



CICTAB International Conference

Unleashing Prosperity through Cooperatives: Digital Innovation and Value Chains

13-15 February 2025

at VAMNICOM, Pune

Day 1: 13th February 2025 (Thursday)

Time	Session / Venue	Details
09:00-10:00	Registration & Networking (Jubilee Hall)	Delegates register and collect materials. Networking with light refreshments
10:00-11:00	Inaugural Session (Jubilee Hall)	<p>Chief Patron Dr. Ashish Kumar Bhutani, IAS Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India.</p> <p>Dr. Hema Yadav Director, CICTAB & VAMNICOM</p> <p>Chief Guest</p> <p>Guest of Honour Dr G. Narendra Kumar, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR, Hyderabad Shri Shaji K V Chairman, NABARD Dr. Bhimaraya Metri Director, IIM Nagpur Mrs. Samadani Kiriwadeniya Managing Director, SANASA International Sri Lanka</p>
11:00-11:30	Refreshments and Networking Break	

Time	Session / Venue	Details
11:30–13:00	<p>Plenary Session 1: Digital Innovations in Cooperatives</p> <p><i>The session addresses the critical need to modernize traditional cooperative structures through technological advancement and digital transformation.</i></p> <p><i>In the context of South Asia's rapidly digitalizing economy, cooperatives must embrace innovative technologies to enhance operational efficiency, improve market access, and provide better services to their members. This transformation is particularly relevant for India's extensive cooperative network, which plays a vital role in agriculture, dairy, credit, and rural development sectors, serving millions of small-scale producers and entrepreneurs.</i></p> <p><i>The international perspective on digital cooperative innovation is crucial as it provides frameworks for implementing successful digital strategies, from blockchain-based supply chains to mobile banking solutions, that can help cooperatives remain competitive and relevant in an increasingly interconnected global marketplace.</i></p>	<p>Chair Shri. Jaikish Chief General Manager & Principal, College of Agricultural Banking, Pune</p> <p>Speakers</p> <p>Shri Krishnan Pallassana Sr Specialist, Strategy and Partnerships, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), India</p> <p>Shri Badri Kumar Guragain, CEO, NCBL, Nepal</p> <p>Dr M S Powar Chief Marketing Officer, IFFCO, Pune</p> <p>Shri Vaibhav Deshpande State Head-MH, Common Service Centre</p> <p>Shri Guna Shukla, Director, PWC India, Patna</p> <p>Shri Ajit Bhale, Founder, Mettrav Systems, Pune</p> <p>Moderator Dr. B. Kishor HoC-IT, VAMNICOM, Pune</p> <p>Facilitator Ms. Ruchika Biswas Research Officer, VAMNICOM, Pune</p>
13:00–14:00	Lunch	

Time	Session / Venue	Details
14:00–15:30	<p>Case Study Showcase: Successful Cooperative Models</p> <p><i>The Case Study Showcase focuses on examining proven cooperative business models that have successfully navigated market challenges while maintaining their core cooperative principles and social mission.</i></p> <p><i>This session is particularly significant as it provides practical, evidence-based insights into how cooperatives can achieve financial sustainability while delivering value to their members through innovative organizational structures and governance models. Within the South Asian context, these case studies demonstrate how cooperatives can effectively compete with private enterprises while addressing unique regional challenges such as smallholder integration, rural development, and inclusive growth.</i></p> <p><i>The international cooperative movement can benefit from these shared experiences, as they highlight scalable solutions for common challenges such as member engagement, capital formation, and sustainable business practices in diverse economic environments.</i></p>	<p>Chair Shri Satish Marathe Director, Reserve Bank of India</p> <p>Speakers Dr. Shambu Prasad Professor, IRMA Shri Ajit Kanitkar Policy Analyst and Researcher Shri Washington Mogire Deputy Secretary Cooperatives and SMEs Kenya</p> <p>Representatives from GCMMF, NCDC, NAFED, Mulkanoor, SEWA, ICAR-CIFE, Venkateshwara Multistate Cooperative Presentations from SAARC Members</p> <p>Moderator Dr. S. Dharmaraj Faculty Member, VAMNICOM</p> <p>Facilitator Ms. Smita Kadam Research Officer, CICTAB, Pune Ms. Priyanka Daphal Research Officer, VAMNICOM, Pune</p>
15:30–16:00	Refreshments and Networking Break	

Time	Session / Venue	Details
16:00– 17:30	<p data-bbox="272 352 1122 426">Plenary Session 2: Challenges and Opportunities in Value Chains</p> <p data-bbox="272 474 1122 548"><i>The session examines critical aspects of integrating cooperatives into modern agricultural and commodity value chains.</i></p> <p data-bbox="272 596 1122 863"><i>This session addresses the fundamental need for cooperatives to strengthen their position in both domestic and international markets by identifying and overcoming key barriers in procurement, processing, logistics, and market access. In the South Asian context, where fragmented landholdings and complex distribution networks pose unique challenges, understanding value chain dynamics becomes crucial for cooperative success and farmer prosperity.</i></p> <p data-bbox="272 911 1122 1094"><i>The international perspective on cooperative value chains offers valuable insights into how organizations can leverage collective strength to capture greater value, implement quality standards, and establish sustainable partnerships across the supply chain while ensuring fair returns to primary producers.</i></p>	<p data-bbox="1141 352 1484 464">Chair Dr. Alok Kumar Singh Faculty Member, IIM, Nagpur</p> <p data-bbox="1141 499 1484 695">Speakers Shri Srinivas Sajja Managing Director, National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India Limited, Anand Smt. Sayali Mahadik fair-trade Network of Asia Pacific Producers (FT-NAPP) Dr. Ritesh Kumar Senior Project Manager- Institution Building, JEEViKA Shri. Himanshu Rattan, Partner and Head – Food, Agri and Allied Services, Government and Public Services (G&PS), KPMG India Services LLP Shri Azhar Tambuwala Executive Director, Sahyadri Farms Dr. Hema Yadav Director, CICTAB & VAMNICOM Mr. Harris B. Wennie Director of Program & Project Cooperative Development Agency, Liberia</p> <p data-bbox="1141 1472 1484 1577">Moderator Dr. Mahesh Kadam Faculty Member, VAMNICOM</p> <p data-bbox="1141 1577 1484 1808">Facilitator Mr. Vaibhav Bodke Research Officer, CICTAB, Pune Ms. Priyanka Daphal Research Officer, VAMNICOM, Pune</p>
19:00– 21:00	Cultural Evening	

Day 2: 14th February 2025 (Friday)

Time	Session	Details
09:00 – 13:00	<p>Plenary Session 3: Sustainability in Cooperatives</p> <p><i>The Session examines how cooperatives can build resilient and environmentally responsible supply chains while maintaining economic viability.</i></p> <p><i>This topic is particularly relevant as global markets increasingly demand sustainable practices, traceability, and ethical sourcing throughout the entire value chain process. In South Asia, where cooperatives often operate in environmentally sensitive sectors like agriculture, fisheries, and forestry, implementing sustainable practices while ensuring economic returns presents both challenges and opportunities for cooperative growth.</i></p> <p><i>The international discourse on sustainable value chains provides essential frameworks for cooperatives to integrate environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and economic prosperity, helping them meet global sustainability standards while maintaining their competitive advantage in both domestic and international markets.</i></p>	<p>Chair Dr. P. Chandra Shekara Director General, Centre on Integrated Rural Development in Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), Dhaka, Bangladesh</p> <p>Speakers Shri Unupom Kausik Managing Director, National Cooperative Export Ltd., New Delhi Dr. Amar KJR Nayak Professor of Strategic Management & Principal Investigator, Sustainable Ecological Systems, XIM-B Dr. Amit Kumar Dwivedi Professor and Director Department of Government Projects, Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India [EDII], Gandhinagar Shri. Amol Bhongale Programme Manager, SWaCH Pune Seva Sahakari Sanstha Ltd Dr. Prasun Kumar Das Secretary General, APRACA, Bangkok, Thailand Shri Christudas Karayil Victor CEO, ESAF Swasraya Multi State Agro Cooperative Society Shri Ashwin Save Co-Founder , BIOFUEL CIRCLE, Pune</p> <p>Moderator Dr. Amit Borkar Faculty Member, VAMNICOM</p> <p>Facilitator Mr. Devanna Rathod Academic Associate, VAMNICOM, , Pune</p>
13:00– 14:00	Lunch	Lunch at VAMNICOM dining area.

Time	Session	Details
14:00–16:00	<p>Plenary Session 4: Unleashing Prosperity through Cooperatives</p> <p><i>The Session explores how cooperative enterprises can serve as powerful vehicles for economic development and social transformation in contemporary economies.</i></p> <p><i>This session is particularly timely as it addresses how cooperatives can harness modern tools and strategies to create sustainable wealth for their members while maintaining their democratic and inclusive character. In the South Asian context, where cooperatives have historically been crucial for poverty alleviation and rural development, understanding new pathways to prosperity becomes essential for cooperative evolution and relevance in a rapidly changing economic landscape.</i></p> <p><i>The international perspective brings valuable insights into how cooperatives worldwide are innovating their business models, embracing digital transformation, and creating meaningful economic opportunities for their members while contributing to broader community development and social progress.</i></p>	<p>Chair Prof. Partha Ray Director, NIBM, Pune</p> <p>Speakers Dr. Rakesh Arrawatia MD and CEO, IRMA ISEED Foundation Shri Rishikesh Kashyap Managing Director, Bihar Rajya Matsyajivi Sahakari Sangh, COFFED Shri Binod Anand Executive President, World Cooperative Economic Framework Ms. Nasilele Muwana Provincial Youth Development Coordinator, Ministry of Youth, Sports and Arts Zambia Dr. Manjusha Kadam Director - Fundraising and Partnerships SSP India (Swayam Shikshan Prayog), India Smt. Medha Purao Samant Founder, Annapurna Pariwar, Pune, India Shri Vinod Raut Chief - Operations and Strategy Global Synergizers, Pune Shri Rajendra Jog, Country Director, Syngenta Foundation India</p> <p>Moderator Smt. V.M. Bhagawati Faculty Member, VAMNICOM</p> <p>Facilitator Ms. Tanuja Phad Research Officer, VAMNICOM, , Pune</p>
16:00–17:30	Exhibition Visit and Networking	Participants explore exhibition stalls showcasing cooperative products, services, and digital solutions.
19:00–21:00	Networking Reception	Informal networking with dinner

Day 3: 15th February 2025 (Saturday)

Time	Session	Details
10:00– 13:00	Study Visit to Cooperatives	Aga Khan Palace Pune District Central Cooperative Bank, Pune
13:00– 14:00	Lunch	
14:00– 15:00	Plenary Session 5: Global Cooperation : key takeaways and actionable insights	<i>Chair</i> Prof. V.B. Khanapuri Dean SRIC, IIM, Mumbai <i>Speakers</i> Participants <i>Moderator</i> Shri Mohit Dave Management Consultant, Mumbai
15:00– 15:30	Valedictory Ceremony	Award of Certificates <i>Chief Guest</i> Shri Murlidhar Mohol, Hon'ble Minister of State for Cooperation and Civil Aviation, Government of India <i>Guests of Honour</i> Shri Siddharth Jain, IAS Joint Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India Dr. Umakant Dash Director, Institute of Rural Management Anand <i>Closing Remarks</i> Dr. Hema Yadav Director, VAMNICOM & CICTAB

Day 4: 16th February 2025 (Sunday)

Departure of all Delegates and Check-out from VAMNICOM, Pune for onward journeys

* * *