



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

Established in 1991 by FAO, ICA and ILO



India–Philippines Stakeholder Meeting on Cooperatives (Asia Pacific)

Date: 14 April 2026

Time: 10:00 AM – 2:30 PM (Philippines Time)

Venue: Holiday Inn & Suites, Makati

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

Summary Report

1. Introduction

The India–Philippines Stakeholder Meeting on Cooperatives was convened by NEDAC to facilitate dialogue among key stakeholders and strengthen bilateral cooperation in the cooperative sector. The meeting brought together representatives from government institutions, cooperative federations, development organizations, and private sector actors from both countries, fostering an exchange of knowledge and experiences.

2. Objective

The primary objective of the meeting was to promote knowledge exchange, share best practices, and identify opportunities for collaboration in strengthening agricultural cooperatives, particularly in the areas of governance, market linkages, financing, and service delivery.

3. Proceedings

The meeting commenced with **Welcome Remarks** by Usec. Alexander B. Raquepo, Chairman, Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), Philippines, who emphasized the vital role of cooperatives in promoting inclusive growth and rural development.

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Opening Remarks: This session addressed by Dr. Lionel Dabbadie, Country Director, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Philippines, who highlighted the importance of agricultural cooperatives in enhancing food security, resilience, and sustainable development.

The **Context Setting** session outlined the scope for strengthening India–Philippines cooperation, particularly in knowledge sharing, institutional strengthening, and scaling successful cooperative models.

Subsequent sessions provided key insights from various stakeholders:

4. Policy and Institutional Perspective (Philippines)

Presented by Asst. Secretary Luz H. Yringco, Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), Philippines

The presentation provided a comprehensive overview of the policy and institutional framework supporting cooperatives in the Philippines. It highlighted a strong constitutional and legal foundation, including key legislations such as the Philippine Cooperative Code and the CDA Charter, positioning cooperatives as instruments of social equity and economic development. Significant growth trends in agricultural cooperatives were noted, alongside increases in assets, membership, and business volume. Strategic priorities include strengthening farm and fishery clustering, enhancing financial inclusion, promoting value chain integration, and encouraging consolidation for economies of scale.

The presentation also emphasized digitalization, improved access to institutional markets, and partnerships for logistics and financing. Key challenges identified include fragmented support programs, limited awareness of federation benefits, and the need for region-specific strategies. Forward-looking targets focus on productivity, sustainability, capacity building, and market expansion.

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5. Cooperative Federation Perspective

Presented by Sylvia Okinlay-Paraguya, CEO, National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO Network), Philippines

The presentation highlighted the scale and diversity of cooperative operations in the Philippines, particularly multi-purpose cooperatives engaged in agriculture such as dairy, rice processing, coconut, cacao, and high-value crops. It emphasized innovative financing mechanisms, including loan products and the ANGEL Fund supporting small and medium cooperatives. Capacity-building initiatives such as the Leadership and Management Program (LAMP) were also showcased. The importance of microfinance innovation through partnerships and strengthening inter-cooperative collaboration was underscored, along with priorities such as improving data systems, financing access, and cooperative capacity.

6. Indian Perspective: Agricultural Cooperative Models

Presented by Dr. Jyoti Saroop, Founder and Director, the Unati Cooperatives, India

The presentation emphasized the transformative potential of climate-smart, technology-driven cooperative models. It highlighted the integration of advanced technologies such as AI-based governance, drone applications, smart agriculture analytics, and blockchain traceability to improve productivity and resilience. Key initiatives, including the DroneDidi program and cooperative training institutes, demonstrate a strong focus on youth and women empowerment. The presentation also identified opportunities in climate finance, carbon credit generation, and the development of an Asia-Pacific Climate-Smart Cooperative Corridor.

7. Innovations in Cooperative Services

Presented by Mj. Gen Gilbert Llanto, Chairperson, ACDI Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Philippines.

The presentation demonstrated a robust model of cooperative innovation through diversification and vertical integration. ACDI has evolved into a diversified ecosystem spanning financial services, agriculture, retail, real estate, education, and healthcare. A key feature is its fully integrated agribusiness model, covering production, processing, distribution, and retail. The cooperative's investments in agriculture contribute to food self-sufficiency and sustainability, while promoting a circular economy and integrating

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smallholder farmers. Its engagement in national programs, including school-based feeding initiatives, highlights the broader social impact of cooperative enterprises.

8. Stakeholder Dialogue

An interactive stakeholder dialogue session was conducted to explore opportunities for collaboration. Discussions focused on the following thematic areas:

- Strengthening cooperative governance and institutional capacity
- Enhancing market access and value chain development
- Expanding cooperative financing and service delivery systems
- Promoting knowledge exchange and cross-learning between India and the Philippines

Participants actively shared insights, challenges, and best practices from their respective contexts.

9. Key Suggestions and Recommendations

The meeting resulted in the following key outcomes:

- **Strengthened Bilateral Engagement:** Strong interest in deepening cooperation between India and the Philippines
- **Capacity Building Initiatives:** Agreement on joint training programs and technical support
- **Knowledge Exchange Platforms:** Need for structured mechanisms to share best practices and innovations
- **Coop-to-Coop Trade Facilitation:** Promotion of trade linkages through the NEDAC member network
- **Exchange Visits:** Facilitation of exposure visits between cooperative leaders

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NEDAC Delegates visiting SIDC facility, Philippines

- **Market Linkages:** Opportunities for collaboration in cooperative-led value chains

10. Way Forward

NEDAC will play a facilitative role in advancing the outcomes through:

- Organizing follow-up consultations and virtual meetings
- Exploring partnerships for coop-to-coop trade, technology transfer, and market linkages
- Supporting cooperative leadership and capacity-building programs

11. Conclusion

The meeting concluded with closing remarks emphasizing the importance of sustained collaboration and partnerships in strengthening cooperative systems. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to leveraging cooperative models for inclusive, sustainable, and resilient development across the Asia-Pacific region.

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The session concluded with a vote of thanks followed by a networking lunch.

Press Release Links:

- <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1272849>
- <https://www.manilatimes.net/2026/04/12/news/agri-group-to-hold-asia-pacific-cooperatives-summit-in-makati/2318608>
- <https://www.policefilestonite.net/2026/04/16/malnutrition-sa-mga-bata-pipigilan-ng-nedac/>
- <https://tonite.abante.com.ph/industriya-ng-gatas-pasisiglahin-malnutrisyon-sa-mga-bata-teresolbahin/metro/>
- <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/metro/2026/04/17/2521557/malnutrisyon-sa-mga-paslit-pipigilan-ng-nedac>
- <https://www.philstar.com/pang-masa/police-metro/2026/04/17/2521529/malnutrition-sa-mga-bata-pipigilan-ng-nedac>

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