

## **International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) and Indian Cooperative Societies**

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The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) is the apex body representing cooperatives globally. The International Cooperative Alliance unites cooperatives around the world, providing a global voice and platform for cooperatives to share cooperative knowledge, expertise, and coordinated action. Established in 1895, it is one of the oldest non-governmental organizations and one of the largest based on the number of people it represents. At present, 321 organizations from 112 countries are members of the International Cooperative Alliance, through which about 3 million cooperatives and 1 billion cooperative members are connected.

ICA's members are international and national cooperative organizations from all sectors of the economy, namely agriculture, banking, consumer, fisheries, health, housing, insurance, and industry and services. The ICA is the custodian of the Statement on Co-operative Identity at the Global Level (Statement on the Cooperative Identity). The Statement on Co-operative Identity defines a cooperative organization as "an autonomous association of individuals seeking to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise" voluntarily united to do." Statement on Co-operative Identity 10 Values for Co-operatives – Self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity as well as honesty, openness, social responsibility and care for others and 7 operating principles – (1) Voluntary and open membership, (2) Democratic member control, (3) Economic participation of members, (4) Autonomy and independence, (5) Education, training and information, (6) Mutual cooperation in co-operative organizations, (7) Social duty Perception is also included.

To implement its tasks and programs, the International Cooperative Alliance has a global office in Brussels (Belgium), four regional offices (Africa, the Americas, Asia-Pacific and Europe), eight global regional organizations (agriculture, banking, retail, fisheries, health, housing, insurance, and industry and services).

Among the 321 member organizations of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), 17 cooperative organizations from India are also included. It is only through these cooperative organizations that the reflection of progress and development in the field of cooperatives in India is visible on this international platform. The 17 cooperative organizations which are members of ICA, their brief details are as follows-

**1- The Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative Limited (IFFCO)-** IFFCO was registered as a multi-unit co-operative society on November 3, 1967. On enactment of the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act 2002, the society has been registered as a Multi-State Co-operative Society. Its headquarter is located in New Delhi. It is primarily engaged in the manufacturing, marketing and research of fertilizers. IFFCO is a leading player in India's fertilizer industry and has been contributing significantly to the efforts of the Government of India to increase food grain production in the country.

**2- Krishak Bharati Sahakari Limited (KRIBHCO)** is a national cooperative society incorporated on 17th April 1980 and currently registered under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act 2002 as a cooperative society for fertilizer production and marketing. Its registered office is at New Delhi and Corporate Office at Noida, UP. KRIBHCO's marketing channels include apex cooperative federations, institutional agencies and primary agricultural cooperatives. Promoted by KRIBHCO through Rural Development Trust for better and sustainable rural livelihood in far flung and different states of the country.

**3- National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) -** NCUI was established in 1929 as All India Cooperative Institutions Federation and in 1961 it was renamed as National Cooperative Union of India and its headquarter is located in New Delhi. NCUI is the apex body in India, representing all sectors of the Indian cooperative movement. Its objective is to promote and develop the cooperative movement in India; To educate, guide and assist people in their endeavors; to create and expand the cooperative sector; and to serve as an exponent of cooperative opinion in accordance with cooperative principles.

**4- National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) -** The National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) was established in 1963 by an Act of Parliament as a statutory corporation and its headquarter is located in New Delhi. Its main functions are to plan, promote and finance programs for the production, processing, marketing, storage, export and import of agricultural produce, food articles, other notified commodities. It also finances projects in the rural industrial co-operative sector and certain notified services in rural areas such as water conservation, irrigation and micro-irrigation etc.

**5- National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED)-** It was established on 02 October 1958 with the objective of promoting cooperative marketing of agricultural produce to benefit the farmers and its headquarter is in New Delhi. Its objective is to organize, promote and develop marketing, processing, storage, import and export of agricultural commodities, agricultural, horticultural and forest produce to increase supply in the domestic market. It also provides assistance to farmers in association with State Level Marketing Cooperative Societies/Commodity Federation and Primary Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Societies.

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**6- Indian Farm Forestry Development Cooperative Limited (IFFDC)-** It was established in the year 1993 under the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act 1984/2002 and its headquarter is in New Delhi. IFFDC provides technical, financial and management services to rural poor communities by implementing various projects on agro-forestry and climate change, watershed management, ecological resilience, nutritional and economic security for tribal and marginal communities, sustainable rural livelihoods.

**7- National Federation of Farmers Procurement, Processing & Retailing Cooperatives of India Limited (NACOF) -** It was established on 4 November 2009 under the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act 2002 and its headquarter is in New Delhi. Its objective is to organize, develop and professionally conduct cooperative societies engaged in procurement, processing, retailing, manufacturing, mining and related activities and to make them self-reliant by promoting their economic, social and cultural interests. have to make.

**8- The National Federation of Fishers Cooperatives Ltd. (FISHCOPFED) -** It was established in 1980 as All India Federation of Fishermen Cooperatives and in 1982 it was renamed as National Federation of Fishers Cooperative Limited and its headquarter is located in New Delhi. It is a national level federation of fisheries cooperatives and the apex body of the Indian fisheries cooperative movement. Its objective is to educate, guide and assist fishermen for building and expanding the fisheries cooperative sector.

**9- Buldana Urban Cooperative Credit Society (BUCCS)** It was established on 15 August 1986 and its headquarter is in Buldana district of Maharashtra. It is currently the largest co-operative credit society in Asia. Its main business is to provide various types of loans to its members and customers.

**10- Uralungal Labour Contract Coop Society Ltd (ULCCS) -** It was established on 13 February 1925 as Uralungal Shram Mutual Aid and Co-operative Society which later changed to its present name. Its headquarter is located at Vatakara, Kozhikode, Kerala. The organization has today grown into a name synonymous with quality, workmanship, precision and efficiency in construction work, especially in the construction of roads and bridges in Kerala. Participation in the work done by the society is mandatory for membership. The members are paid weekly wages according to the amount of work done by them.

**11- National Yuva Co-Operative Society (NYCS) -** National Yuva Co-operative Society Limited (NYCS) is a multi-state, multi-purpose youth co-operative society. Its registered office is located at New Delhi and central administrative office at Pune, Maharashtra. Its main objective is to create opportunities for the youth to engage in activities like skill improvement, entrepreneurship development, sports and savings culture, leadership development and positive civic action.

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**12- Cooperative Housing Construction and Finance Corporation Limited** - It was established on August 11, 1969 as Uttar Pradesh Cooperative Housing Association, after registration under Multi State Cooperative Societies Act 2002 in the year 2002, its Cooperative Housing Construction and Finance Corporation Limited as restructured. Its headquarter is in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. This corporation is mainly working in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. It disburses loans for housing facilities and house construction to the members of co-operative housing societies and to its direct members.

**13- Centre for Cooperatives and Livelihoods- Autonomous (CCL) at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA)** - It has been established in the year 2021 as a non-profit organization under the Uttarakhand Cooperative Societies Act 2003. It is headquartered in the premises of the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie. Its main objective is to sensitize and train trainee IAS officers and civil servants of various cadres about the potential of the cooperative and livelihood sector in India, to facilitate research and studies in the cooperative and livelihood sector.

**14- The Tamil Nadu Small Tea Growers ICTFs Federation Ltd (INDCOSERVE)** – It was established by the Tamil Nadu State Government in the year 1965 and its headquarter is located in Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu. The main objective of its establishment is to provide protection to the small tea growing farmers. It is the largest tea cooperative federation in India. Its products are marketed across the country.

**15- National Cooperative Agriculture And Rural Development Banks' Federation Ltd. (NAFCARD)** - in its present form it was established on January 11, 1988 and its headquarter is located in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It is the national level apex organization of long term co-operative credit structure in the country. The members of the federation are the State Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (SCARDBs) / State Cooperative Banks (SCBs).

**16- The National Federation of State Co-operative Banks Ltd. (NAFSCOB)** – It was established on 19 May 1964 and its headquarter is located in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It represents the State Co-operative Banks. It has been established to facilitate the operation of state and central co-operative banks in general and the development of co-operative credit in particular.

**17- Tirumalla Tirupati Multistate Cooperative Credit Society Limited (TTMCCS)** – It is a Multi State Co-operative Society registered on 03 February 2013 under the Multi State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002 and its registered office is located in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The primary objective of the Society is to uplift the social and financial status of its members by promoting savings and educating them in matters of savings and investment.

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India has been able to register a strong presence on the global stage through these 17 cooperative institutions. Because these cooperatives are associated with various cooperative sectors such as IFFCO and KRIBHCO from fertilizer business, NCUI and NCDC from education-training, cooperative movement, NAFED and NACOF from marketing and other institutions also from labor, credit, housing, fisheries, banking, service related to etc. The development of these institutions has given a new height and strength to the cooperative movement in India. Along with this, the international presence of these institutions is a guide for other cooperative institutions that if they give their best in the cooperative movement, then they too can become national and international identity.

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