

# **Celebration of International Day of Cooperatives (IDC) 2020 by NCDC**

**Talk on “Cooperatives for Climate Action” by  
Shri C.K. Mishra,  
Former Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of  
Environment, Forests and Climate Change**



NCDC celebrated International Day of Cooperatives (IDC) on 3 July 2020. Shri C.K. Mishra, Former Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MOEF&CC), Government of India was the chief guest on the occasion. He addressed the senior management and regional directorates of NCDC on the theme **“Cooperatives for Climate Action”**.

2. Shri Sundeep Kumar Nayak, MD, NCDC welcomed Shri Mishra. He also welcomed Shri N. Satyanarayana, Chief Executive, National Cooperative Union of India, the team from International Cooperative Alliance-Asia Pacific (ICA-AP) and members of cooperative societies viewing the live streaming via NCDC’s official youtube channel **‘Sahakar Cooptube NCDC India’**.

3. Shri Mishra he spoke on the current issue of COVID-19 pandemic and the challenging times ahead. He said that climate change is for real as is evident in the increased visible changes like floods, drought, temperature etc. and pointed out that three things required for tackling climate change are resources, technology and people’s movement like cooperatives. There have been no significant achievements in the resource commitment and technology transfer, and now the onus is on people’s movement like cooperatives to tackle the issue of climate change. Every country has to face the challenge of climate change differently in its own way and India has to decide its own set of priorities. Hon’ble PM of India considers the climate change issue among the top priorities and encourages global negotiations as well as local action.

5. Shri Mishra stated that India’s per capita carbon emission is among the lowest in the world; however this could be a challenge, as India is a developing economy and future developments may lead to increase in carbon’s emission. The focus should be on the parallel exercises to reduce and mitigate the adverse effects of increase in carbon emissions which

can be ideally done in two ways – the use of green technologies and by having a sense of responsibility at the local level-people's group or cooperatives in current context. Giving example of how the carbon emissions by a power plant can be counter balanced by creating a carbon sink (plantation of trees) by cooperatives, the paramount role of cooperatives was highlighted by him.

6. Speaking about India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), Shri Mishra said, India has committed to tackle climate change by 2030 by reducing 30-35% of our GDP's carbon emission, shifting of 40% of power generation to renewables and creating 2.5 to 3 billion metric tonnes new carbon sink. These all corresponds to local rural lifestyle and cooperative structure is what that can sustain the lifestyle and simultaneous development. Quoting Mahatma Gandhi-"The nature has enough for everyone's need, but not enough for everyone's greed", Shri Mishra said that this quote needs to be woven in people's mindset; India being a unique country should learn from global experiences but should do what is locally required and relevant.

7. The essence of Cooperative movement is that it is interwoven with being environment friendly/ecologically conscious. The main connect of cooperative movement in India with climate change is that it is an essential tool for poverty alleviation. Poverty impacts climate adversely as it creates adverse pressure on natural resources, which gets reduced if income levels are increased. Thus, cooperatives can contribute by reduction in poverty which will lead to saving of ecology. Citing the 1992 Rio's declaration, which focuses on poverty reduction by group of people (cooperative movement), the rich mega-biodiversity of India, was highlighted where cooperatives can play an important role.

8. Talking about the Sustainable Development Goals, Shri Mishra stressed that climate action is involved in each of the goals and just not limiting to cleaning of air or water, thinking on larger scale is required. Organic farming, recycling, sustainable development are some of the ways and these are best done by cooperatives. Sustainable development, which was defined as-*take only as much as required and give back to nature*, must go hand-in-hand with sustainable consumption. Climate action requires change in lifestyle and if lifestyle has to be changed then cooperatives are best medium for it. The cooperative can work as bridge to forge partnership between industry and government, at the same time cooperatives need directional guidance at administrative and intellectual levels.

9. Shri Mishra concluded the talk by congratulating the audience on International day of Cooperatives by acknowledging the symbiotic relationship between climate change and Cooperatives.

10. Thereafter, prizes were handed over to meritorious officers and employees of NCDC for their presentation and analysis on potential impact of Covid-19 on Indian economy.

P.S.: The talk can viewed on Youtube by clicking on the following link:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_t41Uq9mqk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_t41Uq9mqk)





**Chief guest Sh. C.K. Mishra, Former Secretary, MOEF&CC, GoI**





