

General Assembly Session Executive Committee Meeting November 15 - 16, 2018 India



**Network for Development of
Agricultural Cooperatives in
Asia and the Pacific**

**RECORD OF
PROCEEDINGS**

Network for the Development of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia and the Pacific (NEDAC)

General Assembly Session

November 15 - 16, 2018
NASC Complex, DPS Marg, Pusa, New Delhi, India

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Introduction

NEDAC General Assembly Session was held at National Academy of Agriculture Sciences, NASC Complex, DPS Marg, Pusa, New Delhi, India from November 15 – 16, 2018. The General Assembly Session was hosted by NCDC, New Delhi, India.

Major objectives of this meeting of General Assembly were:

- (i) To review the status of revision of the NEDAC Constitution and adopt/approve the revised Constitution.
- (ii) To elect office bearers of NEDAC Executive Committee (EXCOM) for the next term January 2019 to December 2020.
- (iii) To review the NEDAC Activities during August 2016 to October 2018 and also to approve the NEDAC financial report (Income and Expenditure) for 2016 – October 2018.
- (iv) To formulate and adopt the NEDAC workplan/ program for 2019 – 2020.
- (v) To discuss about NEDAC resources mobilization through membership drive by increasing the NEDAC members.
- (vi) To share experience and exchange information on agricultural Cooperative development in NEDAC member countries and also to share best practices for development of agricultural Cooperatives in countries of region.

Attendance

The General Assembly was attended by 19 member-delegates from 19 member organizations in 6 countries (1 each from China, Philippines and Thailand, 12 from India, 2 from Nepal and 2 from Sri Lanka). The General Assembly was also attended by FAO Representative in India representing FAO-ROAP. The inaugural session of General Assembly was attended by Regional Director ICA, New Delhi, India and representative of ILO India. List of attendance of the General Assembly is at Annex I.

The General Assembly was attended by 5 additional participants from member organizations in India, Philippines and Thailand & senior officers of NCDC.

Inaugural/ Opening Session

The opening session was inaugurated on November 15, 2018 by Mr. Parshottam Rupala, Honorable Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Panchayati Raj, Federal Government of India. Shri Sanjay Agarwal, IAS, Permanent Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare in the Federal Government of India met the delegates at the inaugural venue. Before start of the programme, all the dignitaries on the dais lighted the lamp for auspicious beginning followed by recital of 'Vande Mataram', the national song of India. The Minister in his inaugural address highlighted the importance of cooperatives and government of efforts of India for doubling farmers' income by 2022. He also mentioned about uniqueness of NEDAC in aiming to synergize the policies/programmes of governments and the work programmes of cooperatives at field level. Complete text of the speech of Honorable Minister is at Annex II.

Welcome Address by Mr.Sundeep Kumar Nayak, MD, NCDC and Chairman NEDAC

Mr. Sundeep Kumar Nayak, MD, NCDC and Chairman NEDAC extended hearty welcome to Chief Guest, delegates of NEDAC members by addressing each of them personally and other participants. He expressed deep gratitude to the respected chief Guest and appreciated the participation of delegates to the NEDAC meeting. He also thanked representatives of FAO India, ILO and ICA-ROAP for attending the NEDAC meeting.

Specially acknowledging the stewarding role by Mr. Radha Mohan Singh, Honorable Minister of Agriculture in the Federal Government of India, Mr. Nayak thanked him for his direction in hosting the event by NCDC. Mr. Nayak also placed on the record the deep gratitude to Mr. Sanjay Agarwal, IAS, Permanent Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare in the Federal Government of India for according due importance to the international event, heading the Apex Committee formed for the successful conduct of the meeting, offering his suggestions for new sessions in the schedule and overall supervision of the prestigious event.

Mr. Nayak mentioned that cooperatives can play a significant role on economic development in rural areas. One of major objective would be capacity building of agricultural and allied cooperatives, cooperative to cooperative trade and exchange of information on demand, prices of agricultural commodities for promoting marketing/trade in the region. He emphasized the need for training of cooperative personnel and study visits to gain field experience on agricultural cooperative development.

Vote of thanks by Mr. Orlando R. Ravanera, Chairman CDA, Philippines and Co-Chairman, NEDAC

Mr. Orlando R Ravanera, Co-Chairman, NEDAC extended vote of thanks in the inaugural session of the NEDAC General Assembly. Mr. Ravanera also highlighted the challenges of climate change being faced by countries in the world and appropriate response to address them through concerted efforts by cooperatives in the region through NEDAC. He also offered to approach international organizations for working towards goals of environment, social and governance and need for protecting mother earth by relevant projects through NEDAC.

NEDAC General Assembly

On November 15, 2018

Agenda item 1801: Introductory Remarks and Introduction of Delegates

Mr. Sundeep Kumar Nayak, MD NCDC and Chairman, NEDAC in his introductory remarks stated that it is of utmost importance for revitalization of NEDAC so that NEDAC members play a greater role in development of agricultural and allied cooperatives through high productivity technology in agriculture and allied fields complete value chains so the farmers would benefit through increased income. On the suggestion of MD NCDC and Chairman NEDAC, all delegates introduced themselves highlighting major areas of activities/specialties of the organizations they represented.

Agenda item 1802: Adoption of the tentative agenda and time table

The general assembly adopted the well-in-advance-circulated tentative agenda and time-table of the session held at New Delhi during November 15-16, 2018 at New Delhi hosted by NCDC, India. Approved Time Table is at Annex.

Agenda item 1803: NEDAC Activity Report from August 2016 to October 2018

NEDAC Activity Report after the previous assembly held in Nepal in July, 2016 from August 2016 to October 2018 year was briefly stated by Mr. W. I. Khan, Program Adviser, NEDAC. He mentioned that there was no physical activity like study visits, meeting or workshops during the period. Most of the activities included correspondence with NEDAC members on NEDAC study tour in India, revision of NEDAC Constitution, membership drive to enroll new members of NEDAC and follow up with NEDAC members for payment of NEDAC membership fee each year.

Mr. Khan mentioned NEDAC Extended General Assembly Session was scheduled in January 2017 to review the progress of revision of NEDAC Constitution, to elect new Executive Committee (EXCOM) of NEDAC. The meeting was rescheduled in November 28, 2017. On the basis of suggestion of NCDC, the meeting was postponed to 2018.

Continuing the report, Mr. Khan stated the study tour of NEDAC members in India was finalized in consultation with NEDAC members and the final list was submitted to NCDC for implementation of the study tour. NCDC suggested that the study tour will be considered after the revision of NEDAC Constitution and election of new Executive Committee (EXCOM) of NEDAC. So the study tour in India was not undertaken in 2017. The routine activity of sending Invoices to members for payment of membership fee was undertaken and 18 members paid the membership fee for 2017.

Mr Khan clarified, in order to replenish NEDAC fund, with approval of Co-Chairman, NEDAC Secretariat undertook an activity of providing administrative support services to FAO Bangkok in organizing a meeting in Bangkok and assist FAO in organizing meeting or recruiting consultant under FAO's guidance. For doing such kind of activity NEDAC entered into agreement with FAO Bangkok, called Letter of Agreement (LOA). By doing this kind work NEDAC earned US\$ 9000 in 2017. NEDAC also signed 2 other LOAs for implementation in 2018 for which NEDAC is expected to earn US\$ 14,100 in 2018.

Major activity of NEDAC in 2018 was to seek agreement of NEDAC member willing to host NEDAC General Assembly in 2018. Correspondences were made with NEDAC member in China and Iran. Unfortunately both organizations expressed their inability to host NEDAC General Assembly in 2018.

Having failed to find a NEDAC member willing to host NEDAC General Assembly in 2018, NEDAC Secretariat approached MD NCDC and Chairman NEDAC for agreement to host the session. NEDAC expressed gratitude to MD NCDC and Chairman NEDAC for his kind agreement to host the session on November 15 – 16, 2018 at New Delhi, India. Letters/ emails were sent to all NEDAC members announcing the dates of the meeting in New Delhi, India. Through correspondence, confirmation of NEDAC members for attending the meeting in New Delhi was obtained. Agenda and Time- Table for the meeting were prepared for kind approval of Chairman NEDAC. After obtaining approval, the agenda was circulated to all members. Another activity included arranging air tickets of some of the eligible members to travel to New Delhi and back.

A routine activity was sending Invoices several times to NEDAC members for payment of NEDAC membership fee. 2 members each in Philippines and Nepal & 1 member in Bangladesh did not pay the membership fee for 2018 for which they could not attend the NEDAC meeting in New Delhi, India.

New Members of NEDAC

NEDAC General Assembly took special note of efforts by MD NCDC and Chairman NEDAC for his strong support and leadership in enrolling new members. NEDAC got 5 (five) new members in India and one in Sri Lanka namely NAFED, India; Mulkanoor Bank, India; AP Markfed, India; Telangana Markfed, India and Gujarat State Cooperative Markfed (GUJCOMASOL), India and Cooperative Youth Empowerment Society Limited, Sri Lanka. All the new members were represented in the meeting and welcomed by the NEDAC.

Adoption and Approval of Activity report and administrative and financial expenses

NEDAC General Assembly discussed at length the activity report and administrative and financial expenses. After discussion, NEDAC general assembly adopted and approved the activity report for the period August 2016 to October, 2018 and administrative and financial expenditure of network for the period as proposed in the relevant agenda. It was felt that in the light of paucity of resources there was a need to cut down on expenses.

Agenda item 1804: Time limit for payment of NEDAC membership fee

Mr. Khan stated that to meet the monthly recurring expenses (salary of NEDAC Secretariat staff, office rent, electricity etc), NEDAC needs US\$ 4100. To meet this expenditure, NEDAC would need membership fee (US\$ 2500) from 2 members on a monthly basis. Membership fee from 5 members can meet the monthly recurring expenditure of NEDAC for 3 months. The membership fee received in 2018 shows that there is a gap of 3-4 months when there was no payment of NEDAC membership fee. Therefore there is urgent need to fix a time limit within which the annual membership fee should be cleared/ paid in full. After discussion, it was decided that the membership fees shall follow the calendar year pattern. Members must pay their annual membership fees ideally by 31st December, but in no case later than 31st March of the succeeding year in which case, special request mentioning the

circumstances of delay in payment of membership fee shall be made to the Chairman who may decide the matter on its merits to grant delayed payment, but not later than 31st March.

Agenda item 1805: Cost of Remittance of Membership Fee

Mr. Khan informed the meeting that NEDAC members while sending membership fee through Bank transfer pay the bank charge/commission from the membership fee. Bank charge/commission for bank transfer of the membership fee ranges between 50 - 25 US dollars. It was decided in the General Assembly that Bank charge/commission while sending the membership fee to NEDAC should be paid separately by the members (sender). If there is any bank charge at receiving end (Bangkok), this should not be paid by the sender. So the sender should pay the bank charge while sending the money to NEDAC A/C through bank transfer. If there is any charge at Bangkok, this charge should be met by NEDAC as bank charge for receiving the fund. Bank charges at the sender end should be paid by sender over and above the membership / admission fee.

Agenda item 1806: Eligibility to receive cost of air ticket from NEDAC and voting rights of members

NEDAC members, who have not paid the membership fee for the current year, will not be entitled to receive the cost of air ticket from NEDAC. The cost of air ticket should be only the actual cost of air ticket, not any other charge such as visa fee, travel insurance or accident coverage during travel. The members who have not paid or cleared the current year's membership fee are not eligible to seek position in the Executive Committee and they do not have voting rights in the election of EXCOM office-bearers. This would be applicable from 2019 onwards.

Agenda item 1807: Resources/Expenses of NEDAC

The funding/resource of NEDAC is the membership fee only. At present the fund requirement to meet the yearly recurring expenditure is US\$ 49000, annual membership fee of 20 members. So in order to perform any activity like training, or a seminar/workshop, there is need for additional fund. The additional fund may be raised through donation/grants by NEDAC members, willing to contribute. Other option could be to stop payment of cost of air ticket for NEDAC members or to raise annual membership fee or to have membership drive to enroll more members so there will be additional resources/fund. After discussion, it was decided that membership drive would be the best option for increasing resources of NEDAC.

Agenda item 1808: Membership Drive

Membership Drive is the best option to increase resources of NEDAC. Therefore it was decided that regular NEDAC members should approach willing and solvent co-op society/organization to enroll as new members of NEDAC. It was also decided that old NEDAC members who stopped payment of NEDAC membership fee may be approached again to join NEDAC. In addition, it was decided scope of new members from other countries in the region is also to be explored.

Agenda item 1809: NEDAC earning by working with FAO Bangkok

NEDAC entered into two agreements with FAO Bangkok for which NEDAC will earn US\$ 14100 in late 2018 or early part of 2019. NEDAC General Assembly took note of and approved the revenue stream of entering into Letters of Agreement with FAO Bangkok. However, it was recommended that instead of word “Commission”, the words “service charge” be used wherever the revenue earned through Letters of Agreement issued by FAO Bangkok is mentioned hereinafter. In future, prior approval of the Chairman shall be taken before entering into any agreement by NEDAC or on behalf of NEDAC.

Agenda item 1810: NEDAC Revised Constitution

The revised constitution of NEDAC was presented by committee headed by Mr. Orlando R. Ravanera, Co-Chairman, NEDAC. After discussion, the revised constitution was approved unanimously by the General Assembly with the slight modification in respect of the composition of the NEDAC Executive Committee. The approved new Constitution can be seen in the Annex of this report on proceedings. The composition of NEDAC Executive Committee as approved and adopted by the NEDAC General Assembly was as follows:

Chairman	1
Co-Chairman	1
Vice-Chairmen	2
Members	11

The countries having more than 1 member will have representation in EXCOM on the basis of 3:1 i.e. for 3 NEDAC members in a country, there would be 1 (one) member in the EXCOM. As India presently has 13 members, there will be 4 members in the EXCOM. All other countries will have atleast 1 member in the EXCOM. Therefore, the number of members in the EXCOM as decided in the meeting was as follows: 4 members from India, 1 member from each of other countries i.e. Bangladesh, China, Iran, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Philippines and Thailand - 7 members, total of 11 members.

Agenda item 1811: NEDAC New Executive Committee (EXCOM)

NEDAC General Assembly observed there should be harmony and consensus in decision making. Therefore the General Assembly unanimously decided, instead of election, the office bearers of new Executive Committee of NEDAC as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 1. Chairman | Mr. Sundeep Kumar Nayak, MD, NCDC, India |
| 2. Co-Chairman | Mr.Orlando R. Ravanera, Chairman, CDA, Philippines |
| 3. Vice Chairman-I | Mr. K.B. Upreti, MD NCBL, Nepal |
| 4. Vice Chairman-II | Mr. M. S. Mohamed Riyas, Chairman, Youth Empowerment Cooperative Society Ltd., Sri Lanka |
| 5. Members (11) | Mr. N. Satyanarayana, Chief Executive, NCUI, India
Mr.Tarun Bhargava, Dy. General Manager, IFFCO, India
Mr. Bhima Subrahmanyam, MD, NAFSCOB, India
Mr. Bimal Kumar Mishra, MD, FISHCOPFED, India |

One member from each country

Bangladesh	Rural Development & Cooperative Division
China	Department of Rural Co-op Economy
Iran	Central Union of Rural Agricultural Co-op of Iran
Nepal	Mr. Dakshya Poudel, Co-Chairman, NCDB
Philippines	Nutriwealth Multi-Purpose Cooperative
Sri Lanka	Department of Cooperative Development
Thailand	Cooperative Promotion Department

It was further decided MD NAFED would be a special invitee in the Executive Committee. It was decided that a Sub Office of NEDAC Secretariat, Bangkok would be made functional in NCDC, New Delhi. NEDAC Secretariat should get in touch with member organizations for nominations of persons to represent in the EXCOM, wherever it is required.

Members and other delegates present in the meeting congratulated the newly elected EXCOM for the years 2019 and 2020.

On November 16, 2018

After election as per the New Constitution adopted by NEDAC members in the meeting of General Assembly held on November 15, 2018 at New Delhi India, the new office bearers held the first meeting of EXCOM on November 16, 2018 at New Delhi, India. Following decisions were taken in the meeting:

Agenda item 1812 and Agenda item 1813: NEDAC workplan 2019 and 2020 - Discussion and Adoption of workplan for 2019 and 2020

Discussions were held on workplan for implementation in 2019 and 2020. A draft workplan prepared by NEDAC Secretariat was circulated with permission of Chairman NEDAC to all NEDAC members. The major activities as adopted after discussion in the meeting were:

1. NEDAC Secretariat cost to be reduced and Program Adviser would be in paid position upto end March 2019. After March, 2019 Programme Adviser may continue in honorary capacity without any salary subject to specific approval by the Chairman about the tenure of such arrangement.
2. Secretary in NEDAC Secretariat would continue and her monthly salary be revised from present US\$ 770 to US\$ 1000 payable in Thai Baht @32,500 per month from January 2019 to December, 2020.
3. NEDAC EXCOM to meet atleast once every 6 months and have two meetings every year. Travel costs of the members of EXCOM for EXCOM meetings shall be on self-financing basis.
4. Continuing the previous tradition, NEDAC General Assembly to be held once every two years.
5. Mr. Sundeep Kumar Nayak, new Chairman, NEDAC shared his vision for NEDAC for the years 2019 & 2020. After discussion, Goal Orientation in Eight Broad Thematic Areas (BTAs) was decided to be as follows:

- (i) Strategic Communication and NEDAC website
 - (ii) Capacity development/ training
 - (iii) Experiential Learning and Study Visits
 - (iv) Ideas to Action through exchange programmes
 - (v) Sustainable Development and response of Cooperatives to Climate Change
 - (vi) Complete Value Chain and Cooperative to Cooperative (C2C) trade platform
 - (vii) International Cooperative Trade Fairs platform
 - (viii) Advocacy and policy dialogues
6. Chairman then proposed each BTA to be actualized by forming a Sub-Committee of members. After deliberations, EXCOM formed following Sub-Committees:
- I. **Sub-Committee on Strategic Communication and NEDAC website:** NCUI, India to be head with CPD Thailand, both members from Sri Lanka, CDA Philippines and NCDC, India to be members. NCDC India to bear the cost of hardware and software needed for the website. Web address should not convey location in any particular country.
- II. **Sub-committee on Capacity development/ training:** Cooperative Youth Empowerment Society Limited, Sri Lanka to head, with members being NCDC India (LINAC, Gurugram), DCD Sri Lanka, NCUI India, CURACI, Iran and CPD Thailand.
- III. **Sub-committee on Experiential Learning and Study Visits:** NCBL, Nepal to head with members being NAFSCOB India, Mulkanoor India, CPD Thailand and CDA Philippines.
- IV. **Sub-committee on Ideas to Action through exchange programmes:** Composition to be decided in the next EXCOM
- V. **Sub-Committee on Sustainable Development and response of Cooperatives to Climate Change:** CDA, Philippines to head with members being FISHCOPFED India, DCD Sri Lanka and CURACI Iran.
- VI. **Sub-Committee on Complete Value Chain and Cooperative to Cooperative (C2C) trade platform:** NCDC, India to head with members being FAO-ROAP through FAO Representative in India, China, Thailand, Philippines, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Iran, NAFED, NCUI, HAFED, GUJCOMASOL and AP Markfed.
- VII. **Sub-Committee on International Cooperative Trade Fairs platform:** NCDC, India to head with members being FAO-ROAP through FAO Representative in India, China, Thailand, Philippines, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Iran, NAFED, NCUI, HAFED, GUJCOMASOL and AP Markfed.
- VIII. **Sub-Committee on Advocacy and policy dialogues:** Composition to be decided in the next EXCOM
7. It was decided activities of all the sub- committees of NEDAC including travel, if any, shall be on self-financing basis.

8. The workplan adopted in the meeting is as follows:

NEDAC WORKPLAN FOR 2019 - 2020

	ACTIVITIES	BUDGET (US\$)
1	Continuation of NEDAC Secretariat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Program Adviser upto March, 2019 (US\$ 2850*3 = 8550) - Secretary will continue @ salary US\$ 1000 per month to be paid in Thai Baht i.e. Thai Baht 32,500 per month from January 2019 to December, 2020 (US\$ 1000*12 months*2 years = US\$ 24000) - Monthly administrative expenses as per the estimate in agenda notes @ US\$ 483 per month*12 months*2 years = US\$ 11592 or say US\$ 11600 	44,150
2	Collection of useful information/data on co-op development in NEDAC member countries.	-
3	Capacity building/strengthening of agricultural, fishery, livestock and other allied cooperatives : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Training of cooperative personnel in India (NCUI / NCDC to provide training at no cost to the participants) There should be management fee 10% for NEDAC Secretariat as service charge for the training. Travel cost to be met by participants – board/lodging etc by host organization (NCUI / NCDC) b) Study visit/Study tour of NEDAC members. Promote exchange visit to NEDAC member countries through bilateral arrangement. NEDAC Secretariat to levy service charge. 	2,000
4	Cost of NEDAC Chairman's visits	3,000
5	Promote Cooperative to Cooperative (i.e. inter country cooperative) exchange and sharing of information on agricultural co-op development activities especially marketable products/commodities, major crops, fishery products, livestock and dairy etc, their prices and demand in NEDAC member countries for to promote marketing/trade in the region. NCDC officer will chair sub-committee with member from China, Thailand.	-
6	NEDAC Executive Committee Meeting once in 6 months – 2 in a year. First EXCOM visit will be Bangkok in February, 2019 2 nd EXCOM visit will be in Marawi, Mindanao in Philippines in or before December 2019	-
7	Membership Drive by Regular Members for enrolling new members of NEDAC especially in countries where the present membership is only 1 or 2. NEDAC Secretariat and Sub Office New Delhi will follow up the matter with regular NEDAC member in the concerned country and enlist support in membership drive from all concerned.	-
8	Organize next General Assembly in 2020 in China (NCDC will consult with NEDAC member in China. NCDC will write to China for this meeting	To be decided later
	Total (Estimated expenses for two years)	49,150

Agenda item 1814: Presentation on Best Practices

China, India (NCDC), Sri Lanka and Thailand gave a brief description of the best practices. It was in most cases stated that providing credit facilities and training are very important in the development efforts for the agricultural cooperatives.

Agenda item 1815: Information on Changes in the Senior Management of NEDAC Member Organization

Mr. Khan informed the meeting about his problems and difficulties in communicating with the correct/concerned person in some NEDAC organizations. He also informed that he continued to send emails or letters to the persons who had already been transferred elsewhere. Also there were problems in the correct email or fax address of some organization. This unawareness about change/transfer of persons in the organization or change in email/fax address put NEDAC in difficult position to correspond with the correct person in those organizations in which there has been change in senior positions. It was therefore decided that NEDAC members in the concerned country should keep NEDAC fully informed about any change in the senior position or any change in email/fax address. Correspondence be made by NEDAC Secretariat to member delegate in each organization with a copy to any other person as decided by the concerned organization to have continuity in the contact. NEDAC Secretariat Sub Office New Delhi would also proactively contact members on a regular basis to update list.

Agenda item 1816: Information on cooperatives new Policies/Regulations

Mr. Khan stated that one of the major objectives of NEDAC is to share experience/exchange information on cooperative policies/regulations or any other related matters on cooperative development amongst the NEDAC member. There may be new policies or regulations on cooperative management which NEDAC would like to circulate to NEDAC members through NEDAC Website. It would therefore be very useful/ appropriate if such information/policies/regulations on cooperative matters are circulated through NEDAC Website. Information on market prices of agricultural commodities should also be circulated through Website for promoting marketing/trade in NEDAC member countries.

Agenda item 1817: Any other item / subject raised by NEDAC members

It was decided that EXCOM members may go for a WhatsApp group for better coordination. Chairman volunteered to be the Group Admin of the proposed WhatsApp group.

Agenda item 1818: Venue of next NEDAC General Assembly and EXCOM

- (i) China expressed willingness to host the NEDAC General Assembly in 2020. Delegate from China informed the meeting that NCDC will write to the Ministry concerned in China for their approval of hosting the meeting in China in 2020. Exact venue and date of the meeting of General Assembly 2020 will be decided later, based on the information received from member in China.
- (ii) Venue of the 2nd Executive Committee Meeting to be Bangkok, Thailand in February, 2019. NEDAC Secretariat, Bangkok to make necessary arrangements

for holding the meeting. During the meeting EXCOM members may interact with FAO-ROAP.

- (iii) The 3rd EXCOM meeting to be held as a special meeting in Marawi, Mindanao, Philippines in December, 2019 and will be hosted by CDA, Philippines.

Agenda item 1819: Expression of thanks to the host and closing of General Assembly

Mr. Orlando R. Ravanera on behalf of all NEDAC members expressed thanks and gratitude to MD NCDC for hosting the meeting. Mr. Ravanera also thanked Chairman NEDAC for his support to NEDAC and all facilities provided to NEDAC delegates for their board/lodging at NASC Complex, Pusa, New Delhi, India. Chairman NEDAC expressed special thanks to all delegates/participants and FAO Representative in India for participation in the meeting. Chairman NEDAC also thanked the NCDC officials/staff who provided support services from behind the scene.

Closing ceremony of General Assembly

Chairman NEDAC expressed thanks and gratitude to the Chief Guest Mr. Dileep Sanghani, Former Cooperation and Finance Minister, Gujarat and former Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha and to special Guest Mr. B. Pradhan, IAS Additional Secretary and Financial Adviser to the Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare for addressing and closing the meeting. FAO Representative in India representing FAO-ROAP thanked the organizers for very purposeful meetings and stated that he would bring the proceedings to the notice of FAO-ROAP.

NEDAC

Annex I

List of member delegates/ NEDAC Secretariat/ other participants (In alphabetical order of name of country)

Serial Number	Country	Name of the delegate	Designation	Member organisation
1	China	Ms. Xiao He	Deputy Division Director	Department of Rural Co-op Economy
2	India	Mr. Sundeep Kumar Nayak	Managing Director	NCDC
3	India	Mr. Bhima Subrahmanyam	Managing Director	NAFSCOB
4	India	Mr. Bimal Kumar Mishra	Managing Director	FISHCOPFED
5	India	Mr. N Satyanarayana	Chief Executive	NCUI
6	India	Mr. Brijendra Singh	Managing Director	HAFED
7	India	Mr. Tarun Bhargava	Deputy General Manager	IFFCO
8	India	Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Chadha	Managing Director	NAFED
9	India	Mr. A Achyta Reddy	Officer	Mulkanoor Bank
10	India	Mr. K Ramulu	General Manager	Telangana Marked
11	India	Mr. A Siva Koti Prasad	Additional RCS/ General Manager	Andhra Pradesh Markfed
12	India	Mr. S S Maiti	Deputy General Manager	TRIFED
13	India	Mr. Dileep Sanghani	Chairman	Gujarat State Markfed
14	Nepal	Mr. Krishna Bahadur Upreti	Managing Director	NCBL
15	Nepal	Mr. Dakshya Poudel	Co-Chairman	NCDB
16	Philippines	Mr. Orlando R Ravanera	Chairman	CDA
17	Sri Lanka	Mr. G G Dayasumana	Assistant Commissioner	DCD
18	Sri Lanka	Mr. M S Mohamed Riyas	Chairman	Cooperative Youth Empowerment Society Ltd.
19	Thailand	Mr. Panuwat Na Nakornpanom	Executive Adviser	CPD
Invitee Members				
20	FAO	Mr. Tomio Shichiri	Country Director	FAO India
21	ICA- ROAP	Mr. Balasubramanian (Balu) Iyer	Regional Director	ICA- ROAP, New Delhi
22	ILO	Ms. Anjana Chellani	National Project Manager	ILO India
NEDAC Secretariat				
23	NEDAC Secretariat	Mr. W I Khan	Programme Adviser	NEDAC, Bangkok
24	NEDAC Secretariat	Ms. Chanyaphak Rakpanyakaew	Secretary	NEDAC, Bangkok
Other participants				
25	Philippines	Mr. Benjie S. Oliva	Administrator	CDA
26	Thailand	Ms. Chanlong Yimsuan	Director	CPD
27	Thailand	Ms. Thapton Chanta	Technical Officer	CPD
28	India	Dr. K N Sinha	Executive Director	NCUI
29	India	Mr. Ritesh Dey	Director	NCUI
30	India	Mr. D N Thakur	Deputy Managing Director	NCDC
31	India	Mr. Sudhir Kumar Sharma	Financial Adviser	NCDC

Annex II

General Assembly Session of Network for Development of Agriculture Cooperatives in Asia and the Pacific (NEDAC) on 15th & 16th November, 2018 at NASC Conference Complex, ICAR, New Delhi

Text of speech by Mr. Parshottam Rupala, Honorable Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers welfare and Panchayati Raj, Federal Government of India at inaugural ceremony of NEDAC General Assembly

Mr. Sundeep Kumar Nayak, Managing Director, NCDC and current chairman of NEDAC, Mr. Orlando R. Ravanera, Chairman CDA, Philippines and Co-Chairman of NEDAC, Hon'ble Members of NEDAC, Distinguished guests, Delegates from the member countries, senior cooperative leaders and dignitaries, members of the Press, my colleagues, ladies and gentlemen.

2. I am delighted to be with you today on the occasion of General Assembly of Network for Development of Agriculture Cooperatives in Asia and the Pacific being held here in New Delhi for next two days.

3. I am given to understand that NEDAC is an unique organization encompassing mix of Government and non Government organizations created by FAO for synergizing policies & programmes of government and cooperative institutions at country level as well as for better technical competence/priorities of efforts of Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), International Labour Organisation (ILO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) for sustainable agricultural/rural development and poverty alleviation through agricultural cooperatives and support food security and livelihood of small & marginal farmers'. NEDAC has now 22 members from various sectors representing agriculture, fishery, livestock, agro-processing/storage and agri-credit/banking.

4. Agriculture remains main stay of Indian economy. Agriculture and allied sectors have a crucial role in ensuring food security, reducing poverty and sustaining growth in India. To improve productivity in agriculture, the government has been focusing on critical inputs like irrigation, seeds, fertilisers and mechanisation. The dynamics of agricultural growth reflects reduction in the share of crop, sector, and increase in share of agricultural sub-sectors. As agriculture entails risk related to production, weather, prices, policy, capitalising the structural changes in the agriculture by diversifying income generating activity can mitigate the risk and sustain growth of economy.

5. The livelihood of a large number of farm families is linked to agriculture, which in turn, is dominated by small and small farmers, who suffer serious disadvantage in terms of scale of operations. Small farms size discourages many farmers to go for diversification to fruits and vegetables due to price risk and uneconomic lot for marketing. Small sized farmers are also disadvantaged in terms of bargaining power in various transactions in the input and output markets. These handicaps can be overcome by organising farmers under institutional mechanism like Cooperatives and farm producers' organizations. Yet, cooperatives have exhibited better form of success stories to enhance production and better returns to produce from market through collective action.

6. Realising the need to enhance the farmers income to address agrarian distress and promote farmers welfare, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India has embarked on a Mission for Doubling Farmers' Income by 2022. Cooperatives being effective

institutions touching all spheres of economic activities, specially in agriculture and rural development, have a special role to play in fulfilling the Hon'ble Prime Ministers vision. Here, I would like to mention that the Government of India is determined and has substantive plans in this regard, which are:

- i. Improvement in productivity,
- ii. Resource use efficiency or saving in cost of production,
- iii. Increase in cropping intensity,
- iv. Diversification towards high value crops,
- v. The sources outside agriculture include: shifting cultivators from farm to non-farm occupations.
- vi. Improvement in terms of trade for farmers or real prices received by farmers.

7. To supplement the efforts of Government in enhancing the farm income and to ensure food security and livelihood of small & marginal farmers as also to attract investments to agriculture sector, the government has taken initiative to address the following issues:

- a) Policy and Governance Reforms
- b) Agriculture Trade Policy and Export Promotion; Market Structure and Marketing Efficiency
- c) Value Chain and Supply Chain Management
- d) Science and Technology and Start-ups in Agriculture
- e) Sustainable and Equitable Development and Efficient Delivery of Services
- f) Capital Investment and Institutional Credit for farmers
- g) Promotion of Livestock, Dairy, Poultry and Fisheries as Engines of Growth

8. National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), which is currently the Chairman of NEDAC, is an apex developmental financial institution engaged exclusively for the cooperative sector has embarked on an ambitious initiative "Sahakar-22" for helping double farmers income as a part of this initiative, NCDC would deepen focus on 222 districts, promote Information Technology enabled Primary Agriculture Credit Cooperative Societies (PACS) and other cooperatives as resource centres and build necessary infrastructure. It will also bring East and North-East cooperatives under focus 2022, help in creating center of excellence to market through cooperatives and for capacity building. I am glad to know that NCDC is also focussing on development of aspirational districts identified by NITI Ayog through cooperatives.

9. I hope the member countries will share their success stories and suggest ways and means for accomplishing the goals of NEDAC in promoting agriculture and rural development. On behalf of the Federal Government of India, I reiterate our support to NEDAC.

I wish the General Assembly a grand success.

Thank you

General Assembly Session of NEDAC		
Venue: Conference Venue, 2nd Floor, NAAS Complex, Pusa		
Thursday, November 15, 2018		
Time	Activity	Location
9:00 AM	Registration	Counter
	Opening Ceremony of General Assembly	
	Lighting of lamp by Chief Guest Shri Parshottam K Rupala, Hon'ble Federal Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Distinguished Guest Shri Sanjay Agarwal, IAS, Secretary, Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Government of India and other dignitaries on the dais	
	Vande Mataram song	
9:30 AM to 11:15 AM	Welcome address by Shri Sundeep Kumar Nayak IAS, Managing Director NCDC and Chairman, NEDAC	Venue- Plenary Hall
	Statement by ICA-ROAP	
	Address by Shri Sanjay Agarwal, IAS, Secretary, Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Government of India	
	Address by Chief Guest Shri Parshottam K Rupala, Hon'ble Federal Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	
	Vote of thanks by Mr.Orlando R.Ravanera, Chairman CDA, Philippines and Co-Chairman, NEDAC	
	Group Photo	
11:15 AM	Tea / Coffee / Snacks	Lobby
	Introductory Remarks and Introduction of Delegates	
	Adoption of the Tentative Agenda and Time-table of the NEDAC General Assembly Session- By Dr BK Mishra, MD FISHCOPFED	
	Major objectives of the General Assembly Session- By Dr BK Mishra, MD FISHCOPFED	
11:30 AM to 1:00 PM	Report on NEDAC Activities (Aug 2016 to Oct 2018) and NEDAC Finances (Income and Expenditure Statement 2016 / 2017and 2018 upto Oct, 2018)	Venue Member Only Hall
	Time limit for payment of NEDAC membership fee each year. Cost of remittance of the membership fee. Eligibility to receive cost of airtickets from NEDAC and voting rights of members. Resources/Expenses of NEDAC. Membership Drive. NEDAC - Earnings by working with FAO, Bangkok	
1 -2:00 PM	Lunch at VIP Lounge, International Guest House	

General Assembly Session of NEDAC		
Venue: Conference Venue, 2nd Floor, NAAS Complex, Pusa		
Thursday, November 15, 2018		
Time	Activity	Location
2:00 PM to 2:45 PM	NEDAC Revised Constitution (Salient Features/highlights) by Mr. Orlando R. Ravanera, Chairman CDA, Philippines/ Co-Chairman NEDAC and Chairman Sub Committee for Revision of NEDAC Constitution Question and Answers concerning Revised Constitution of NEDAC Further clarifications, if any by Mr. Orlando R. Ravanera Adoption / Approval of the Revised Constitution by the General Assembly	Venue Member Only Hall
2:45 PM to 3:45 PM	Composition of NEDAC Executive Committee (EXCOM) Chairman, Vice Chairman and members and election procedure - by Mr. Orlando R. Ravanera Pre election statements if any by the candidates for Chairman and other positions Election of NEDAC EXCOM Chairman, Vice Chairman and Members Remarks by the new Chairman and any other officials of new EXCOM	Venue Member Only Hall
3:45 PM	Tea / Coffee / Snacks	Lobby
4-6:30 PM	Field Visits	
6:30 PM>	Cultural programme & Dinner at NCDC Head Qtr	

Technical Session- General Assembly of NEDAC		
Venue: Conference Venue, 2nd Floor, NAAS Complex, Pusa		
Thursday, November 15, 2018		
Time	Activity	Location
11:30 AM to 1:00 PM	<p>Thematic Session</p> <p>Cooperatives and Sustainable Development Goals</p> <p>Presentation by Shri Vikram Singh Gaur, IFtS, Advisor, NITI AAYOG Dr. B. Rath, Tech Expert, National Rainfed Areas Authority Moderators Ms Deepa Srivastava, Chief Director, NCDC Shri Ashwini Kumar, Director, LINAC</p>	Venue-Conference Hall
1 -2:00 PM	Lunch at VIP Lounge, International Guest House	
2:30 PM to 4:00 PM	<p>Thematic Session</p> <p>Cooperatives to Cooperatives Trade</p> <p>Presentation by Amb. Anil Trigunayat, Advisor, NCDC Shri Sunil Kr Singh, Addl MD, NAFED Moderators Lt Col Bikramjit Singh, Chief Director, LINAC-NCDC Shri Ashwini Kumar, Director, LINAC</p>	Venue-Conference Hall
4:00 PM	Tea / Coffee / Snacks	Lobby

General Assembly Session of NEDAC		
Venue: Conference Venue, 2nd Floor, NAAS Complex, Pusa		
Friday, November 16, 2018		
Time	Activity	Location
9:00 AM to 10:00 AM	Brain storming session on NEDAC workplan / activities in 2019 and 2020 Preparation of Draft workplan by a group comprising experts/specialist from some NEDAC Member Organizations (group will be announced during the brain storming session by the Chairman NEDAC)	Venue Member Only Hall
10 to 10:30 AM	Discussion and Adoption of the draft workplan by the General Assembly	
10:30 to 11:15 AM	Presentation on Best Practices / Experience Sharing	
11:15 to 11:30 AM	Tea / Coffee / Snacks	Lobby
11:30 AM to 1:00 PM	Information concerning changes in the Senior Management of NEDAC Member Organizations Information on Cooperative: new policies/regulations if any in any country for circulation to NEDAC members Any other item/subject raised by NEDAC members Venue of the next meeting- NEDAC Executive Committee Meeting in 2019 and General Assembly Session in 2020 Thanks to the Host and Closing of the General Assembly Session by NEDAC Chair	Venue Member Only Hall
1 -2:00 PM	Lunch at VIP Lounge, International Guest House	

General Assembly Session of NEDAC		
Venue: Conference Venue, 2nd Floor, NAAS Complex, Pusa		
Friday, November 16, 2018		
Time	Activity	Location
2 PM to 3 PM	Meeting of New Executive Committee of NEDAC	Venue Member Only Hall
	Opening remarks by NEDAC Chair & Co-Chair	
	Discussion on NEDAC Website	
	NEDAC Workplan in 2019 and 2020	
	NEDAC Secretariat Administration and Finance matters	
	Any other related matter(s)	
	Closing of EXCOM meeting	
3 PM to 3:30 PM	Closing Ceremony of General Assembly	Venue Conf Hall
	Remarks by Distinguished Guest, Shri B. Pradhan, IAS, Addl Secretary & Financial Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	
	Address by Chief Guest, Shri Dileep Sanghani, Former Cooperation & Finance Minister, Gujarat State	
	Vote of Thanks by Chair NEDAC	
	On 17 Nov Delegates may Visit Taj Mahal / Depart for their countries	

Technical Session- General Assembly of NEDAC		
Venue: Conference Venue, 2nd Floor, NAAS Complex, Pusa		
Friday, November 16, 2018		
Time	Activity	Location
11:30 AM to 1:00 PM	<p>Thematic Session</p> <p>Cooperatives and Financial Inclusion</p> <p>Presentation by CA Bajrang Lal Bagra, CEO Ekal Foundation; CA Rajib Sahoo, Member GB LINAC-NCDC</p> <p>Moderators Shri Mukesh Kumar, Executive Director, NCDC Shri Ashwini Kumar, Director, LINAC</p>	Venue- Conference Hall
1 -2:00 PM	Lunch at VIP Lounge, International Guest House	
2:00 PM to 3:00 PM	<p>Thematic Session</p> <p>Capacity Development Partnerships in NEDAC</p> <p>Presentation by Shri PK Arora, Former CGM, RBI Shri Subhas Gupta, CEO NAFCUB</p> <p>Moderators Shri Ashook B Pillai, Chief Director, NCDC Shri Ashwini Kumar, Director, LINAC</p>	Venue- Conference Hall