



**Message of Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav, President, National Cooperative Union of India
On the occasion of 59th All India Cooperative Week**

On the occasion of 59th All India Cooperative Week I extend my warm greetings to fellow cooperators, employees and members and their families on behalf of National Cooperative Union of India. I urge the cooperative organizations and their representatives to chalk out comprehensive plans for befitting celebration of 59th All India Cooperative Week from 14th to 20th November, 2012. The theme “**Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World**” is a very apt and relevant in today’s context. The cooperative movement, which officially made in beginning in 1904 with the enactment of the cooperative credit societies has made distinct mark in several important sectors of our economy.

The Indian Cooperative Movement have shown notable accomplishment at an impressive scale that can be described with 6 lakh cooperative societies, 25 crore members, 100 per cent rural network and significant presence in diverse fields of agriculture credit, marketing, fertilizer, housing, sugar, dairy, labour, fisheries etc. It has been realized that cooperative business model is more relevant today because it has helped the economy and individuals by improving income, creating values, investment opportunities in product supply chain in today’s competitive world. The cooperatives are a school of democracy and provided firsthand experience with democratic governance, members participation, transparency and also trust and solidarity leading to stability in the face of conflict and adversity. The cooperatives empower the poor people to participate in socio-economic development and integrating the need of the rural poor and other stakeholders of our rural economy. They are also recognised as important institutions to contribute to country’s food security through their participation in natural resource management for rural development. Today, cooperatives in the country are dedicated to democratic and accountable governance and service to their members and also contribute to rebuild the socio-economic fabric of their communities that are being served. Economically, cooperatives effectively reduce market barrier and allow entrepreneur to generate economies of scale and also increase income through volume sale, increase efficiency along the value chain through joint pooling of resources. Cooperatives are dedicated to democratic and accountable governance and service to their members. The ownership and controlled by member i.e. one vote per member is a key aspect of the cooperative society. They raise their equity or savings from their members and are designed to provide services to their users. Because of these characteristic, Cooperative enterprise build a better world.

The status of the cooperatives in India has changed dramatically as a consequence of Ninety Seventh Constitutional Amendment Act, 2011 which makes the right to form cooperatives a fundamental right by the citizens, directs the state policy towards cooperative and also determines the principles to which all Cooperative Laws both State and Multi-State should confirm to. An overwhelming large number of cooperatives in the country are registered under the respective State Cooperative Act. Therefore, I urge upon the states to take steps to strengthen cooperatives in the country and amend the State Laws relating to the cooperative societies in tune with the provisions of Constitutional Amendment Act not later than 14.02.2013.

We have been receiving encouraging and positive reports from different states and cooperative organizations regarding successful and befitting celebration of International Year of Cooperatives – 2012 (IYC) in the country. Now IYC-2012 is concluding with the hope that the cooperatives will be the emerging sector of Indian economy with significant contribution to food security, livelihood and poverty alleviation & ultimately enhance the national economic growth.

I convey my best wishes for success of the celebrations.

(Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav)