

Cooperative is Best Model for Farmers : M.D., AMUL

R.S. Sodhi, Managing Director, Gujarat Cooperative Milk & Marketing Federation Ltd. (AMUL), Anand speaking at a function organized by NCUI on the occasion of International Day of Cooperatives today said that cooperative is the best model for giving farmers the fair price of their produce. "You must have trust in cooperatives, then only they can provide good results", he said. The Symposium was organized with theme "Sustainable Consumption and Production of Goods and Services". International Day of Cooperatives is celebrated every year. A painting competition for children was also organized. Sodhi further emphasized on the need for good political leadership in cooperatives, and also on the need to involve youth in large numbers. Pointing out that AMUL is the biggest food company with 40,000 crores turnover, he said that cooperative is the solution for small farmers, as cooperative helps in the sustainable development of the farmers.

Jalaj Shrivastava, IAS, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India speaking on the occasion emphasized in the need to make agricultural cooperatives strong, so that middlemen do not exploits the farmers. He also emphasized on the need for processing of the foodgrain in which the role of cooperatives is important. He further stressed on the benefits of integrated farming.

Harvir Singh, Editor, Outlook Hindi speaking on the occasion emphasized on the need for strong advocacy and lobbying by the cooperative sector. "The cooperatives are neglected in policy-making because of this", he said. He also emphasized on the need for youth involvement and strong leadership in cooperatives.

Dr. Manoj Nardeosingh, Assistant Secretary General, African Asian Rural Development Organisation (AARDO) said that strong public-private-cooperative partnership is the needed of hour. He said that successful model of AMUL can be replicated in other countries.

Prakash P. Naiknavare, M.D., National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories speaking on the occasion said that consumption of sugar is huge in India but per capita consumption here is the lowest.

N. Satya Narayana, Chief Executive, NCUI is his welcome address briefed the delegates about the significance of International Day of Cooperatives, the importance of this year' theme, etc.

A printing competition for children was organized in 90 printings were evaluated First prize went to Shibham Samanta Ray of Gyan Bharti School, Second prize went to Puja Nardev Singh of Sadhu Vaswani International School, and Third prize went to Adiba Khan of Hamdard Public School. These paintings will be sent to Japan for their entry in International painting competition.

