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NEDAC General Assembly, 2016
11 - 15 July, 2016
Himalaya Hotel, Lalitpur, Kathmandu Nepal

SECTION-01

INTRODUCTION

NEDAC General Assembly 2016 was held on July 13, 2016 at Himalaya Hotel, Lalitpur, Nepal. The General Assembly preceded by workshop on herbal medicinal plants, honey and cold water fisheries on July 12 and followed by field visit to two cooperatives on July 14, 2016 was hosted by National Cooperative Development Board (NCDB) with support of three other NEDAC members in Nepal (National Cooperative Federation NCF, National Cooperative Bank Ltd NCBL and Nepal Agriculture Cooperative Central Federation Ltd NACCFL). The General Assembly session was Chaired by Mrs. Vasudha Mishra, IAS, MD NCDC and Chairperson NEDAC and Co-Chaired by Mr. Orlando R. Ravanera Chairman CDA and Co-Chairman NEDAC.

MAJOR OBJECTIVES

The major objectives, among others, were :

- (i) To review the NEDAC activities undertaken during the period May, 2014 to June, 2016 and examine/approve the NEDAC financial report (income and expenditure) for the year 2014 to June 2016.
- (ii) To formulate/approve NEDAC workplan/activities during the next two years i.e. 2017 and 2018.
- (iii) To suggest measures for increased membership of NEDAC (Membership Drive) during 2017 and 2018
- (iv) To elect office bearers of NEDAC Executive Committee (EXCOM) for the next term 2017 and 2018.

ATTENDANCE

The General Assembly was attended by 18 delegates and 7 participants as observer from 18 NEDAC member organizations in 7 countries (Bangladesh, China, India, Iran, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Philippines). The meeting was also attended by the Regional Director, ICA-AP and Program Director, ICA-AP, New Delhi, India. (The list of delegates/participants is at Annex I.

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INAUGURAL/OPENING SESSION

The opening session was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Right Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. K.P. Oli. The session was addressed by the Special Guest Deputy Prime Minister/Minister for Cooperative and Poverty Alleviation Mr. Chitra Bahadur K.C. Mr. Shankar Prasad Adhikari, Secretary Ministry of Cooperative and Poverty Alleviation, Mr. Keshab Prasad Badal Chairman NCF and Mr. D.P. Baskota former Chairman NCF delivered their address in the opening session. Mr. Balasubramanian (Balu) Iyer, Regional Director, ICA-ROAP, New Delhi, India gave the ICA statement. Mrs. Vasudha Mishra IAS, MD NCDC and Chairperson NEDAC delivered Introductory Remarks at the opening session (Summary of the address/speech of Ministers/Senior officials will be prepared and attached in the meeting report later).

SECTION-02

Minutes/Resolutions of NEDAC General Assembly Session

(1) **Approval/Adoption of the Tentative Program Agenda and Time Table of NEDAC General Assembly**

Mr. W.I. Khan with the permission of the Chair briefly stated the Tentative Program including the field visit to two cooperative societies. The program was unanimously adopted without any change. Program Agenda Time table is attached at Annex II.

(2) **Welcome to new Member of NEDAC**

Chairperson NEDAC informed the General Assembly that Central Union of Rural Agricultural Cooperative of Iran (CURACI) has joined NEDAC in March 2016. Mrs. Mishra on behalf of NEDAC members/Secretariat and on her own extended hearty welcome to the new member. NEDAC members present in the meeting welcomed the new member. Mrs. Mishra also informed the meeting that Nutriwealth Multipurpose Cooperative in Philippines already joined NEDAC in January 2016. In 2016, NEDAC has got two new members in NEDAC family.

The delegate from CURACI Mr. Moosavi S.Y. Foreign Commerce Manager expressed thanks to Chairperson and NEDAC members present in the meeting for welcoming CURACI to NEDAC family and assured his support and collaboration to NEDAC in general and to NEDAC Secretariat in particular in implementation of NEDAC activities.

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(3) NEDAC Activities from May 2014 to June 2016

Mr. Khan stated the major activities undertaken during each year of the above period.

2014 The major activities in 2014 were :

Processing for approval of the meeting report, printing and circulation of the report on NEDAC General Assembly held in Bangladesh in April 2014. The other activity was on making final arrangement for training of NEDAC cooperative personnel in NCUI, India from 17 - 22 November 2014. NCUI provided the training without charging any fee or cost. There were 38 participants in the training from Sri Lanka, Nepal and India.

2015

(a) NEDAC Members' study tour/visit to Sri Lanka

As a mark of observance of Silver Jubilee of NEDAC in 2015, a NEDAC members' study tour hosted by the Department of Cooperative Development, Sri Lanka was organized. The duration of the study tour was 8 days (May 10 - 17, 2015) and the participants visited cooperatives in the field of agriculture (crop/agro processing), livestock, agric. marketing/credit, women cooperatives in income generating activities. 37 NEDAC cooperative officials from 7 NEDAC member organization (NCF, NCBL, NCDC, NCUI, NAFSCOB, Milk Vita and FISHCOPFED) attended the study tour.

(b) Membership Drive

Correspondences were made with three cooperative organizations for joining NEDAC. Nutriwealth Multipurpose Cooperative in Philippines which is a producer of herbal medicines joined NEDAC in December, 2015.

2016 (January - June)

(a) NEDAC Executive Committee (EXCOM) Meeting, 2016

Arrangements were made with Cooperative Development Authority - CDA and Federation of Peoples' Sustainable Development Cooperative - FPSDC in Philippines for hosting/holding the NEDAC EXCOM meeting in Cagayan De Oro City, Philippines from January 19 - 23, 2016 including visit to seven cooperative organizations.

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(b) Arrangements for hosting NEDAC Workshop and General Assembly in July 2016

Decision was made by NCDB (the main host) to hold the meeting, in Kathmandu from 11 - 15 July, 2016.

(c) Making travel arrangements of delegates/participants for attending NEDAC Workshop and General Assembly

NEDAC Secretariat made necessary arrangements for purchase of air tickets by delegates and prepared payment vouchers for reimbursement of the cost of air tickets to the delegate.

(d) 22 Members' Study tour to Thailand from Nepal Agricultural Cooperative Central Federation Ltd (NACCFL)

NEDAC made arrangements with Cooperative Promotion Department (CPD) for 7 days (12 - 18 June, 2016) study tour to Thailand by 22 officials from NACCFL, Nepal.

Income earning Activity by NEDAC Secretariat in 2015 and 2016

NEDAC earned \$4500 in 2015 by providing logistic support and services to FAO office in Bangkok. In 2016 upto June, 2016, NEDAC has earned \$7134 by providing services to FAO officer in Bangkok. It is expected that NEDAC will earn about \$12000 for its services to FAO, Bangkok during August - October, 2016.

Routine Activities

Routine Activities of NEDAC were mainly correspondences with NEDAC members for payment of membership fee, circulation of technical papers on agricultural cooperative development and useful data/information to NEDAC members.

(4) NEDAC Financial Report (Income and Expenditure Statement) for the year 2014, 2015 and 2016 (June)

The financial report/income-expenditure statements for 2014, 2015 and 2016 (June) along with the Bank Account statements countersigned by the Bank authority were circulated in the meeting.

Mr. Khan informed the General Assembly that NEDAC funds are maintained in two currencies - one in US dollars and the other one in Thai Baht. Funds received as membership fee are maintained in US dollar account and funds withdrawn from US dollars account and changed to Baht to meet the local cost such as Salary of NEDAC Secretary, purchase of office stationeries. payment of utilities, telephone/fax charges, cost of air tickets etc are maintained in Thai Baht account.

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Mr. Khan briefly stated how the statements of income and disbursements were prepared.

Mr.Khan informed the General Assembly that at the beginning of the year 2014, the opening balance was \$37,195.52 in US\$ A/C and 47,679.79 in Baht A/C. The closing balance in December, 2014 was \$32,076.03 in US A/C and Baht 10, 407.04 in Baht A/C. The opening balance and closing balance in each year in US dollar A/C and Baht A/C in 2015 and 2016 (June) are shown below :

<u>Year</u>	<u>Name of A/C</u>	<u>Opening balance</u>	<u>Closing balance</u>
2015	US dollar A/C	32,076.03	44,182.61
	Baht A/C	10,407.04	106,882.23
2016	US dollar A/C	44,182.61	67,249.07 (June)
	Baht A/C	206,882.23	90,316.00 (June)

(5) Membership Drive by NEDAC Members

Referring to the membership drive by NEDAC Secretariat to enroll new members to NEDAC, it was suggested to establish a subcommittee on membership drive. The Chairperson NEDAC stated that it should be the regular members in each country to approach the concerned cooperative organizations in the country and pursue, so they become interested to join NEDAC. Cooperatives involved in agriculture, fishery, livestock, forestry, agro processing, agric. marketing/credit activities and institution on education/training and research on cooperatives should be approached for joining NEDAC. NEDAC Secretariat was asked to send Application Form for NEDAC membership to NEDAC members.

Mr. B.K. Mishra Managing Director FISHCOPFED informed the meeting that he would try to enroll 2 members from fisheries sector. He further stated that efforts should be made in such a way that 4 - 5 members can be enlisted each year to NEDAC family.

Chairperson NEDAC informed the meeting that MOA, India discontinued NEDAC membership from 2015 and she would approach MOA to rejoin NEDAC.

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(6) Extension of Assignment of NEDAC Secretariat Staff

Mr. W.I. Khan informed the General Assembly that the present assignment of NEDAC Secretariat staff will expire in December, 2016.

Chairperson NEDAC decided that this matter should be taken up by the new EXCOM.

(7) NEDAC Workplan/Activities for 2017 and 2018

A draft NEDAC workplan/activities for 2017 and 2018 was circulated in the meeting for consideration. The two important activities included in the workplan were study tour of NEDAC members in India and training of NEDAC cooperative personnel in India and Thailand. About the study tour in India hosted by NCDC, Mrs. Mishra confirmed NCDC's agreement to host the study tour. She suggested that NEDAC members should indicate their choice/preference to see specific cooperatives in India. She suggested that the NEDAC members should inform the NEDAC Secretariat their choice/preference concerning what kind of cooperative they would like to visit.

About training in India by IFFCO, it was stated by the delegate of IFFCO that the training of NEDAC cooperative personnel will be confirmed later after obtaining clearance/approval from the competent authority of IFFCO. NEDAC Secretariat will discuss with CPD (Cooperative Promotion Department, MOA) Bangkok about their willingness to offer training in Thailand to NEDAC cooperative personnel. The duration of the training and cost involved if any should also be ascertained by the NEDAC Secretariat in consultation with CPD.

With regard to workplan/activities of NEDAC in 2017 and 2018, the Regional Director ICA-AP stressed that sustainable development should be one of major objective of NEDAC with focus on reduction/eradication of hunger and rural poverty.

After brief discussion, the draft workplan for 2017 and 2018 was adopted unanimously. (Annex III).

(8) Venue and Host of the next NEDAC General Assembly, 2018

The delegate from Department of Rural Cooperative Economy, MOA, China informed that the next NEDAC General Assembly in 2018 will be hosted by the Department of Rural Cooperative Economy, MOA, China. The venue will be decided later. NEDAC Secretariat was asked to follow up the matter with the concerned department and authority in China about the venue and dates of the meeting.

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(9) Venue and Host of NEDAC Executive Committee Meeting (EXCOM) in 2017

CURACI offered to host the NEDAC EXCOM in 2017. Mr. Moosavi informed the meeting that CURACI would be happy to host the NEDAC EXCOM in 2017 subject to approval by the Managing Director CURACI. NEDAC Secretariat was asked to follow up the matter with Mr. Moosavi S.Y. and then inform the NEDAC members accordingly.

(10) Revision of NEDAC Constitution especially the composition of NEDAC Executive Committee (EXCOM) and Eligibility of NEDAC Members to contest election for position in EXCOM

Mr. W.I. Khan informed the General Assembly that as per NEDAC Constitution the NEDAC EXCOM should be comprised of Chairman (1), Vice Chairman (1) and Members (3). Mr. Khan stated that this Constitution is old and it needs revision. Mr. Khan further stated that every time when there is election of NEDAC EXCOM office bearers, the composition is changed by voice votes. At present the EXCOM is comprised of Chairperson (1), Co-Chairman (1), Vice Chairman (2) and Members (5) one member each from China, Sri Lanka and Thailand and 2 members from India as India has 7 members of NEDAC. Mr. Khan requested the General Assembly that composition of EXCOM should be finalized before election and according to the approved composition, the office bearers should be elected/selected.

A Sub-Committee comprising the delegates from CDA/FPSDC/Nutriwealth Cooperative, Philippines, Chief Executive NCUI Mr. N. Satyanarayana and Managing Director FISHCOPFED Mr. B.K. Mishra was set up by the Chairperson NEDAC for doing the necessary revision of the NEDAC constitution. Mr. Orlando R. Ravanera Chairman CDA and Co-chair NEDAC EXCOM will be the Head/Chief of the Sub-Committee and he was authorized to co-opt any other person/member in the subcommittee.

The Chairperson NEDAC suggested that the Sub-Committee should consider all the suggestions on revision of constitution concerning the composition. Mr. Ravanera as head of the Sub-Committee will seek opinion of NEDAC members in this regard. The first draft of the revised constitution will be circulated in 3 weeks' time to NEDAC members for comments or their views. The final version of the revised constitution will be completed in 3 months' time after the first draft constitution circulated to members in early August, 2016. The revised constitution after incorporating the suggestions/opinion or views of NEDAC members would be available in final form in November 2016.

(11) NEDAC General Assembly Session 2016 Postponed to January 2017

Mr. Ravanera requested the members present in the meeting to express their opinion through votes to have election immediately or to do so after the revision of constitution. Majority members present voted to revise the constitution first. Therefore the General Assembly (G.A.) decided to postpone further continuation of General Assembly session and decided to hold the General Assembly session after the new Constitution is ready for adoption. It was decided that NEDAC would organize the G.A. in Bangkok tentatively in January, 2017.

Approved by

(Vasudha Mishra, IAS)
Managing Director NCDC
& Chairperson, NEDAC

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Annex I

NEDAC General Assembly
Venue : Himalaya Hotel, Kathmandu, Nepal
11 - 15 July, 2016

List of Delegates/Participants

Bangladesh

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Annex II

NEDAC GENERAL ASSEMBLY PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Wednesday 13 July, 2016

09:30 - 11:00 hrs.

- (i) Approval/Adoption of the Tentative Programme, Agenda and time table of the NEDAC General Assembly : W.I.Khan
- (ii) Welcome to new Member Central Union of Rural Agricultural Cooperative of Iran (CURACI) by Mrs.Vasudha Mishra Chairperson
- (iii) Introduction of delegates/participants by Mr.W.I.Khan
- (iv) Report on NEDAC Activities 2014 to 2016 and NEDAC Financial Report (Income and Expenditure Statement) and additional income earned by NEDAC Secretariat by W.I.Khan
- (v) NEDAC Secretariat Matters - Extension of Assignment of NEDAC Secretariat Staff - W.I.Khan
- (vi) Brain storming on NEDAC Workplan/Activities for 2017 and 2018 Mr.WI.Khan to open discussions

11:00 – 11:30 hrs.

Tea Break

11:30 – 12:30 hrs.

- (i) Discussions/Adoption of the NEDAC Workplan/Activities prepared in consultation with a group of experts comprising Mr.D.N.Thakur, NCDC Mr.Orlando R.Ravanera CDA / Dr.Daman Prakash Mr.Prasanna Kumar Koirala NCDB / Mr.Bijaya Raj Ghimire NCDB Discussions opened by W.I.Khan

12:30 - 13:30 hrs.

Lunch Break

13:30 – 14:30 hrs.

- (i) Venue of next NEDAC General Assembly in 2018 - Chairperson NEDAC / W.I.Khan
- (ii) Confirmation of offer to host NEDAC G.A. in 2018 by Dept. of Rural Co-op Economy, MOA, China
- (iii) Venue and Host of NEDAC Executive Committee (EXCOM) Meeting in 2017 by W.I.Khan

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- (iv) Revision of NEDAC Constitution - especially composition of NEDAC EXCOM by W.I.Khan
 - (v) Election of NEDAC New Executive Committee (EXCOM) - for 2017 and 2018 Chairman, Co-Chairman, Vice Chairman(2) and Members (number of members will be decided by NEDAC G.A. before election)

14:30 – 15:00 hrs.

Tea break

15:00 – 16:30 hrs.

NEDAC New Executive Committee (EXCOM) Meeting

Opening Remarks by newly elected NEDAC Chair and Co-Chair

NEDAC Membership fee and Remittance cost by W.I.Khan

Exemption of payment of NEDAC membership fee for 2014/2015 - Discussions in the light of decisions taken by EXCOM in its Meeting in Philippines on January 22, 2016

NEDAC Secretariat matters concerning salary of staff by W.I.Khan

Focal point in countries with more than one member and information concerning change in Senior Management and Telephone/Email address and fax numbers

NEDAC Sub Office to collect/compile useful data/information and commodity information/prices for putting in NEDAC Website and Liaison with IFFCO or any other NEDAC Member in India concerning training of Co-op Personnel in India

Thanks to Host Organizations - by NEDAC Chair

NEDAC WORKPLAN/ACTIVITIES FOR 2017 and 2018

US\$

	ACTIVITIES	BUDGET
1	Continuation of NEDAC Secretariat	98,700
2	Collection/Compilation of useful data/information, major co-op policies/regulations of co-op/agric. co-op development in NEDAC member countries, publication of success stories on agric./fishery/livestock and other related fields/activities of co-ops for circulation to NEDAC members through NEDAC Website based in NCDC, New Delhi	-
3	Strengthening/Capacity building of agric./fishery/livestock and other cooperatives of NEDAC member organization (Improved Professionalism for better management and governance of Co-ops) : a) Training of cooperative personnel in India (Training Institutes of NCDC, IFFCO and/or Thailand, Philippines for 7 – 10 days training at minimal or no cost. Travel cost to be borne by participating organization. b) Study tour/visit of NEDAC members to other cooperatives in India, China (during NEDAC G.A. time), Thailand subject to approval by the host organization coordinated by NEDAC Secretariat (promote the practice now being followed by NACCFL/FISHCOPFED)	-
4	(a) To bring out a publication on profile/major activities of NEDAC member organizations for circulation to FAO, ICA and other interested organization/person. (b) Promote co-op to co-op (inter-cooperative) exchange and sharing of information on agric. co-op development activities especially marketable products/commodities, major food crops, fish/fish products, livestock and Dairy products etc their prices and demand in NEDAC member countries.	1,500
5	Organize NEDAC Executive Committee Meeting in 2017 (Host and venue to be decided later by the NEDAC Secretariat) CURACI agreed to host subject to approval by the Managing Director of CURACI	12,000
6	Membership Drive by Regular Members for enlisting new members of NEDAC especially in countries where the present membership is low (1 or 2 members only) and NEDAC Secretariat to follow up with regular members concerning the outcome of their efforts on membership drive. Monthly report to be sent to Chairman NEDAC with copy to NEDAC Secretariat about enrolling new members	-

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7	NEDAC with assistance of regular members in one country to provide services to NEDAC member organizations in another country for study visit/tour like the one done for NACCFL, Nepal for study visit to Thailand in June 2016.	-
8	Organize NEDAC Chairperson and Co Chairman's visit to FAO Bangkok for meeting with FAO Senior Management concerning FAO's support to NEDAC for training of co-op personnel on food security, reduction of post harvest losses and promote food safety and standard.	2,800
9	Organize next General Assembly in China in 2018 in consultation with the host organization (Department of Co-operative Economy, MOA, China	16,000
10	Provide/Assist Member organization to get the benefit of Consultancy/Expert services on agric. co-op matters/training or any other co-op expert services provided the member organization would bear the cost of travel and board/lodging etc of the Consultant.	-
	Sub Total	131,000
11	Income - Earning by providing NEDAC Secretariat services to FAO Bangkok or any other organizations like FAO/UN Projects and thus earn additional income for NEDAC (In 2015 and 2016 NEDAC Secretariat earning through LOA with FAO Bangkok would be over \$20,000) Similar amount \$16000 each year may be projected for earning in 2017 and 2018	-32,000
	Net Budget	99,000*