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5 leading co-ops join hands for ₹2k cr venture to boost exports

To Tap Export Potential Of Dairy Products, Sugar, Spices, Forest Items

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New Delhi: Taking advantage of the Centre's renewed push to the cooperative sector, five leading cooperatives — Amul, Nafed, Iffco, Kribhco and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) — will jointly set up a national export cooperative society with an authorised share capital of Rs 2,000 crore. It will tap the export potential of surplus marketable products, ranging from dairy, sugar, spices, handicrafts to minor forest produce, of the sector.

Many of these products have a huge demand in several countries, but in the absence of an umbrella cooperative society their export potential remains hugely untapped. Sugar is the biggest example. Though cooperatives contribute to one third of a country's total sugar production, direct exports by the cooperative sugar mills is less than 1% of total exports of the sweetener.

"Few cooperatives are currently involved in directly exporting different goods (primarily sugar, dairy products and handicrafts), but their share in the country's overall export (worth around \$400 billion) is minuscule. Idea of an

EYEING NEW TARGET

Top six cooperatives in terms of value of their export in 2021-22

Cooperative	Turnover*	Export*
Amul (GCMMF)	46,481	1,530
NAFED	19,752	407
SPSK Ltd**	403	120
SVSK Ltd***	501	43
KRIBHCO	13,194	28
IFFCO	40,172	11

(*In ₹crores); **Shree Pandurang Sahkar Karkhana Ltd, Maharashtra, ***Shri Vighnagar Sahkar Sahkar Karkhana Ltd, Maharashtra

umbrella body for export of goods being produced in cooperative sector is to increase its share so that its profits benefit members, including farmers," said an official of the ministry of cooperation.

The cooperative export society will carry out its activities through procurement, storage, processing, marketing, branding, labelling, packaging, certification, research and development. It'll be involved in trading of all types of goods and services produced by cooperatives and related entities.

"Higher exports through this society will increase production of goods and services by the cooperatives at various levels. It'll thus lead to more employment in the sector. Processing of goods and enhancing the services to match international stan-

dards will also generate additional employment," said the official while explaining the rationale behind the move.

Five cooperative societies, including Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (GCMMF), which markets milk products under the Amul brand, will contribute Rs 100 crore each and become promoter members for establishing the multi-state cooperative society for exports. The society will raise funds through share capital, admission and other fees, loans, cash credits, commercial papers, overdraft of banks, grant-in-aid and subsidies from central and state governments, donations/contributions from members and other organisations within India and abroad.

Setting up of the national-level society for export will be

in sync with the government's recent decision to set up three such multi-state umbrella bodies in the country with the other two being approved for organic products and seeds. Amul, Nafed and NCDC will also be the promoters of the national level cooperative society for organic products.

"Push to the cooperative sector through these measures means directly and indirectly benefiting India's 8.54 lakh registered cooperatives having 30 crore members, especially from the marginalised and lower income groups in the rural areas," said the official.

He said, "Setting up a national-level cooperative exclusively for organic products will not only help India gain better access to the global market but also help the country's lakhs of farmers."

There are around 34 lakh organic farmers in 190 countries with land coverage of 797 lakh hectares (1.6% of total agricultural land of the world) of which Australia has the largest land coverage of 357 lakh hectares. India ranks fourth with 27 lakh hectares of land under organic farming. Market size of certified organic product in India is worth Rs 27,000 crore including export of Rs 7,000 crore.



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Amul, Nafed & 3 other co-ops join hands to push exports

To Tap Export Potential Of Their Surplus

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New Delhi: Taking advantage of the Centre's renewed push to the cooperative sector, five leading cooperatives—Amul, Nafed, Ifco, Kribhco and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)—will jointly set up a national export cooperative society with an authorised share capital of Rs 2,000 crore. It will tap the sector's export potential of surplus marketable products, ranging from dairy, sugar, spices, handicrafts to minor forest produce.

Many of these products have a huge demand in several countries, but in the absence of an umbrella cooperative society, their export potential remains hugely untapped. Sugar is the biggest example. Though cooperatives contribute to one third of a country's total sugar production, direct exports by the cooperative sugar mills is less than 1% of total exports of the sweetener.

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rently involved in directly exporting different goods (primarily sugar, dairy products and handicrafts), but their share in India's overall export (worth around \$400 billion) is minuscule. The idea is to increase this so that its profits benefit members, including farmers," said an official of the ministry of cooperation.

The national cooperative export society, headquartered in New Delhi, will carry out its activities through procurement, storage, processing, marketing, branding, labelling, packaging, certification, research and development. It'll be involved in trading of all types of goods and services produced by cooperatives and related entities.

"Higher exports through this society will increase production of goods and services

by the cooperatives at various levels. It'll thus lead to more employment in the sector. Processing of goods and enhancing the services to match international standards will also generate additional employment," said the official while explaining the rationale behind the move.

The five cooperatives—including Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (GCMMF), which markets milk products under the Amul brand—will contribute Rs 100 crore each and become promoter members to establish the national-level, multi-state cooperative society for exports. The society will raise funds through share capital, admission and other fees, loans, cash credits, commercial papers, overdraft of banks, grant-in-aid and subsidies from central

and state governments, donations/contributions from members and other organisations within India and abroad.

Setting up of the national-level society for export will be in sync with the government's recent decision to set up three such multi-state umbrella bodies in the country, with the other two being approved for organic products and seeds. Amul, Nafed and NCDC will also be the promoters of the national level cooperative society for organic products.

"Push to the cooperative sector through these measures means directly and indirectly benefiting India's 8.54 lakh registered cooperatives having nearly 30 crore members, especially from the marginalised and lower income groups in the rural areas," said the official.

He said, "Setting up a national-level cooperative exclusively for organic products will not only help India gain better access to the global market but also help the country's lakhs of farmers who produce fertilisers- and pesticides-free farm crops." There are around 34 lakh organic farmers in 190 countries with 797 lakh hectares (1.6% of total agricultural land of the world). India ranks fourth with 27 lakh hectares under organic farming.



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overall export (worth around \$400 billion) is minuscule. Idea of an umbrella body for export of goods being produced in the cooperative sector is to increase its share so that its profits benefit members, including farmers," said an official of the ministry of cooperation.

The national cooperative export society will carry out its activities through procurement, storage, processing, marketing, branding, labelling, packaging, certification, research and development. It'll be involved in trading of all types of goods and services produced by cooperatives and related entities.

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5 co-ops join hands with ₹2k cr share capital to push exports

Will Tap Export Potential Of Sector's Surplus Marketable Products

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UNION CABINET CLEARS PROPOSALS

3 New Co-ops to Help Boost Exports, Seed Availability

National cooperatives for exports and seeds will be set up in New Delhi; cooperative for organic products will be headquartered at Anand

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New Delhi: The Centre's push to reinvent cooperatives with the Union cabinet clearing proposals for setting up three cooperatives at the national level will help improve exports and availability of quality seeds to farmers, and enhance footprint of organic products in India and outside.

"Many products produced by cooperatives have a huge demand in many countries, but in the absence of an umbrella cooperative society, the export potential of cooperative services remains hugely untapped," a senior government official said.

While national cooperatives for ex-

ports and seeds will be set up in the national capital, the cooperative for organic products will be headquartered at Anand in Gujarat. The cooperation ministry has roped in the external affairs ministry and commerce department to provide support and share studies on demands in foreign countries to help boost cooperatives' exports.

While cooperatives contribute significantly to production in some sectors, their share in exports is miniscule.

For example, cooperatives account for 30.6% of the country's total sugar production, but direct exports by cooperative sugar mills is less than 1% of the total sugar exports, the cooperatives ministry said in a note.

It further noted that cooperatives



FILE PHOTO

contribute substantially to various sectors such as 28.8% in fertiliser production, 35% in fertiliser distribution, and 17.5% in procurement of marketable surplus of milk in the national economy. However, many of them remain underutilised due to lack of in-

frastructure. "The export society will focus on exporting the surpluses available in the country in the cooperative sector by removing such inadequacies," a second official said. "This will enable the farmers to access wider markets."

As per official data, there are an estimated 854,000 registered cooperative societies in India with more than 290 million members, particularly from the marginalised and lower income groups in rural areas. For organic products, India accounts for a meagre 2.7% of world organic market despite having the third in the world after Australia and Argentina when it comes to area of land under organic cultivation at 2.7 million hectares.

Out of total 3.4 million organic producing farmers in the world, 1.6 million are from India, while certified Indian organic product retail market is estimated to be Rs 27,000 crore which includes export of Rs 7,000 crore, as per the cooperation ministry.



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