

NCUI Organises National Workshop on Skill Development

National Cooperative Union of India recently organized a National Workshop on “Cooperatives as a Partner in Skill Development for Employment Generation” on 12th July, 2019 in which the heads of key skill development organisations and cooperative organizations participated as Key Resource Persons. Mr Manish Kumar, M.D., National Skill Development Corporation inaugurated the workshop. Dr Vandana Aggarwal, Director General, National Skill Development Agency, Mr K Narayan, MD, National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation, Mr. Raveendran Kasthuri, Group CEO, Uralangul Labour Contract Cooperative Society, Dr Poonam Sinha, Director, NIESBUD, Shri Arun Tomar, President, MP State Cooperative Union, Shri Subhash Gupta, Chief Executive, NAFCUB, Shri SP Singh, MD, IFFDC, Shri S.K. Singh, Addl MD, NAFED, Shri Rajkumar, Manager, Agriculture Skill Council of India, Shri S. K. Singh, OSD, MP State Cooperative Union were among the key dignitaries present on the occasion. The workshop was attended by officials of cooperative organizations which also included SEWA which is involved in collaboration with NSDC for implementation of skill development programmes.

In his welcome speech, N. Satya Narayana, Chief Executive, NCUI highlighted the importance of cooperatives to collaborate with various skill development organizations in implementation of Skill Development Schemes of Government of India, like Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana. He further mentioned about the skill development initiatives undertaken by NCUI, and he looked forward to collaboration with NSDC in this regard.

Shri Manish Kumar, MD, National Skill Development Corporation after inaugurating the workshop came up with his detailed presentation on the subject of the workshop. Highlighting the work and programmes of National Skill Development Corporation since its inception in 2009, he said that his experience in working with cooperatives is based on trust, and this creates dynamism which is essential to take a project ahead. He pointed out that the cooperative movement of women in Tripura contributed to reducing insurgency in early 90s. He said that the cooperatives have immense power in transforming society. He pointed out that a big challenge for National Skill Development Corporation is to expand their outreach in rural India for which cooperatives are the best medium. He pointed out good experience of NSDC in working with SEWA, National Yuva Cooperative Society and others.,

Mr. K. Narayan, M.D., National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation speaking on the occasion said that NBCFDC can organize skill-based training programmes for backward classes, senior citizens, etc working in the cooperative organizations, and for providing information regarding this, NCUI may act as a nodal agency.

Dr. Vandana Aggarwal, Director General, National Skill Development Agency speaking on the occasion said that cooperatives because of their entrepreneurial capability have an edge in employment generation. She further said that cooperatives because of their community-based orientation and huge network are ideal to play an important role in skill development. She also said that cooperatives can help in stopping inter-state migration of people and help them in starting viable economic ventures. She further said that cooperatives can help in collaborating with various skill development programmes by assisting in job roles, development of training curriculum specific to the local community. While acting as advocacy agents for skill development programmes, cooperatives can also help in connecting youth to various skill development centres. As cooperatives have domain expertise in textile, agriculture, etc, they can serve as training centres for improving productivity of their members and also train other members in various skills. She said that the cooperatives can revolutionize training of farmers in use of fertilizer, water conservation, use of digital technology, etc. She drew attention to the fact that under NSDA, there are 3000 qualifications

for agriculture, which can be used by the cooperatives. She also suggested that various Sector Skill Councils and cooperatives can help in identifying arts and crafts which can be further up-scaled so as to ensure better livelihood of the local artisans.

Dr Agarwal observed that if there is any need of local specific training, NSDA and Sector Skill Councils can help cooperatives to develop these qualifications so that they are NSQA aligned, and standardized training programmes are being conducted. She observed that if structured training is provided to them by NSDA, they can develop as master trainers which can be used in rural areas effectively. "Training is a big challenge for skill development programmes, and here cooperatives can have a definite role," she observed. She elaborated that many other members of cooperatives which have expertise in local area can tie with NSDA training centres which can help in their certification through Recognition of Prior Learning Programme of NSDA. Emphasizing on importance of digital literacy programmes for cooperatives, she said that NSDA can have fruitful collaborations with cooperatives in this regard as entrepreneurial model of cooperatives can be strengthened in the process. She asked representatives of cooperative organizations to develop entrepreneurial model of training for schools, colleges and universities so that many youth are attracted to form cooperative societies. Assuring that representatives of cooperative organizations will be involved in various stake-holder consultation meets, she said that these will help them have a say in policy-making related to skill development in the country.

Dr. Poonam Sinha, Director, NIESBUD speaking on the occasion mentioned various entrepreneurial development training programmes organized by NIESBUD like running of PMKVY programme of NSDC, women entrepreneurial programme of construction labourers , development of curriculum for women entrepreneurship under the aegis of UNDP and Tata Institute of Social Sciences, etc. She said that as entrepreneurship development is very important for cooperatives, they can have many avenues of collaboration with NIESBUD.

Mr Aun Singh Tomar, President, MP State Cooperative Union speaking on the occasion appreciated the initiative of NCUI in organizing a workshop on a relevant subject in a timely manner.

Shri Raghunath Kashyap, Chairman, HARCOFED speaking on the occasion said that skill development and cooperatives are complementary to each other. He pointed out that skill development programmes are not conducted in the cooperative sector, and in this regard, the cooperative organizations must take strong initiatives in this regard.

Mr. Raveendram Kasthuri, Group CEO, Uralangul Labour Contract Cooperative Society speaking on the occasion highlighted the significant achievements of Uralangul Labour Contract Cooperative Society like presence of 10,000 construction workers, IT company, cyber park and a big milestone in the form of Indian Institute of Infrastructure and Construction. Pointing out that the gap between employed and unemployed people is huge, he said that skilling can be the best way to bridge the gap through the medium of cooperatives. For this, he said that youth need to actively enter cooperatives in a big way. He also emphasized on re-skilling of the people so that they can update their skills regularly. He also laid stress on the need for emergence of good leaders who can transform cooperative societies. He-pin-pointed out few areas like disruptive technology, block chain technology, data analytics, etc which require multiple skills to handle these challenging areas. Observing that the world has a skill gap of 8 million, he said that India with a strong youth population bridge this gap. He elaborated that 1-2 million jobs can be created if the people are rightly skilled.

Emphasizing on evolving possibility-driven leadership and management in the area of skill development, Mr Kasthuri also felt that skill development should not be equated with training. He made it clear that skill development should lead to increase in productivity, and this must also assure the applicants jobs, as every skill has to be linked to jobs. He also emphasized on the need to change the training approach through focus on-line learning, social media. .

Shr S..P.Singh, Managing Director, IFFDC while highlighting the work of Indian Farm and Forestry Development Cooperatives sought the support of National Skill Development Corporation in training the members of primary forest development cooperatives so that they can commercially involve themselves in various forest-based activities by raising timber and indulging in horticulture activities. He also emphasized on the need for NSDC training support in horticulture plantation, ground water re-charge activities and branding and designing of sarees. He also said that 6500 franchises who are small rural unemployed youth doing fertilizer business, need to be trained in agri-inputs.

Shri S. K Singh, OSD, MP State Cooperative Union speaking on the occasion said that Madhya Pradesh State Cooperative Union in collaboration with National Skill Development Corporation is involved in RPL training under PMKVY Scheme. He observed that the skill based training curriculum of NSDC does not have a rural orientation. He suggested that a specific Cooperative Sector Skill Council should be formed so that cooperatives in large numbers are benefitted from skill development programmes.

The workshop was also addressed by Raj Kumar, Manager, Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI) who said that cooperatives should collaborate with Agriculture Skill Council of India in various agricultural trades as there are immense opportunities of collaboration. He pointed out that cooperatives with their extensive network and reach can make people aware about skill development schemes, identification of right candidates for available job roles, counseling and monitoring them. He said that cooperatives can actively participate in organizing RPL programmes for semi-skilled and skilled workforce where candidates can appear for an assessment in their selected job roles. He further said that a few cooperatives with sufficient training resources can get affiliated with sector skill councils and get their training centres accredited. He made an important observation that public-private-cooperative partnership is very important for enhancing the level and quality of skill development programmes in the country.

The workshop was attended by participants from SEWA, and representatives of other cooperative organizations. The workshop was coordinated by Sanjay Verma, Dy Director(PR), NCUI.