

1st Youth Cooperative Research Conference by NCUI

Abstract Submission Deadline : 25th June, 2024

To be held in August, 2024 (last week) in Delhi

CONCEPT NOTE & CALL FOR PAPERS

‘Cooperatives: Key for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals’

The United Nations General Assembly has recently adopted a resolution declaring **2025 as the International Year of Cooperatives**. This resolution highlights the pivotal role of cooperatives in achieving **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and advancing global social and economic development.

The resolution urges member states and stakeholders to utilize 2025 as an opportunity to raise awareness about the contributions of co-operatives. It emphasizes their impact on various development areas, including decent employment, poverty eradication, education, social protection, financial inclusion, and the creation of affordable housing. In addition, member states are encouraged to review and enhance existing legislation to create a supportive environment for cooperative growth. This includes addressing key factors such as access to capital, autonomy, competitiveness, and fair taxation.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes “the role of the diverse private sector, ranging from micro-enterprises to cooperatives to multinational corporations” in its implementation.

Cooperatives are recognized as important partners to achieve the SDGs, because they promote democracy, enhance income, foster social inclusion, care for the environment, and have a significant economic impact on the economy. Self-help and empowerment, enhancing local resources and capacities and reinvesting surpluses guide cooperatives to respond to local community needs and objectives. Cooperative enterprises support and promote a vision of Sustainable Development based on a triple bottom line approach: economic, social, and environmental.

Cooperatives in India have been making vital contributions in achieving UN Sustainable Development Goals. In the recent years, the cooperative movement has emerged as a formidable sector of economy in the wake of initiatives taken by the government to strengthen the cooperative movement. The 54 initiatives of Ministry of Cooperation (see the initiatives on Initiatives of Ministry of Cooperation) have provided further opportunities to cooperatives to emerge as lead players in achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

Based on the above perspectives, with the main theme **‘Role of Cooperatives in Achieving UNSDGs’**, the conference aims to address a wide range of topics from different fields, including – among others:

- Enhanced role of cooperatives in achieving SDGs in the wake of initiatives of Ministry of Cooperation to strengthen the cooperative movement.
- Coordination and partnerships between cooperatives and Government, peoples’ organizations, private bodies and non-government organizations. Strengthening

links between cooperative financial institutions and other cooperatives and exploring new sources of funding.

- Policy and legal frameworks, public- private-cooperative partnership, enabling environment etc.
- New areas, Services and Advocacy: Health and medical care, solar energy, tourism, transportation, education-advocacy programs, etc.
- Digital platforms and adoption of technology including AI.
- Communication strategies to raise awareness, brand-building, etc.
- Role of Cooperatives in Making India a 5 trillion \$ Economy and SDGs, increasing business and exports, financial inclusion, strengthening marketing, strengthening entrepreneurial ecosystem, etc.
- Autonomy and independence of coops, adoption of cooperative principles and values.
- Gender equality, youth participation, etc.
 - The above thematic topics are NOT exclusive and shall be re-defined based on the received submissions.
- **25th June, 2024 – Deadline for abstract submission.**
- **1st July, 2024 – Notification to shortlisted authors with presentation guidelines.**
- **31st July, 2024 – Deadline to send full papers.**
- **Selected 20 paper presenters, based on the quality of abstracts received, will be invited to present papers in the Research conference to held in the last week of August, 2024 in Delhi. A lump sum amount for travel, boarding and lodging will be provided by NCUI to the selected presenters.**

Abstracts

- Young researchers (***Maximum age limit-40 years. Should enclose copy of their Aadhar Cards***) interested to present their papers at the conference, need to submit an abstract of not more than 600 words that should broadly include the research question, methodology, likely contribution to the field of knowledge and relevant literature. The abstracts should be submitted in the following format:
 - Name(s) and affiliations of Authors
 - Main theme/ objective of the paper
 - Methodological and/or Conceptual approach
 - Bibliography, Keywords and Contact details for the corresponding author(s).

Please note that the abstracts besides focusing on theoretical aspects, should also focus on the application aspect with an example. Besides, how the proposed strategies/action-points, as mentioned in the abstract, can be best implemented at the ground level? Will it help in ease of doing business for cooperatives? This will be an important yardstick for selection.

All the submissions may be sent to:

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