

Minutes and Resolutions of NEDAC Executive Committee (EXCOM) Meeting

1. Introduction

The EXCOM meeting of NEDAC EXCOM Members 2013 – 2014 was held on 17 January, 2013 in the conference room of National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), New Delhi, India. The meeting was chaired by Mr.C.B.Paliwal IAS Managing Director NCDC and Chairman NEDAC and was attended by the following officers.

<u>Designation/Position</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Name, Title and Organization</u>
Co-Chairman	Philippines	Dr.Emmanuel M. Santiaguél Chairman, CDA & Under Secretary, DOF
1 st Vice-Chairman	Bangladesh	Dr.Mohammad Ali Khan Additional Secretary R.D. and Co-op Division Ministry of LGRD & Co-op
2 nd Vice-Chairman	Nepal	Mr.Bijaya Raj Ghimire Vice Chairman, NCF Kathmandu, Nepal
Member	Thailand	Ms.Wiparat Morida Foreign Relations Officer, CPD Bangkok
Member	India	Mr.B.K.Mishra Managing Director, FISHCOPFED, New Delhi, India
Ex Officio Member	India	Dr.Chan Ho Choi Regional Director ICA-ROAP, New Delhi, India
Programme Adviser	Thailand	Mr.Waliul Islam Khan (W.I.Khan), NEDAC
Secretary NEDAC	Thailand	Ms.Chanyaphak Rakpanyakaew NEDAC
Observer	India	Mr.Kirti Singh Dy. Managing Director

		NCDC, New Delhi, India
Observer	India	Mr.W.M.Rizvi Chief Director, (HRD-PR) NCDC, New Delhi, India
Observer	Thailand	Mr.Panuwat Nanakornpanom Director, Planning, CPD Bangkok

2. Opening Remarks by NEDAC Chairman

At the outset, Mr.C.B.Paliwal on behalf of NEDAC members in India, NEDAC Secretariat and on his own welcomed the NEDAC EXCOM members to NCDC. He extended hearty welcome to Dr.Chan Ho Choi and thanked him for coming to attend the EXCOM meeting of NEDAC. Mr.Paliwal mentioned that the experience of Dr.Choi in cooperative development will help NEDAC in framing a good workplan for future implementation by NEDAC. He requested Dr.Choi to inform the NEDAC EXCOM about workplaning and membership fee of ICA Regional Office, New Delhi, India. He also expressed special thanks to Mr.Panuwat Nanakornpanom for joining the study visit to India.

He requested the EXCOM members for frank expression of their views and suggestions concerning NEDAC activities. Mr.Paliwal further stated that with the active support of the EXCOM members it would be possible to make NEDAC workplan more attractive and visible at the field level. He wished EXCOM members enjoyable and pleasant stay in New Delhi.

3. Major Objectives of the meeting

Mr.Khan Programme Adviser NEDAC stated that the major objectives of EXCOM meeting apart from exchange of information and experience amongst members were : to review the progress of implementation of NEDAC workplan in 2011 (November – December) and in 2012 (January – December) including shifting of NEDAC office to a new site on Larn Luang Road, Bangkok, to examine the income and expenditure (financial position) of NEDAC for the year 2012, to assess the progress concerning membership drive during 2010 to 2012 in enrolling/enlisting new members of NEDAC and to take decision whether the cost of airticket for attending NEDAC meeting/seminar/study tour/EXCOM meeting etc should be borne by the participating organizations or it should continue to be met by NEDAC, to ascertain the preparedness of Cooperative Department of Sri Lanka to host the NEDAC General Assembly (G.A.) in 2013 and to find alternative host if Sri Lanka is not agreeable to host G.A. in 2013, to discuss about the training of cooperative personnel in training institutes of NCUI, NCDC, IFFCO or any other and to take decision, among others, concerning NEDAC administrative and financial matters. Mr.Paliwal, Chairman NEDAC stated the visit to some cooperative organizations in New Delhi and Haryana who are members of NEDAC would enable the EXCOM members to

gather field experience as to how agricultural, fishery, agro processing/marketing cooperatives are being developed in India.

4. Approval of the Tentative Programme

The tentative programme after approval by Chairman NEDAC was circulated in advance to all members and all members accepted/adopted the programme.

5. NEDAC Activity Report for 2011 (November – December) and 2012

Mr.Khan presented the report in the EXCOM meeting. It was pointed out that the workshop on increased income through production of herbal medicine, bee and cold water fish by cooperatives could not be held in 2012 as the host organization had fund constraint due to non receipt of government budget on this item. Mr.Bijaya Raj Ghimire Vice Chairman of Nepal Cooperative Federation and 2nd Vice Chairman of NEDAC assured the EXCOM that he would look into the matter and will try his best to implement it in 2013. Mr.Khan reported on the progress made about collection/compilation of useful data/information on agricultural cooperative development in various NEDAC member countries and about the success stories received from the Philippines and Bangladesh which were circulated through NEDAC Website. The EXCOM noted the progress made in implementation of NEDAC activities in 2012 and asked NEDAC Secretariat to arrange follow up action for implementation of the activities in 2013.

6. Financial Report of NEDAC : Income and Expenditure Statement during 2012

The Income and Expenditure statement of NEDAC duly countersigned by the Siam Commercial Bank where NEDAC funds are deposited were circulated to members. Mr.Khan informed the delegates that NEDAC funds are maintained in two currencies – US Dollars and Thai Baht. The income of NEDAC was mainly the membership fee received in US Dollars and US Dollars are changed to Thai Baht for meeting the local expenses such as salary of NEDAC Secretary, payment for faxes, office stationaries, utilities like electricity, security guard, water charges etc. Mr.Khan informed the EXCOM that this year the major expenses have been for shifting of NEDAC office to a new site on Larn Luang Road for office renovation, making glass wall within the big room, transportation of office records/files and furniture, purchase of air conditioner, fax machine etc which cost about US Dollars 10,000. Mr.Khan further stated that he got the furniture from FAO free of charges, otherwise it would cost another USD 1400 – 1500.

The closing balance on 31 December 2012 was respectively USD 53,251 and Baht 63,821 in USD A/C and Thai Baht A/C. EXCOM members noted with satisfaction the costs incurred on various items. One member of the EXCOM pointed out that unless NEDAC has more members or more funds through increased membership fee, NEDAC expenditure would remain above breakeven point. Chairman stated that

NEDAC would therefore go for more members through membership drive. Mr.Khan also informed the EXCOM that 5(five) members - 2 each from India and Nepal and one from Philippines have not yet paid membership fee for 2012.

In conclusion Mr.Khan stated that NEDAC expenditure would have been more/higher had there been no support of the host organization to provide board/lodging and internal transport of participants. Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) of Philippines and National Cooperative Development Corporation of India (NCDC) provided board/lodging and internal transport of participants during the General Assembly in the Philippines in 2011 and same facilities being provided by NCDC in India for the EXOM meeting in 2013. EXCOM members appreciated the support of the host organizations in implementation of some NEDAC activities in different countries. Mr.Khan also stated that the Bank statements duly countersigned by the bank authority confirm that the income/receipts and disbursements/ expenditure as included in the financial report have correctly/properly been recorded/reflected.

Mr.Paliwal asked NEDAC Secretariat to send reminders to members who have not yet paid the fee for 2012.

7. ICA's workplan and Membership Fee

As requested by Chairman NEDAC, Dr.Choi informed the meeting that ICA's workplan is prepared in advance for 4 (four) years. The membership fee is fixed on the basis of the turn over of each member – so the amount of membership fee for each member are different due to different rate of turn overs. Mr.B.K.Mishra, Managing Director FISHCOPFED stated that NEDAC's workplan is prepared in advance for 2 (two) years and then approved by the NEDAC General Assembly. He further stated that he does not agree with the procedure of fixing ICA's membership fee. Chairman NEDAC asked the NEDAC Secretariat to start collecting/information/ideas about NEDAC workplan for the next cycle i.e. 2014 – 2015 and attempts may be made to prepare the workplan for 4 years in consultation with the NEDAC members. Mr.Khan informed that NEDAC workplan is prepared by a group of cooperative experts from the NEDAC members and the worplan is approved by the NEDAC G.A. after due consultation and discussions during the meeting.

Mr.Paliwal suggested that the NEDAC members especially the EXCOM members can start exchange of information their views/ideas about NEDAC workplan or its future activities or any other item of interest through on line communications amongst the members. This would help in formulating future workplan/activities of NEDAC.

8. NEDAC Membership Drive

Mr.Khan stated that in order to improve NEDAC resources, NEDAC started from 2010 membership drive to increase number of members in countries where the

membership is only one or two. In 2010, five members were enrolled/enlisted in India as new member of NEDAC. The EXCOM meeting held in the Philippines on 2 December 2011 decided that all out efforts should be made to increase membership in each country and the NEDAC old members who stopped payment of membership fee should be approached by NEDAC regular member in that country to persuade them for joining NEDAC. It was not possible to get back the old members to NEDAC as their financial position was not good. Under the leadership and initiative of NEDAC 1st Vice Chairman in Bangladesh, one new member Bangladesh Dairy Cooperative popularly known as Milk Vita joined NEDAC in December 2012. Under the leadership of NEDAC 2nd Vice Chairman in Nepal, two organizations were enrolled as new member of NEDAC and they were (i) National Agricultural Cooperative Central Federation (NACCFL) and (ii) National Cooperative Bank Ltd (NCBL). It is expected that one organization in Bangladesh (Bangladesh Cooperative Federation) and Agricultural Federation of Nepal will join NEDAC soon.

Mr.Paliwal thanked Dr.Mahammad Ali Khan Additional Secretary, RD and Co-op Division, Dhaka and Mr.Bijaya Rah Ghimire for their excellent work in enrolling new members. He suggested that regular members in countries where the membership is only one or two to kindly make all out efforts for enrolling new members. Some members suggested that information concerning activities of NEDAC, its future plan/activities and the benefit of joining NEDAC should be made available to them so that they can approach and brief the organizations to join NEDAC. A letter from the Chairman NEDAC highlighting the above points should be sent to NEDAC members to facilitate them in approaching the organizations involved in agricultural cooperative activities in crops, fishery, livestock, agro processing, marketing, co-op education/training etc to become a member of NEDAC. Mr.Paliwal asked the NEDAC Secretariat to arrange sending such letter to NEDAC members under his signature.

9. Information/useful data on agric. Cooperative development or any other important agric. Policy matters/topics of interest and success stories of agricultural cooperatives for feeding the Website based at NCDC, New Delhi, India

Mr.Khan informed the EXCOM that letters were sent to all members for sending useful data/information on agricultural cooperative development activities and/or new policies or regulations for agric. Cooperative development to each member of NEDAC in different countries. With regrets Mr.Khan mentioned that response in this matter was rather limited.

Regarding documentation of success stories, Mr.Khan informed that one success story with two case studies from Bangladesh and one success story from the Philippines were received and put in NEDAC Website. Dr.Mohammad Ali Khan, Additional Secretary, RD & Co-op Division, Government of Bangladesh stated that another success story concerning Milk vita was sent to NEDAC Secretariat for circulation. Mr.Khan expressed regrets for not receiving this success story and requested Dr.Khan to kindly send it to NEDAC Secretariat, Bangkok for taking action. Mr.W.I.Khan further stated that if the number of success stories are more than

5 – 6, then these will be compiled in a booklet for circulation to NEDAC members and other organizations like ICA, FAO etc.

10. NEDAC Sub Office at NCDC

Mr.Khan informed the EXCOM members that this Sub office based at NCDC has been working since 2009 under the leadership of Chief Director (HRD-PR), NCDC. The most important activity, among others done by this office was enrollment/enlisting of 5 (five) organizations in India as new member of NEDAC. This office has been working with NCUI and MOA for organizing training of cooperative personnel in India either free of charges or at minimal cost. The other important work done by this office is feeding the NEDAC Website and acting as focal point for NEDAC activities in India. Mr.Paliwal informed the meeting that the services provided by the Chief Director is free and NEDAC does not have to pay anything for the services rendered by the Chief Director of the sub office at NCDC.

11. Identification/Selection of cooperative training Institutes in India for training /HRD of cooperative personnel at no cost or at minimal cost with the help of NCUI, IFFCO , NCDC

Mr.Khan informed the EXCOM members that during their visit to NCUI, IFFCO and MOA, the possibility of training in the cooperative training institutes of NCUI and IFFCO at no cost or at minimal charges was discussed and each organization expressed support to such training. Mr.Khan requested the assistance of NEDAC sub office to kindly take up the matter with the concerned organization and coordinate the training programme which should be of 5 – 7 days duration. EXCOM was requested by Mr.Khan for kindly authorizing NCDC sub office, MOA and NCUI to kindly formulate/chalk out training programme at each institute so that cooperative personnel from neighbouring countries can be trained in these institutes. Mr.Khan further informed that MOA, New Delhi, India expressed support to training and they will also try to provide some funding support for such activities. It was decided that such training if organized in any of cooperative member institute, the trainee/participants will have to pay the cost of airtickets and local cost will be arranged through consultation with MOA, NCUI, IFFCO and MOA. Mr.Khan expressed his appreciation and gratitude to the NEDAC sub office for trying to organize training in India. Mr.B.K.Mishra Managing Director FISHCOPFED suggested that if neighbouring countries send their participants to India for training, arrangement should also be made for Indian cooperative leaders/policy makers/experts to visit other countries or undergo some kind training in Thailand and/or the Philippines. NEDAC Secretariat was asked to explore the possibility of such visit or training of Indian Cooperative personnel to Thailand and the Philippines.

Mr.Khan further mentioned that if NCDC can establish a training course/programme in India for training of cooperative personnel from the neighbouring countries, NCDC will be remembered gratefully by all cooperative organizations for implementing training courses which will result in HRD and professionalism in

agricultural cooperatives. Mr.Paliwal expressed his surprise that in a span of more than 20 years there has not been any training programme/course for upgrading the knowledge/skill of cooperative personnel of NEDAC member organizations.

12. Increase of NEDAC Annual Membership fee to USD 2500 from USD 2000 effective from January, 2013

Mr.Khan informed the EXCOM that the last EXCOM meeting held on 2 December 2011 in the Philippines decided to increase the annual membership fee to USD2500 from the year 2013. EXCOM also decided that the increase of annual membership fee by US Dollars 500 from January 2013 will be reviewed by the next EXCOM to be held in India in 2012 as a consequence of the impact of the membership drive in 2011 and 2012 and final decision for increase of the membership fee to USD 2500 will be decided by the EXCOM in 2012 which is now being held in January, 2013. Considering the NEDAC's annual membership since its establishment in 1990 – 91 has remained at USD 2000 for more than 20 years and the increase of NEDAC's other costs especially shifting of NEDAC office to a new site have impact on its resource position and the membership drive has resulted to increase of only 3(three) members, the EXCOM decided that the annual membership fee from January 2013 will be raised to USD2500 as against present membership fee of USD2000.

13. Payment of cost of International Air Tickets and Hotel/Food charges by the member organizations for attending NEDAC General Assembly/meetings/ seminar/study tour, EXCOM meeting etc

Mr.Khan stated that NEDAC since its inception provided the cost of International airticket of participants for attending NEDAC General Assembly/meetings/seminar/workshops/study tour, EXCOM meeting etc. In view of the NEDAC's budget constraint due to limited income though its membership fee and increased expenses for utilities, office stationeries, local costs for fax, security guard etc, the last NEDAC General Assembly decided that the next EXCOM in India in 2012 (2013) will take decision as to who will bear the cost of international airtickets, hotel/food charges – should it be the participants or member organizations like other organizations such as APRACA, APAARI Bangkok and ICA-ROAP New Delhi or it should continue to be borne by NEDAC.

EXCOM after discussing the problem of getting budgetary provision through the government budget, it is very difficult to bear the cost of airtickets, hotel/food charges specially by the government organizations. After considering the pros and cons of the purchase of airtickets pay for hotel/food charges by government organizations, it was decided NEDAC should continue to pay the cost of international airtickets for the participants to join NEDAC General Assembly and NEDAC Executive Committee (EXCOM) meeting. The participating organizations/members themselves should pay for airtickets to join study tour/seminar/workshop arranged by NEDAC.

The travel cost (cost of airticket) for joining any training programme or course in any NEDAC member organizations should be paid by the participants or the participating organizations themselves.

The host organization for any activity should continue to provide board/lodging and internal transport to participants of any activity such as NEDAC G.A., EXCOM, Study Tour, Workshop/Seminar, Meeting etc.

14. NEDAC Members' Study Visit/Tour to Sri Lanka/Bangladesh/India in 2013

Mr.Khan informed the members that NEDAC members' study tour to Sri Lanka in 2013 was included in the NEDAC workplan for 2013. Bangladesh government also offered to host NEDAC members' study tour to Bangladesh if Sri Lanka cannot host it, Mr.Khan stated that he tried his best to contact the Commissioner, Cooperative Development and RCS, Cooperative Department Colombo Sri Lanka through sending several Emails and then through telephone calls to discuss with him about the possibility of hosting the study tour in Sri Lanka in 2013. Mr.Khan failed to get any response from the Commissioner, Co-op Development who joined this post about 7 – 8 months back. Rural Development and Cooperative Division, Ministry of LGRD and Cooperative in Bangladesh offered to host the study tour in northern part of Bangladesh (Bogra District) in 2013 for two days. Generally a study tour in any country is for 7 – 8 days including one day for arrival and one day for departure of participants, Bangladesh government was agreeable to extend the duration of study tour by 3 – 4 days provided assurance is given to Bangladesh that the study tour will be held in Bogra district with the collaboration of RDA (Rural Development Academy) Bogra. Since no decision concerning hosting the study tour in Sri Lanka was received by NEDAC Secretariat, it was difficult for the Secretariat to take decision which country would host the study tour (Sri Lanka or Bangladesh). NEDAC Secretariat also tried to persuade Sri Lanka which is a member of the NEDAC EXCOM to attend the EXCOM meeting in New Delhi. Sri Lanka did not agree to join the meeting in New Delhi, Sri Lanka is also supposed to host the NEDAC General Assembly in 2013 in conjunction with the study tour. No response or complete silence of the member from Sri Lanka has now posed problem to decide whether Bangladesh offer to host the study tour would be accepted. Mr.Paliwal Chairman NEDAC suggested further efforts be made by the NEDAC Secretariat to know the exact position of Sri Lanka after which Bangladesh offer will be considered/accepted.

Mr.Paliwal informed the EXCOM members that the NEDAC members' study tour to India in 2012 could not be implemented due to Golden Jubilee Year Celebration by NCDC in 2012 as well as for Hon'ble President's kind presence in NCDC for award giving to winners of cooperative societies and domestic study tour of NCDC staff members in India. He kindly offered to host the study tour in India in 2013. The exact month and duration may be decided later and NEDAC Secretariat would be advised accordingly.

In order to sort out the impasse over the study tour in 2013 whether in Sri Lanka or in Bangladesh, Mr.Paliwal asked Mr.Khan to take up the matter with the NEDAC

member in Sri Lanka for final decision. EXCOM authorized Mr.Paliwal to decide about the country of hosting the study tour (Sri Lanka or Bangladesh) in 2013.

15. Venue of the next General Assembly in 2013

Mr.Khan mentioned that as per NEDAC workplan, the next General Assembly should be held in Sri Lanka. As there is no response from Sri Lanka in this regard, the delegate from Bangladesh Dr.Mohammad Ali Khan Additional Secretary Rural Development and Cooperative Division, Ministry of LGRD and Cooperatives, Dhaka and 1st Vice Chairman NEDAC EXCOM offered to host the NEDAC General Assembly in Bangladesh in 2013 and the duration would be for 7 (seven) days i.e. arrival of participants on Saturday and departure on next Friday. NEDAC General Assembly in conjunction with the study tour as proposed by the delegate from Bangladesh was subject to clearance by government of Bangladesh will be considered by Chairman NEDAC after knowing the position of Sri Lanka from the NEDAC Secretariat. Mr.Paliawl asked NEDAC Secretariat to know the exact position of Sri Lanka whether they would be able to host the NEDAC G.A. in 2013. If not, the offer of Bangladesh would be gladly accepted by the Chairman NEDAC.

16. NEDAC Administrative matters :

(a) Annual Increase of Salary of W.I.Khan from January, 2013

Mr.Khan stated that though his salary was increased by 10% effective from January 2012, his income in Baht has gone down due to falling exchange rate of dollars in view of the appreciation of Thai Baht. When the salary was increased the exchange rate was 35 – 35.50 Baht per dollar. From the month of March, the exchange started going down to 30 – 30.50 Baht per dollars. The present rate is now below 30 Baht (29.50) per dollar and the rate may go down further. Moreover the present cost of living in Bangkok including inflation has gone up for which Mr.Khan's real income has gone down by about \$200 per month. So he requested the EXCOM to kindly consider his financial loss and requested 10 (ten) percent raise in his salary. After brief discussions of the problem being faced by Mr.Khan, the EXCOM favourably considered the case and increased Mr.Khan's salary by 10(ten) percent subject to maximum of USD 235 per month and thus raising his monthly salary to USD 2600 per month from present salary of USD 2365 per month. Salary increase has been due to increased cost of living in Bangkok and to compensate the loss of income due to falling exchange rate of US dollars and high rate of inflation. This salary increase to USD 2,600 per month effective from January 2013.

(b) Home Leave of W.I.Khan (6 – 20 January 2013)

Mr.Khan informed the EXCOM members that his home leave was due in 2011 but he did not avail it due NEDAC General Assembly in the Philippines in 2011. He wanted to take the leave from 25 December 2012 to 9 January 2013 subject to approval by the EXCOM. Due to postponement of NEDAC EXCOM from 3 – 7

December 2012 to 14 – 18 January 2013, Mr.Khan intends to take the leave from 6 – 20 February subject to approval by the EXCOM. EXCOM approved the home leave travel of Mr.Khan in 2013 as against his home leave cycle of 2011 – 2012. (once in two years).

(c) Any other points

Dr.Mohammad Ali Khan Additional Secretary, Rural Development and Cooperative Division, Ministry of LGRD and 1st Vice Chairman NEDAC suggested that the name of NEDAC should be changed to Int'l Association for Development of Agric. Cooperatives in Asia and the Pacific. The present name as Network for Development of Agricultural Cooperative does not give clear idea to explain the term "Network". If changed to Associations it will be more impressive with clear idea/understanding about an Association. Mr.Paliwal Chairman NEDAC suggested that this proposal should be placed in the next General Assembly for changing the title as suggested by Dr.Khan of Bangladesh

17. Vote of Thanks :

Dr.Emmanuel M. Santiagué, Chairman CDA and Co-Chairman NEDAC, on behalf of EXCOM members, NEDAC Secretariat and on his own expressed thanks and deep gratitude to Mr.C.B.Paliwal IAS Managing Director NCDC and Chairman NEDAC for hosting the study visit and NEDAC EXCOM meeting in a very befitting manner. He expressed special thanks for the generous hospitality and other courtesies extended to the EXCOM members during their stay in New Delhi. He also thanked the NCDC staff who helped EXCOM members in various ways especially in receiving the delegates at the airport and bring them to the NCUI Hostel. He thanked Mr.Paliwal for arranging City Tour in New Delhi. He also appreciated the presence of Dr.Choi, Regional Director, ICA Regional Office, New Delhi in the EXCOM meeting. In conclusion he stated that "May the Good Lord give us energy and power to manage and develop agricultural cooperatives in Asia and the Pacific".

Approved

Singed by



(C.B.Paliwal)
Chairman, NEDAC