co-operative Movements in 1968, primary Consumer & Fisheries societies were amalgamated in to economically viable larger units and emerged as Multi-Purpose Co-operative Societies.
- This re-vitalization of the Movement brought about a re-organization of the federation and consequently on 26 July 1972 the Co-operative Federation of Ceylon was re-established and registered as the National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka. This new institution was recognized as the National Apex Organization of the Co-operative Movement of Sri Lanka and the authoritative spokesman for the Movement nationally and internationally
- The present practicing legal enactment is the Co-operative Act No.5 of 1972. With the 13th amendment to the Constitution of our country the activities of the Co-operative Movement were decentralized and the Provincial councils act No.42 of 1987 resulted in a devolution of power to Provincial Council. Consequently the NCC was also decentralized.

Department of Co-operative Development:

Mission : Facilitating the Co-operative Movement of Sri Lanka to be an effective and efficient people based enterprises by consuming the practices of good Co-operate governess.

Vision : Co-operatives for sustainable Development as People's enterprise

Evolution:

- This department is committed to formulate the mission and extend assistance, guidance and directions for co-operative development to provide services of excellent quality to the people of Sri Lanka.
- There was no separate department functioning for co-operative activities since 1930. But in terms of Co-operative Societies Ordinance implemented in 1911, a registrar was given power to register co-operative societies and attend to its activities such as auditing.
- Department of Co-operative was established on January 10th 1930.
- This Department was named as the Department of Co-operative Development in 1945 in addition to the post of Registrar of Co-operative Societies, the post of Co-operative Development Commissioner was created.
- During the decades of 1940, 1950, 1960 and 1970 it was developed and expanded as one of the main state departments

- Under the provisions of the 13th amendment to the constitution of Sri Lanka, several functions relating to the subject of Cooperatives were developed to the Provincial Councils after 1989. As a result of some provincial departments of Cooperatives in charge of the promotion of the co-operative societies and the administration of some commenced.
- This department is functioning and operating under the ministry of Trade, marketing development, cooperatives and consumer services.
- Specifies Rules and Regulations affecting the Co-operative Societies. For proper functioning of cooperatives, the cooperation societies act has been amended/changed about 11 items during the period 1972 – 1982.

Main Functions of the Department of Cooperative Development

- Registration of island and Provincial level Co-operative Societies, Unions and National level Apex Co-operative Societies.
- Monitoring Co-operative Development Activities within National Policy in Coordination with Provincial Co-operative Developments thereby participating in National Co-operative Activities.
- Amending by-Laws and / or replacing some and approving new by – laws.
- Annual audit of Co-operative societies and Unions filling under the preview of the Department.
- Settling disputes regarding Co-operative Societies.
- Management and control of Cooperative Development fund, Surplus fund and other funds.
- Preparing national policies, programs, legal frame-work and the administrative procedures relating to Cooperation, jointly with the Ministry of Cooperative and other relevant institutions and developing some.
- Coordinating the Cooperative Movement with the state policies and Programs.
- Providing Consultation Services required for development of Co-operative Societies.
- Implementation of Development Projects.
- Providing support for Human Resources Development in the Co-operative Sector.
- Identifying programs for Co-operative development at national and regional levels, providing necessary assistance and support to implement some and Coordination with regard to some.
- Audit of Co-operative Societies.
- Management and Human Resources Development Services.
- Statistical and other information services.

Current programs in implementation of Agricultural Policies/ Planning:

- Minimum purchasing price of paddy from the producers.
- Government fertilizer support scheme for paddy and other crops.
- The government agricultural program "Api wawamu- Rata nagamu" (Let us grow-Let us develop)
- programs of "yaya production and "Saruketha Yaya" and re-cultivation of abounded paddy lands"
- "Gama Naguma" (village development) and "maga Naguma" (road development program)
- Agriculture livestock development loan scheme
- Compressive credit scheme for agriculture development
- Fisheries harbor development program.

Suggestions and Recommendations:

- Provision of adequate financial resources to meet capital requirements of the society.
- Establishment of Marketing system to strengthen the competitive ability of co-op enterprises.
- Introduction of latest technologies to the farmers and their organizations to ensure high productivity.
- Provision of Training and Human resources development facilities.
- Strengthening the national level unions.
- Identification of an appropriate policy framework to coordinate the activities of organizations involved in co-operative and agricultural sectors at the national, regional and grass root levels to ensure the integration of different approaches and efforts by different institutions and different people
- Legislative reforms to strengthen and promote the agricultural co-operatives as, efficient market oriented enterprises with a common vision of national development.

THAILAND (Presented by Mr.Preecha Wongsgulgeard)

Thailand, as many of other countries, has adopted "cooperative method" as a tool for solving social and economic problem of the people, particularly those of small farmers. The first cooperative society was established along with the "Raiffeisen model" of German rural cooperatives, which was known as a "village credit cooperative" since 1916. The successful performance of the cooperatives led to an expansion of an establishment of various types of cooperatives in later periods/stages.

However, the significant change took place in 1969 when the government had a policy to encourage those of small village credit cooperatives to amalgamate into a bigger one which was called as “agricultural cooperative” at a district in order to provide wider scope of services to fully satisfy their members; needs.

The main business of agricultural cooperative are generally included the provision of credit and farm inputs, including farm extension services, collecting, processing and marketing of members’ products and other services related to their members’ need. However, providing loan to the member is generally the main business of most of agricultural cooperatives.

The organizational structure of agricultural cooperatives in Thailand is a three-tier structure comprising of primary agricultural cooperative societies at the district level, provincial agricultural cooperative federations at the provincial level and the national agricultural cooperative federations or the apex society at the national level.

Presently, cooperatives in agricultural sector which are comprised with agricultural cooperatives, fishery cooperatives and land settlement cooperatives are totally 3,952 societies, or approximately account for 57 percent of the total number of cooperatives in Thailand.

In Thailand, the government still provides supports to the cooperatives through its administrative bodies – the Cooperative Promotion Department (CPD) and the Cooperative Auditing Department (CAD). The main concern of the CPD is to disseminate the ideology, principle and practice of cooperative to the people and encourage them to organize themselves as cooperatives. The CPD then provides various supports to those of the established cooperatives, such as operating fund, training and technical supports, in order to enabling them to achieve a sustainable development. Along with the promotion tasks of the CPD, the CAD is responsible on providing the cooperatives with auditing services as its main concern.

However, the government policy on promotion of cooperatives has been changed to fit with the situation from time to time. A significant change during the past decade was took place in 2002 when the CPD downsize its provincial offices along with the government policy to reform the public administrative system.

A new revision on a structure of the provincial cooperative offices again took place in 2009. It had an effort to bring back “the previously district cooperative office” one office per one district, in late of 2009. It was then further to implement a model of one office provides cooperative promotion services to cover a group of nearby districts.

Finally, it was recently come up with the idea to re-structure the provincial cooperative office by establishment of the “Cooperative Promotion Unit (CPU)” of which its office is generally based on the provincial cooperative office. It was already announced for an establishment of 313 CPU all over the country since January 12, 2011. Each CPU is assigned to provide cooperative promotion services for a group of districts. It was forced each CPU to pay a regular visit with specific

action plan and key performance indicator of each cooperative under the supervision.

It should also be noted that the government has continuously paid high attention and support, in comparison with cooperatives in non agricultural sector, to the cooperatives in agricultural sector since the beginning up to present. This is, among other things, due to the fact that members of cooperatives in agricultural sector are generally the small farmers who lack of many things.

In Thailand, all types of cooperatives are operating under a single cooperative law. However, it was until 1968 that the government had enacted the specific law for governing the development of cooperatives. Prior to that period, the establishment and operation of the cooperatives was subjected to the laws on establishment of general association.

The first cooperative law which was named as the “Cooperative Act B.E. 2511” that enacted in 1968 was, however, repealed by the “Cooperative Act B.E. 2542” in 1999 to make it in conformity with the changing situations. The Cooperative Act B.E. 2542 was further amended in 2010 to provide more conducive environments for the successful development of the cooperative movement.

Except for those of big cooperatives, a large number of cooperatives in agricultural sector still highly depend upon outside fund. Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC) is the main source of fund for such cooperatives.

The government, on the other hand, also establishes a “Cooperative Development Fund (CDF)” in the CPD to help facilitating implementation of the government projects which are related to the development of cooperatives. The CDF is also become an alternative source of fund for those of cooperatives which are not able to get loan from the BAAC.

The basic problem of a large number of Cooperative in Thailand is still involved with the problem of inefficient management of their cooperatives, particularly for those of cooperatives in agricultural sector. Low educational level of farmer members is, among the other factors, deemed as the major root cause of the problem in spite of training provided by the government, through the CPD and CDA and other relevant organization.

It is recognized by the government that the problem of inefficient management could become a big problem in the near future if is still existed. This is due to a more likely involvement, whether they like it or not, of the cooperatives in the world economy and the increasing challenges being faced by the agricultural cooperatives due to the environmental problems, natural resources conservations and climate change.

Recognizing the problems currently faced by the cooperatives and the newly increasing challenges in the near future, all involving parties should keep in mind that

As a government, it is required to pay more attention since the process of establishment a cooperative. A high quality of cooperatives must be established at the first place. It should be then followed by providing of proper supports to the already established cooperatives. The more development of the cooperatives, the less supports from the government.

Recognizing the fact that sustainable development of a cooperative would be achieved only when a cooperative can rely on their own feet, a cooperative must try to rely on their own as much as possible, or help itself first. Then, each cooperative may help each other in area beyond each of cooperative capability.

On the other hand, international organizations shall play an important role to support the development of cooperatives. These may include, for instance, as follows:

- (1) To help in an establishment of collaborative networking in between or among cooperatives across countries.
- (2) To conduct research to find out of those newly challenged issues which are unclear by each country and
- (3) To conduct comparative study in between or among countries within or different regions in order to find out the common factors of the best practices in development of cooperatives for sharing among countries and regions.

IV WORKING GROUPS DISCUSSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In the light of presentation of country papers and experiences/information shared amongst the participants about the current trends in development of agricultural cooperative with special reference to legislative changes and policy initiatives, a number of issues/points came up for further discussions/clarifications. The participants were divided into two small working groups and they were given a set of same/common topics for discussions and recommendations. The suggestions/recommendations made by each group were presented by each group in the plenary session. Group recommendations are at B-1 and B-2.

Topics for group discussions

1. In what way the current trends (legislative and policies) in Cooperative Development sustain the Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia?
2. What are the measures to safeguard the interests of the agricultural cooperatives and farmers from the effects of open market economy?
3. How to strengthen agricultural cooperatives to be effective business institutions to safeguard the interests of members and provide livelihood security to small-holder farmers in Asia?
4. Suggest recommendations on : a) Promotion of Diversification of Activities of Agricultural Cooperatives; b) Implementation of Policies and Programmes at the level of your organization to empower the farmers and their rural institutions.

V CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE PLENARY SESSION

On the suggestions of the plenary session, the two sets of conclusions/recommendations by two groups were later summed up and narrowed down to one report in the form of the major suggestions/recommendations and was then presented at the full session of the plenary/General Assembly which adopted the suggestions and recommendations as at Annex - C

The plenary session suggested that necessary follow up at the level of NEDAC member organizations/countries should be made for strengthening/capacity building of agricultural cooperatives. It was also recommended by the plenary session that on the basis of general recommendations NEDAC work plan may accordingly be developed for implementation in 2012 – 2013.

VI FIELD VISIT

The participants/delegates were taken for one day field visit to two agricultural cooperative societies in Batangas, one was Lipa City Multipurpose Cooperative Marketing Association (LIMCOMA) and the other one was Sorosoro Ibada Development Cooperative (SIDC). The visit provided very good learning experience on production and marketing of feed for Poultry and livestock production and other diversified activities. SIDC was involved in a number of other activities such as contract growing of pigs and broilers, Rice milling (value addition activity), artificial insemination, savings and loan operation, cooperative marketing (co-op mart) of groceries, agricultural inputs, Layer farm for egg production, organic fertilizer etc. SIDC has 7593 members and 9586 associate members. LIMCOMA started operation in 1970 with 77 members with a capital of one million peso. As of now it has 8375 members and paid up capital of 130 million peso. LIMCOMA is the first ISO 9001 – 2008 certified feed milling cooperative. Brief write up about the cooperatives is at Annex VII

SECTION-02

I. Minutes/Resolutions of NEDAC General Assembly Session

(1) Welcome to New Members of NEDAC

Mr.Emmanuel M. Santiaguel Ph.D Chairman CDA, existing Vice-Chairman NEDAC acting as the Chairman NEDAC informed the General Assembly that Krishak Bharati Cooperative Ltd (KRIBHCO) NOIDA, India, National Cooperative Consumers Federation of India Ltd (NCCF) and National Federation of Fishermen's Cooperative Ltd (FISHCOPFED), New Delhi, India joined NEDAC in 2011 and extended hearty welcome to new members. NEDAC members present in the meeting welcomed the new members by clapping hands. There was no delegate from KRIBHCO and NCCF in the meeting. Mr.B.K.Mishra Managing Director, FISHCOPFED thanked the Chairman and NEDAC members for welcoming the new members of NEDAC and assured his cooperation with NEDAC in development of fisheries cooperatives.

(2) NEDAC-Activities during 2009 (September 2009) to November 2011.

A report on NEDAC activities from September 2009 to November 2011 prepared by the NEDAC Secretariat was circulated to all NEDAC members present in the meeting and Mr.Khan briefly stated the major activities undertaken by NEDAC during the above period. Major activities in 2009 were preparation, printing and circulation of the report on NEDAC seminar held in Bangkok in August 2009 on National policies for development of agriculture cooperatives and the report on NEDAC General Assembly held in September, 2009 to NEDAC members and other interested agencies/persons.

The major activities in 2010 were holding of the NEDAC Executive Committee meeting in Xian City, Shanxi Province, China on 12 October 2010. NEDAC members' study tour to China was held from 13 – 15 October 2010 in Shanxi Province, China. Department of Rural Cooperative Economy, Ministry of Agriculture, China P.R hosted the Executive Committee meeting as well as the Study Tour. This was the first time that NEDAC EXCOM members could join the study tour in China. Other activity was concerning the workshop on herbal medicine and honey for increased income of the cooperatives which was supposed to be hosted by National cooperative Development Board (NCDB) in collaboration with National Cooperative Federation of Nepal (NCF). After lot of correspondences with the host organization it was ascertained that hosting of the workshop would not be possible due to budget constraint.

Other important activity in 2010 was compilation of a compendium of five cooperative experts/specialists from NEDAC organizations. The response was not very satisfactory and the compilation of list of cooperative experts/specialists (5 from each organization) was limited to only six organizations namely R.D & Cooperative Division, Dhaka, Bangladesh, Department of Rural Cooperative

Economy, MOA, China, NCDC and NCUI in India and National Federation of State Cooperative Bank, Mumbai, India (only one expert's name and NCDB in Nepal only two Experts). NEDAC sub office in NCDC held meetings/discussions with NCUI for training of cooperative personnel with no or minimal cost. As it was not possible to ascertain from the member organizations about their willingness to bear the cost of airtickets of the participants, the matter was kept pending for taking decision in the NEDAC General Assembly 2011. Discussions were also held with CPD, Bangkok for training of cooperative personnel from ASEAN countries and CPD would make efforts in their next training programme to include participants from Philippines.

Other major activity was membership drive and two organizations in India and one in Philippines namely National Agricultural Marketing Federation (NAFED) and Haryana Sate Cooperative Supply and Marketing Federation (HAFED) in India and National Cooperative Development council (NCDC) in Philippines were enrolled as new member of NEDAC in 2010.

The major activities in 2011 were :

- (i) Seeking agreement of CDA to host the NEDAC Seminar and NEDAC General Assembly from 27 November to 3 December 2011.
- (ii) The other important activity was the membership drive in India and three organizations namely KRIBHCO, FISHCOPFED and NCCF were enlisted as new member of NEDAC. The NEDAC sub office in NCDC New Delhi played the major role in enrolling the new members.
- (iii) NEDAC Secretariat prepared two working papers for presentation at the NEDAC General Assembly 2011. The papers were : one on Action Plan for observance of International Year of Cooperative in 2012 and the other was on improving NEDAC's financial resources through increased membership (for which membership drive by NEDAC members would be most important) and increased membership fee which has remained unchanged since establishment of NEDAC in 1990 -91. The paper requested General Assembly for policy decision concerning payment of cost of airtickets by the member organizations or the existing practice of NEDAC providing the airtickets for the participants to attend NEDAC meetings/seminar/workshop/study tour etc should continue or not.

As discussed earlier, the NEDAC sub office in NCDC continued to have discussions with NCUI for training of cooperative personnel in India with minimal or no cost. The matter would be raised in the NEDAC G.A. session by the NEDAC Secretariat for decision by the G.A. that the travel cost should be borne by the participating organizations. The delegate from NCUI and MOA India expressed support to such training activities with no or minimal cost.

Other activities were of routine nature concerning sending invoices/letters to member organizations for payment membership fee, to collect useful

information/data and success stories on agricultural cooperative development for putting in NEDAC Website based at NCDC, New Delhi.

(3) NEDAC Financial Report (Income and Expenditure Statement) for the period July 2009 to October 2011

The Financial Report/Income and expenditure statements for the period from July 2009 to October 2011 along with the NEDAC Bank Account Statements countersigned by the Bank management were earlier circulated to all participants in the meeting.

Mr. Khan informed the Assembly that NEDAC funds are maintained in two currencies – one in US dollar and the other in Thai Baht. Funds received as membership fee are maintained in US dollar account and funds withdrawn/disbursed are recorded in this account. US dollars when changed to Thai Baht to meet the local costs such as salaries of the NEDAC Clerk cum typist/Secretary, purchase of office stationeries, cost of airtickets, payment for utilities and fax charges etc are maintained/recorded in NEDAC Baht account. Mr.Khan further informed that there is another account in US dollars received as grants from a Dutch NGO Agriterra to assess the loss/impact of Tsunami on agricultural cooperatives in three countries – India, Sri Lanka and Thailand. This fund was also used for organizing workshop in each country to prepare rehabilitation projects for income generation for the affected agricultural cooperatives. So far each year, there are three Bank Accounts – NEDAC US dollars A/C, NEDAC Baht A/C and NEDAC Agriterra fund A/C. Mr.Khan informed that the accounts are maintained with the Siam Commercial Bank which is also the Bank for FAO, UNICEF and UNIDO.

Mr.Khan briefly stated how the financial report for each year were prepared. For each A/C in any specific year, funds received from members or other sources, funds withdrawn/disbursed were prepared first and then reflected in a summary sheet showing the receipts, expenditure and the closing balance each year. Mr.Khan stated that Bank statements of three accounts duly countersigned by the Bank authority confirm that receipts/disbursements as included in the financial report have properly/correctly been reflected/recorded.

In conclusion, Mr.Khan stated that NEDAC expenditure would have been more/higher had there been no support from the host organization to meet the cost of board/lodging and internal transport of participants. NEDAC members appreciated the support of host organizations in implementation of some NEDAC activities in different countries. General Assembly thanked the NEDAC Secretariat for the detailed breakdown of different components in the financial report and expressed thanks for the activity report on NEDAC workplan/programme.

(4) NEDAC Financial Resources : Proposals for enhanced membership drive, increased membership fee for improving financial resources of NEDAC and change in existing policy of purchasing air tickets for its members to attend NEDAC meetings/workshops/study tour etc.

Mr.Khan in his paper suggested that NEDAC financial resources could be improved through (a) increasing the number of NEDAC members in each country or (b) increasing the annual membership fee to Us dollar 3000 as against the present fee of US dollars 2000 or by combination of (a) and (b) above. He also suggested that NEDAC financial resources could also be improved if the cost of airtickets of NEDAC members are met by the participating organizations, not any more paid by NEDAC. For increasing the member in each country where the membership is only one or two, Regular members of NEDAC should make all out efforts to enroll new members to NEDAC. The old members who stopped payment of membership since long time back, should be approached by the regular member in the concerned country and try to persuade them to become NEDAC member. The old dues concerning membership fee should be waived otherwise it would be a big burden for them to join NEDAC. The regular members to contact the old member not paying membership is shown below :

<u>Country</u>	<u>Regular member</u>	<u>Old member to be contacted</u>
Bangladesh	R.D. and Cooperative Division, Ministry of LGRD & Cooperatives, Dhaka	Bangladesh Jatiyo Samobai Union (BJSU), Dhaka
Sri Lanka	Dept. of Cooperative Development, Commissioner Co-op Development & RCS Colombo	Marketing Federation of Sri Lanka (MARKFED) Colombo
Thailand	Director Foreign Relations, CPD, Bangkok	Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT), Bangkok

Apartment from the above, regular member in Bangladesh/Dhaka may please contact Milk-Vita, Dhaka for enlisting as new member of NEDAC. All regular members were requested to approach cooperative organizations on crops, fishery, livestock, agro-processing, agric. credit or organizations involved in training and education of cooperative personnel, cooperative research etc for new membership of NEDAC.

Mr.Khan also informed the General Assembly that between 1978 – 1990, FAO established four Regional Associations namely Asia Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA) in 1978, Agricultural & Food Marketing Association of Asia Pacific Region (AFMA) in 1983, Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) in 1988 – 89 and NEDAC in 1990 – 91. The annual membership fee of all other three associations is minimum US dollars 3000 and travel cost for attending meetings are paid by the member organizations. NEDAC has not changed its annual membership fee (\$2000) which remains unchanged since its establishment in 1990 -91 i.e. about 20 years. Mr.Khan further stated that more funds are required now to pay for utilities, office stationeries and cost of security guard etc paid as cost sharing with FAO also increased a lot.

General Assembly after discussions of the pros and cons of the above proposals decided to increase the membership fee by US dollars 500 effective from 2013. Cost of airtickets for study tour will continue upto 2012. The EXCOM meeting to be held in the later part of 2012 would review and examine the latest financial position (which might improve due to membership drive in 2012) and take final decision about the cost of airtickets for meeting/study tour participants to be borne by member organizations or not and also decide about the increase of membership fee by US dollar 500 i.e. from US dollars 2000 to US dollars 2500 effective from January 2013. It was decided that cost of airtickets for training programme should be met/borne by the participating organizations or the participant themselves.

(5) Action Plan for observance of International Year of Cooperative (IYC) 2012

Mr.Khan presented a paper highlighting the objectives of IYC 2012 and proposed action plans for observance of IYC by NEDAC member organizations at country level and by NEDAC at regional level. The objectives of IYC are as follows :

- (i) Increase public awarness about cooperatives, how they benefit their members and contribute to socio economic development and achievement of MDGs.
- (ii) Promote awarness of global network of cooperatives and their efforts in community building, democracy and peace.
- (iii) Promote the formation and growth of cooperatives among individuals and institutions to address common economic needs and for socio economic empowerment.
- (iv) Encourage governments and regulatory bodies to establish policies, laws and regulations conducive to cooperative formation and growth.

Mr.Khan also stated that the observance could be in the form of :

- (a) Compilation of success stories of agricultural cooperatives
- (b) Raising awarness about IYC through holding meetings
- (c) Holding symposium at local, national or regional level on the role/potential of cooperatives/agric. cooperatives in promoting development activities or partnership or networking amongst/between cooperatives or agricultural cooperatives.

EXCOM in its meeting on 12 October 2010 held at Xian City, Shanxi Province, China P.R decided that NEDAC Secretariat should prepare action plan for observance IYC 2012 and the action plan should be placed at the General Assembly 2011 for decision. NEDAC Secretariat accordingly prepared the following action plans for observance IYC in 2012.

1. NEDAC member in each country would organize/hold a symposium highlighting the importance/potential of agricultural cooperatives in socio economic development of the country. The symposium should aim at raising awarness about IYC 2012 and promote growth of agricultural cooperative (womens and youth participation in co-op societies). Agric. cooperatives

- include cooperatives on crops, fishery, livestock, agro-processing, agric. credit, agricultural marketing and trade as well as organization involved in training /education of cooperative personnel and agric. co-op developments
2. Documentation of success stories of agric. cooperatives – Each member organization would prepare a brief write up on the success stories of at least two cases.
 3. A study tour of NEDAC members to India to gather field experience on agriculture cooperative development. A decision has to be made about the cost of air tickets for travel to India and back to home country should be paid by NEDAC or member organization
 4. To bring out a small booklet containing brief write up of each NEDAC member's profile and activities on agriculture/fisheries/livestock or agric. credit cooperative. The write up provided by each member organization would be compiled/published by NEDAC Secretariat for circulation to NEDAC members, UNDESA and other interested agencies/organizations
 5. NEDAC Sub office in NCDC would make all efforts for organizing training of co-op personnel in the training institutes of NCUI, NCDC or any other.

General Assembly endorsed the action plan at National level. About the NEDAC action plan, the General Assembly decided to have the study tour of NEDAC members to India in 2012 to gather field experience on the development of agricultural cooperatives. General Assembly also approved the documentation of success stories of agricultural cooperatives and other activities subject to availability of funds.

(6) NEDAC-Secretariat matters : Extension/Renewal of Assignment of NEDAC Secretariat Staff

Mr.Khan while presenting the NEDAC reports on activities and income/expenditure statements informed the General Assembly about the expiry of his visa and permit to stay in Thailand in July 2012. Considering the satisfactory services rendered by Mr.W.I.Khan and NEDAC clerk-cum-typist/secretary Ms.Suthusanee Rakpanyakaew, the General Assembly extended their assignment by two years from July 2012 to June 2014 and authorized EXCOM to finalize the financial aspect and other matters for their extension of assignment.

(7) Election of Office bearers of New Executive Committee (EXCOM) for 2012 – 2013

Mr.Emmanuel M. Santiaguel Ph. D Chairman CDA, acting as the Chairman of the session requested nominations for Chairman, Vice Chairman and three members of the new EXCOM for the period 2012 – 2013. There were proposals for Chairman, Co-Chairman, two Vice-Chairman and four members for the new EXCOM. The delegate from Bangladesh stated that NEDAC constitution needs to be amended if Co-Chairman, two Vice-Chairman and four members are to be elected as office bearers of the new EXCOM. After necessary amendment of the article at page 9 of the Constitution through voice votes, the following officials were elected as

Chairman, Co-Chairman, Vice-Chairman and members of the new EXCOM for 2012 – 2013.

<u>Designation/Position</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Name, Title and Organization</u>
Chairman	India	Mr.G.C.Pati IAS Additional Secretary, MOA & Managing Director, NCDC
Co-Chairman	Philippine	Dr.Emmanuel M. Santiaguel Chairman, CDA
1 st Vice-Chairman	Bangladesh	Dr.Mohammad Ali Khan Joint Secretary (Adm) R.D. & Cooperative Division Ministry of LGRD & Co-op Dhaka
2 nd Vice-Chairman	Nepal	Mr.Bijaya Raj Ghimire Vice Chairman, NCF Kathmandu, Nepal
<u>Four Members</u>		
1. Member	China	Mr.He Wei Jun Deputy Director General Department of Rural Cooperative Economy MOA, Beijing, China P.R. (Mr.Zhao Liang Projec Officer represented Mr.He Wei Jun in the meeting)
2. Member	Sri Lanka	Mr.P.H.Ananda Commissioner Co-op Development & RCS,Colombo (Mr.J.H.S.Bandara represented Mr.Ananda in the meeting)
3. Member	Thailand	Dr.Preecha Wongsgulgeard Director, Foreign Relations CPD, Bangkok
4. Member	India	Mr.B.K.Mishra Managing Director, FISHCOPFED, New Delhi, India

It was stated by Mr.Khan that the delegate from CPD will act as focal/nodal point for Thailand if cooperative League of Thailand (CLT) or any other organization joins NEDAC and keep the other member informed of the decisions of NEDAC EXCOM and any other NEDAC matters.

The Chairman of the session Mr.Emmanuel M. Santiaguel, thanked the General Assembly for election of the office bears of NEDAC EXCOM and requested cooperation of all EXCOM members in the smooth running and implementation of NEDAC workplan/programmes in 2012 – 2013.

(8) NEDAC Workplan/Major Activities for 2012 - 2013

The draft workplan/Major activities for 2012 – 2013 prepared by a group of NEDAC members comprising Dr.Dina Nath Thakur MOA, Mr.B.K.Mishra FISHCOPFED India, Dr.Daman Prakash Resource Person NEDAC, Mrs.Leighlany T. Cariaso CDA, Philippine and Mr.W.I.Khan was discussed in the General Assembly. The Assembly approved in principle the workplan/major activities of NEDAC for 2012 – 2013. However the implementation would be subject to the availability of fund which should be explored by EXCOM and NEDAC Secretariat. The workplan is at Annex A and is for two years 2012 – 2013. General Assembly decided that the EXCOM should prioritize the activities and schedule the implementation of the workplan/activities for each year i.e. for 2012 and for 2013. It was also decided that the EXCOM should meet in India in 2012 and review the financial situation as a consequence of membership drive in 2012. The exact dates/month for the next EXCOM meeting in 2012 should be decided in consultation with the Chairman, NEDAC and the EXCOM members should accordingly be informed by the NEDAC Secretariat. In consultation with the delegate from Sri Lanka, the General Assembly also decided to have one study tour in Sri Lanka in 2013. The delegate from Bangladesh offered to host the study tour in Bangladesh if Sri Lanka fails to host it, this is subject to clearance by government of Bangladesh, the delegate mentioned.

The proposal of the Cooperative Promotion Department (CPD), MOA, Thailand asking for NEDAC funding support of USD 12,000 to study and identify the factors of successful agricultural cooperative in four provinces (Nan, Phattalung, Chachengsao and Uttradit) circulated to all members present in the meeting was discussed. While all members appreciated the project proposal for documentation of success stories of agricultural cooperatives informed the delegate from CPD that in view of NEDAC's financial constraint it would not be possible to provide funding support and thanked the delegate for his understanding of NEDAC's financial situation.

(9) Recommendations/Suggestions of the two working groups of the seminar on Current Trends of Development of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asian countries

The two working groups of the seminar presented their suggestions/recommendations at the plenary session of the General Assembly. The General Assembly after reviewing the recommendations of the two groups, decided to have

one summary recommendations/suggestions by combining the two reports. The final report accordingly prepared by the Resource Person Dr.Daman Prakash was then presented at the General Assembly for approval. The G.A. adopted a resolution to include the recommendations in NEDAC workplan for implementation in 2012 – 2013 subject to availability of funds and clearance by the EXCOM while making yearwise programme of NEDAC activities for 2012 and 2013. The final report is at Annex-B and the two groups reports are at B-1 and B-2.

(10) Workshop on increased income generation and better livelihood through promotion of herbal medicine, honey and coldwater fish (Nepal, India, Thailand, Bangladesh and if possible Philippines)

Mr.Khan informed the General Assembly that this workshop was included in the NEDAC workplan for 2010 – 2011 but could not be implemented due to budgetary constraint of the host organizations (NCDB and NCF). This workshop has now been included in the NEDAC workplan for 2012 – 2013 on the request of both NCDB and NCF delegates present in the meeting. The General Assembly in consultation with NCF and NCDB delegates decided to include it for implementation in 2012. Mr.B.K.Mishra Managing Director FISHCOPFED requested to include cold water fish as one of the income generation activity in Nepal and some other NEDAC member countries. He also confirmed that technical guidance will be provided by FISHCOPFED in the above workshop.

(11) Venue and Host of the next General Assembly 2013

In consultation with Mr.Jayathilaka H.S. Bandara Assistant Commissioner, Colombo who attended the General Assembly as delegate from Department of Cooperative Development, the General Assembly decided to hold the next General Assembly 2013 in Colombo, Sri Lanka hosted by the Department of Cooperative Development. Sri Lanka will also host NEDAC members' study tour which should precede the General Assembly. If Sri Lanka can not host the study tour, Bangladesh delegate offered to host the study tour in Bangladesh subject to government approval. General Assembly also decided that if Sri Lanka fails to host the General Assembly. NEDAC Secretariat should take up the matter with Chairman, NEDAC for hosting it in India. NEDAC Secretariat was asked to follow up the matters with the concerned NEDAC member in Sri Lanka and decide in consultation with Chairman about the venue and host of NEDAC General Assembly 2013 as well as the study tour in 2013 either in Sri Lanka or Bangladesh.

(12) Special Thanks and Gratitude

The General Assembly expressed thanks and gratitude to Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) Philippines for hosting the NEDAC seminar and the NEDAC General Assembly including internal transport for field visit by the delegate/participants and for their generous hospitality and other courtesies extended to the delegates during their stay in Tagaytay City. The Assembly resolved to extend special thanks and appreciation to the two Hon'ble Congressman who attended the inaugural session on 28 November, 2011 and delivered key note address and vote of thanks. The General Assembly acknowledged with thanks the

services provided by Mrs.Cariaso and her team members in the smooth conduct of the meeting.

II Resolutions Approved by NEDAC General Assembly

The NEDAC GA held at the Taal Vista Hotel, Tagaytay City on 1 – 2 December, 2011 approved the following Resolutions:

- i. **Tentative Programme, Agenda and Time Table:** GA approved the programme, agenda and time table;
- ii. **Welcome to new members:** GA approved the Resolution to welcome the new members of NEDAC e.g. FISHCOPFED, KRIBHCO, and NCCF. The delegate from FISHCOPFED was given a hearty welcome by the NEDAC members present in the meeting by the clapping hands.
- iii. **Report on NEDAC activities and Financial Report/Income and Expenditure Statements from July 2009 to October 2011:** After reviewing the reports (activities and Financial Report/Income and Expenditure Statements) presented by Mr. W.I. Khan, the GA unanimously approved the said reports;
- iv. **NEDAC Financial Resources and membership drive in 2012 and 2013:** GA discussed various aspects of improving the financial resources of NEDAC through increasing the number of NEDAC members in 2012 as well as increasing the annual membership fee by US\$ 500 from 2013. It was also decided that the present practice of providing airtickets to participants for attending NEDAC GA should continue in 2012 and the host organization will provide board, lodging and internal transport to GA participants. GA further decided that cost of airtickets for study tour/attending EXCOM meetings should also continue up to 2012. The EXCOM will review the situation in 2012 and decide about the cost of airtickets for NEDAC members' study tour and GA participants. It was further decided that travel costs for training programme/courses should be borne by member organizations or participants themselves.
- v. **NEDAC Action Plan for observance of IYC 2012:** NEDAC Action Plan for observance of IYC 2012 was approved by the GA and decided that the NEDAC Work Plan for 2012 should include the NEDAC Action Plan for observance of IYC 2012.
- vi. **NEDAC Secretariat's staff assignment:** GA, after reviewing the performance of NEDAC Secretariat staff, extended their assignment up to June 30, 2014. EXCOM was authorized to approve the financial details for their continuation.

- vii. **GA elected the new Executive Committee for 2012-2013 and the following organizations/officials were included in the new EXCOM after making amendments of Article at page 9 of the Constitution:**

1. NCDC India	M.D. NCDC	Chairman
2. CDA Philippines	Chairman CDA	Co-Chairman
3. RD and Coop Division Dhaka	Dr. Mohammad Ali Khan Joint Secretary (Adm)	1 st Vice Chairman
4. NCF Nepal	Mr. Bijaya Raj Ghimire	2 nd Vice- Chairman

Members

1. Dept. Of Rural Cooperative Economy MOA, Beijing China Mr.He Jun Wei
2. CPD, Thailand Dr. Preecha Wongsgulgeard
3. Coop Development Department, Sri Lanka Mr.P.H.Ananda
4. FISHCOPFED, India, Mr. B. K. Mishra

GA authorized the EXCOM to work out the details of the Work Plan, NEDAC Secretariat matters and any other aspects for improvement/furtherance of NEDAC activities.

- viii. **NEDAC Work Plan/Major Activities in 2012-2013:** GA approved the draft Work Plan presented by Mr. W. I. Khan. The draft Work Plan prepared by a group of NEDAC members comprised of Mr.B.K.Mishra from FISHCOPFED, Mr.D. N. Thakur from MOA, India, Mrs.Cariaso of CDA, Mr.Daman Prakash and Mr. W.I. Khan was approved by the GA and decided the yearwise activities will be prioritized by the NEDAC EXCOM on December 2, 2011. GA also approved the NEDAC members' study tour to India in 2012 and Sri Lanka in 2013 hosted respectively by India (NCDC) and Sri Lanka (Department of Cooperative Development). Bangladesh delegate offered to host the study tour in Bangladesh in 2013 subject to approval of the government of Bangladesh if Sri Lanka fails to host it. NEDAC members appreciated the offer of Bangladesh. NEDAC Secretariat will follow-up with the concerned authorities for hosting the Study Tour in 2012 and 2013.
- ix. **Recommendations of the working groups of the seminar:** The GA approved the major recommendations/suggestions of the two working groups. GA further decided that the implementation of the recommendations would be done through NEDAC work plan subject to availability of funds.
- x. **Workshop on increased income generation activities and better livelihood through promotion of herbal medicine and honey by cooperatives hosted by NCF/NCDB, Nepal (participants from Nepal, India, Thailand, Bangladesh and the Philippines):** GA approved the inclusion of the workshop in the NEDAC Work Plan for 2012-2013. The actual year of implementation will be decided by NEDAC Secretariat in consultation with the host organization.

- xi. **Venue and host organization for holding the NEDAC-GA in 2013 :** The delegate from Sri Lanka was consulted about the possibility of their hosting the GA in conjunction with Study Tour in 2013 and the delegate agreed in principle to host the session. NEDAC Secretariat will follow it up with Sri Lanka and if Sri Lanka fails then to approach India in consultation with the Chairman, NEDAC for hosting the GA in 2013.

Expressions of thanks and gratitude: the GA expressed thanks and appreciation to CDA for hosting the NEDAC GA and the Seminar. GA expressed special thanks to CDA officials for their unhesitating support and generous hospitality extended to the delegates. GA also expressed thanks to CDA officials for organizing the field visit to successful cooperatives in Batangas (LIMCOMA and SIDC) and requested CDA to convey NEDAC members' appreciation and thanks to the officials of LIMCOMA and SIDC for their acceptance of the visit by NEDAC members and for their hospitality extended to the visitors.

NEDAC WORKPLAN/PROGRAM FOR 2012-2013

	ACTIVITIES	BUDGET (US\$)
1	Continuation of NEDAC Secretariat	70,000
2	Sub-Office in NEDAC New Delhi to collect data, useful information, and success stories pertaining to agricultural/fishery/livestock and other related activities for circulation to NEDAC members and other interested organizations/persons	
3	<p>Strengthening/capacity building of agricultural/fishery/ livestock and other cooperatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study Tour/Exchange Visit of NEDAC members to India/Sri Lanka or Bangladesh • Identification/Selection of Cooperative Training Institutes in India for training/HRD of cooperative personnel for at least 7-10 days. NEDAC sub-office/NEDAC Secretariat to make effort to have the training without cost or at minimal cost. Travel cost to be borne by member organization or participants themselves • NEDAC sub office to follow up with NCUI and other organization for training of cooperative personnel without any change/ at minimal cost 	<p>15,000</p> <p>2,000</p>
4	<p>Observance of International Year of Cooperatives 2012 (IYC)</p> <p>a) Observance by NEDAC member organizations at national level with emphasis on awareness building on the potential of agri-cooperatives and promotion/growth of agri-cooperatives</p> <p>b) Observance by NEDAC: in the form of a study tour to India / documentation of success stories in member – organizations (at least 2 cases in each country)</p> <p>c) To bring out a booklet containing the profile/major activities and marketable products of NEDAC members for circulation to UNDESA, FAO, ICA and NEDAC MEMBERS</p>	<p>12,000</p> <p>6,000</p>
5	Workshop on the increased income generation and better livelihood through promotion of herbal medicine, honey and coldwater fish by cooperatives (Nepal, India, Thailand, Bangladesh and Philippines)	<p>8,000</p> <p>(Sharing of travel cost if needed)</p>

6	Organize EXCOM in 2012 in India in conjunction with the study tour in India in 2012 in consultation with NCDC, India preferably in September/October	8,000
7	Regular members to campaign for additional members (new members) in countries where the present membership is one or two and NEDAC Secretariat to follow up with regular members concerning the outcome of the efforts of regular members.	
8	To activate the NEDAC website based in NCDC for circulation of information/useful data on agriculture/fishery/livestock and other cooperatives (NEDAC Sub-office in NCDC will work on it)	
9	To engage cooperative experts/specialists for furtherance of cooperative business and marketing and trade of agricultural and allied products/commodities	5,000
10	To undertake documentation of activities and marketable products from crops/fisheries/ livestock/agro-processing etc for circulation through NEDAC website for use by members	
11	Organize next General Assembly in 2013 in consultation with host organization in SRL or any other country (India).	14,000
12	NEDAC Workplan/Program Monitoring by Office of NEDAC Co-Chairman (Chairman CDA will designate/appoint CDA officer for monitoring of NEDAC activities. CDA will prepare Monitoring Format)	
	TOTAL	140,000