



CICTAB International Conference

Unleashing Prosperity through Cooperatives: Digital Innovation and Value Chains

13–15 February 2025
at VAMNICOM, Pune

Introduction

The year 2025 has been designated by the United Nations as the International Year of Cooperatives, recognizing the significant role cooperatives play in fostering sustainable, inclusive, and equitable societies. This milestone presents an excellent opportunity to highlight the impact of cooperatives in driving digital innovation and strengthening value chains worldwide.

The Centre for International Cooperation and Training in Agricultural Banking (CICTAB), Pune, in collaboration with the Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India, is organizing an **International Conference on Unleashing Prosperity through Cooperatives: Digital Innovation and Value Chains** at **Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management (VAMNICOM), Pune**, from **13th to 15th February 2025**. The conference will bring together distinguished leaders, researchers, and practitioners from various countries to deliberate on transformative strategies for cooperative development through digital innovation and value chain integration.

A **three-day exhibition** is being organized alongside the conference, providing a platform for cooperatives, farmer producer organizations (FPOs), startups, and industry stakeholders to showcase their products, services, and technological innovations in cooperative businesses.

Objectives of the Exhibition

- To provide a marketplace for cooperatives, FPOs, and SHGs to exhibit their products and services.
- To showcase digital innovations and AI-driven solutions for cooperative value chain development.
- To facilitate knowledge-sharing between policymakers, cooperative leaders, and industry stakeholders.

- To promote startup incubation and entrepreneurship development within the cooperative sector.
- To foster collaborations between cooperatives and private enterprises for business diversification and sustainability.

Participating Organizations and Their Role

1. AMUL (Anand Milk Union Limited)

As India's largest dairy cooperative, AMUL will showcase its cooperative business model, digital innovations in dairy processing, and value chain advancements that have contributed to its success in India and abroad.

2. ACABC (Agri-Clinic and Agri-Business Centre), MANAGE, Hyderabad

ACABC, under the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), supports agripreneurs in establishing agri-clinics and agribusiness centers. Their participation will highlight innovative agribusiness models and cooperative-based service delivery.

3. AI Lab for Cooperative Innovation

The AI Lab for Cooperative Innovation will demonstrate artificial intelligence and digital tools that enhance cooperative decision-making, productivity, and efficiency in value chains. The exhibition will highlight AI-driven predictive analytics, automation in supply chains, and blockchain-based cooperative governance solutions.

4. ICAR-IVRI (Indian Veterinary Research Institute)

ICAR-IVRI will showcase veterinary research and technological advancements that support livestock-based cooperative enterprises, contributing to the dairy and poultry sectors.

5. Eco Factory Foundation

Eco Factory Foundation is focused on sustainable and eco-friendly product manufacturing. Their participation in the exhibition will feature innovations in green technologies, eco-friendly packaging, and sustainable cooperative business models.

6. Mahila Arthik Vikas Mahamandal (MAVIM)

MAVIM, Maharashtra's nodal agency for women's empowerment, will showcase products from SHGs formed under its economic development initiatives. The exhibition will highlight MAVIM's role in promoting financial independence and entrepreneurship among women in rural areas.

7. MTDC (Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation)

MTDC promotes tourism in Maharashtra by supporting rural and cultural tourism initiatives. Their participation will highlight cooperative-led tourism enterprises and eco-tourism projects that empower local communities.

8. NABARD-Supported SHGs and FPOs

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has been at the forefront of promoting Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs). At the exhibition, NABARD-supported SHGs and FPOs will display various agri-based and rural products, demonstrating how cooperative businesses empower small-scale farmers and rural entrepreneurs.

9. NAFED (National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd.)

NAFED plays a vital role in agricultural marketing and procurement. Their exhibition stall will focus on how cooperative marketing helps ensure fair pricing and supports farmers' incomes.

10. NCDC (National Cooperative Development Corporation)

NCDC will present various schemes and support systems available for cooperative businesses, demonstrating how financial assistance and capacity-building programs contribute to cooperative sustainability.

11. TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited) – TRIBES India

TRIFED will showcase tribal handicrafts, organic farm produce, and other value-added products made by tribal cooperatives across India. Their presence will highlight the role of cooperatives in strengthening indigenous and rural economies.

12. Venkateshwara Multi-State Cooperative Society, Nashik

Venkateshwara Multi-State Cooperative Society is engaged in various cooperative business ventures, including dairy and agro-processing. Their exhibition will showcase best practices in cooperative governance and value chain integration.

13. VAMNICOM Incubation Centre Startups and Entrepreneurs

The VAMNICOM Incubation Centre nurtures cooperative-based startups and entrepreneurs working in areas such as fintech, agritech, supply chain management, and rural e-commerce. Startups incubated at VAMNICOM will showcase their innovations and business models that are revolutionizing the cooperative sector.

Outcomes of the Exhibition

1. **Networking Opportunities** – Strengthened partnerships among cooperatives, startups, policymakers, and industry leaders.
2. **Market Linkages** – Enhanced exposure and new business opportunities for cooperative enterprises.
3. **Knowledge Exchange** – Sharing of best practices in cooperative governance, technology adoption, and digital innovation.
4. **Policy Recommendations** – Insights from discussions that can shape future cooperative development policies.
5. **Collaborations for Innovation** – New ventures and cooperative-led projects in agritech, fintech, and rural tourism.
6. **Empowerment of Cooperatives** – Greater access to financial resources, training, and capacity-building programs for cooperative stakeholders.