



राष्ट्रीय सहकारी विकास निगम

**National Cooperative Development Corporation
(Plan & Coordination Division)**

Recommendations of the National Workshop on Strengthening Women Cooperatives held at New Delhi on 07.03.2017 to 08.03.2017.

In accordance with the advice of General Council, NCDC, "National Workshop on Strengthening Women Cooperatives" was conducted jointly by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) from 07.03.2017 to 08.03.2017 at NCUI Auditorium Complex, New Delhi. The workshop was attended by eminent women co-operators and over 190 members of women cooperatives representing most of the States/Union Territories in the country.

2. The workshop began with a welcome address by the Managing Director, NCDC and lighting of the lamp. MD, NCDC, while extending a warm welcome to the gathering, expressed hope that the workshop would prove to be effective in enlightening the participants about NCDC's schemes for availing financial assistance for their economic development and NCUI programmes for capacity building. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, President, NCUI. Ms. Jaya Arunachalam, President Working Women's Forum, Ms. Mirai Chatterjee, Chairperson, Sewa Cooperative Federation and a few delegates addressed the participants and expressed their expectations from the workshop. Presentations were made on activities and programmes of NCDC & NCUI. Thereafter, the participants representing cooperatives involved in activities ranging from Handloom, Handicrafts, Consumer, Fisheries, Dairy, Poultry and other services were segregated in 10 groups based on sectors. These groups, with NCDC officials including its Regional Directors as co-ordinators explained the nitty-gritty, procedures and guidelines of various

schemes of NCDC and moderated the discussions. The major outcomes of the workshop were summed up and presented before the participants. President, General Council, NCDC and Hon'ble Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare delivered the valedictory address on 08.03.2017 and expressed satisfaction on the outcome of the workshop. The key outcomes and major recommendations that emerged from the discussions in the workshop are as follows:-

- i) Most of the cooperatives attending the workshop indicated need for financial assistance for creation of infrastructure and margin money/ working capital for expanding their business operations. The procedure for availing assistance and requirements of fulfilling the norms of NCDC funding was explained in detail. The concerned Regional Directors will follow up with the cooperatives requiring financial assistance and provide them all support towards preparation of proposals and ensuring timely flow of funds.
- ii) The major issue affecting the growth of women cooperative societies is quality control, standardisation and marketing of their product and services. It was found that most of the products of handloom and handicrafts needed to be tweaked to suit the requirement of the urban/overseas customers, as, at present some are of obsolete design and quality. It was decided that :
 - ✓ NCDC will facilitate the process of involving National Institute for Design (NID) and National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT) for seeking expert advice and, wherever required, training would be imparted to women cooperatives involved in handloom and handicrafts.
 - ✓ Women cooperatives after attaining the required level of improvement in design and quality may tie-up for online marketing with companies like Amazon, Flipkart, Jabong, Myntra and NGOs like Dastkar etc.
 - ✓ A link to the product and services of women cooperatives who are assisted by NCDC could be given on the website of NCDC which is being improved/ recast.

