



**NETWORK FOR THE DEVELOPMENT  
OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES  
IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

Established in 1991 by FAO, ICA and ILO

**STUDY TOUR: AGRICULTURE &  
BANKING COOPERATIVES**

## **Study Tour: Agriculture & Banking Cooperatives**

NEDAC in synergy with ICA is organising a study tour to Europe. The aim of the tour is to understand the European Model of Agriculture and Credit Cooperatives. The study tour will be conducted from 21<sup>st</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> of October 2024. The schedule of the visit is as under:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Departure</b>	<b>Arrival</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
21-Oct-24	Monday	Delhi	Amsterdam	Arrival at Amsterdam
22-Oct-24	Tuesday	Amsterdam	Utrecht and back	Rabo Bank
23-Oct-24	Wednesday	Amsterdam	Bonn	International Raiffeisen Union (IRU)
24-Oct-24	Thursday	Bonn	Brussels	KBC-Cera & Euro coop, ICA
25-Oct-24	Friday			European Association of Co-operative Banks (EACB), COPA-COGECA
26-Oct-24	Saturday	Dispersal from Brussels		Return to Delhi

### **1. Brief on organizations to be visited.**

- a) **Rabobank (Utrecht, Netherlands)**. It is one of the largest cooperative banks dedicated to creating a future-proof society and tackling major societal challenges for 125 years. It is a unique bank, with strong cooperative roots. In the Netherlands, it serves retail and corporate customers; globally it focuses on the Food & Agriculture sector.
- b) **International Raiffeisen Union (Bonn, Germany)**. IRU founded in 1968 is a worldwide voluntary association of national cooperative organizations whose work and ideas are based on Friedrich Wilhelm Raiffeisen's principles – i.e. self-help, self-responsibility and self-administration. The diffusion of Raiffeisen's idea is worldwide. More than 900,000 co-operatives with approx. 800 million members in over 100 countries are working according to Friedrich Wilhelm Raiffeisen's principles.
- c) **Cera Europe (Brussels, Belgium)**. It is a Brussels based NGO dedicated to combat climate change and environmental degradation across Europe. It focuses on protecting ecosystems, promoting food security, and supporting sustainable agriculture through projects, research, and collaborations aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and EU Green Deal targets.
- d) **Euro Coop (Brussels, Belgium)**. One of the first Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) to be recognized by the European Commission. Established in 1957, it is the voice of the co-operative retailers in Europe. Together, Euro Coop members are Europe's strongest retail force. It has made its expertise available to all European

Union Institutions for the promotion of the interests of consumer co-operatives and their consumer members.

- e) **International Co-operative Alliance (Brussels, Belgium)**. ICA is one of the oldest Non-governmental organization and one of the largest with approximately 3 million cooperatives worldwide and 1 billion cooperative members on the planet. It is the apex body representing providing a global voice and forum for knowledge, expertise and coordinated action for and about cooperatives. The International Cooperative Alliance advocates the interests and success of cooperatives, providing a global voice and forum for knowledge, expertise, and coordinated action.
- f) **European Association of Co-operative Banks (Brussels, Belgium)**. Cooperative banks play a major role in the financial and economic system. Founded in 1970 EACB is a leading professional lobbying association in the European banking industry. EACB is the official spokesperson for the European institutions. EACB makes relevant contributions in European Parliament committees, in the consultations of the European Institutions, in EU expert panels, and in other relevant hearings.
- g) **COPA (Brussels, Belgium)**. The Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations, COPA represents over 22 million European farmers and their family members in a combined effort with its members to promote the best interests of the agricultural sector among the EU institutions and other relevant stakeholders.
- h) **COGECA (Brussels, Belgium)**. The General Confederation of Agricultural Cooperatives, COGECA represents the general and specific interests of European agri-food, forestry, and fishery cooperatives among the EU Institutions and other socio-economic organizations contributing to European decision making.

## **2. Traveling, Lodging & Meals.**

Expenses for Lodging, Meals and Intra-city travel will be borne by NEDAC. Participating organizations have to bear to and fro airfare, and VISA charges. The details of the hotels will be shared separately.

## **3. Weather & Clothing.**

The temperature in Europe during this period will range from 8°C to 15°C. Participants should carry sufficient winter clothing.

## **4. VISA Requirements:**

Documentation requirements for Schengen visa are mentioned in Appendix A. If any assistance is required, the NEDAC Programme Coordinator may be approached.

**5. Registration:** The registration may be done on the NEDAC website; <https://nedac.info/register5/>. The last of registration is 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024. The registration fee is as under:

- a) Member Organisation: For one person - USD 1500; for any additional person USD 2500.
- b) Non-Member Organisation: USD 2500 for a single person.

**6. Contact Person**

**(a) Ms. Shweta Saxena- +91 99991 88628**

**(b) Ms. Siramol Pandey- +66 0965855609**

**Procedure for VISA Application**

Apply online by filling out an online application on the official website and securing an appointment date for submitting the application and documents. For this, participant will need the following details for all delegates.

- Passport data pages (First and Last)
- Last Schengen visa if any
- Contact no
- Email id
- Occupation details (designation, company/school name, address, contact no and email id)
- Travel dates
- Accommodation details (name, address, contact no and email id)
- Invitee details if any (name, address, contact no., email id)

After the receipt of participation/ invitation letter following documents are required to obtain a Schengen Visa.

- Passport
- Previous passport if available
- Ticket
- Hotel bookings of the entire trip duration
- Travel Insurance
- Application form
- Two passport sized photographs (size 35x45 mm).
- Covering letter
- Latest 6 months personal bank statements with bank seal and signature
- Personal Income Tax Returns for last 3 years
- Passport copy

Additional Documents, if employed

- NOC from employer (stating participant's position and salary, length of employment, confirming participant's leave of absence and the name and contact details of the person providing the letter)
- Latest 6 months' salary slips and salary bank account original statements
- 6 months bank statement with bank seal and sign
- ITR of last 3 years

