

Cooperative movement in fisheries in India

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Genesis of cooperative movement in fishery sector

- Origin of the **Fishery co-operation** trace back to the development of co-operative movement in **Canada and Japan**.
- In Canada, fishing is an important occupation in the coastal areas. Fishermen in early years caught fish and sold it to privately owned processing and preserving plants. Due to the exploitation of factory owners, fishermen suffered heavily. The fishermen soon resolved to improve their lot by organising themselves into cooperative societies.

Introduction

- Fisheries sector plays a strategic role in Indian economy by contributing to national income, exports, food and nutritional security and employment generation.
- In recent years, the development of fisheries has been considered to be an important activity because it is a powerful income and employment generator as it stimulates the growth of a number of subsidiary industries.
- India has a vast fisheries resource potential. It has **2.02 million sq. km of area EXCLUSIVE Economic Zone (EEZ)** adjoining a coastline of **8129 km length**.

- India is the **second largest fish producer** in the world with a total production of **13.7 million metric tonnes in 2018-19** of which 65 per cent was from inland sector. Almost 50 per cent of inland fish production is from **culture fisheries, which constitutes 6.5 per cent of global fish production.**
- The sector has been showing a steady growth in the total gross value added and accounts for **5.23 per cent share of agricultural GDP.**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/fisheries-sector-registered-more-than-double-growth-in-past-5-years-emerged-largest-group-in-agri-export-economic-survey/articleshow/70071062.cms>

Fishery cooperatives in India

- Fishery co-operatives in India were started mainly due to the efforts of **Sir Frederic Nicholson** who was the **Director of Fisheries in the former Madras provinces**.
- In **1946**, the **cooperative planning committee recommended** that state aid for the development of fishing industry should be given largely through cooperative societies.
- The growth of fishery cooperatives was very slow. By 1944, there were hardly **200 fishery cooperatives in the whole of India**.
- In order to accelerate the pace of development of fishing co-operatives, the **NCDC** has formulated patterns of assistance for fishery cooperatives.
- National Cooperative Development Corporation- **NCDC**

NCDC

- **Eligible Cooperative Societies:**
- NCDC provides assistance to primary, district and state level cooperatives, either directly or through State Governments.
- **Activities Assisted:**
- Purchase of operational inputs such as fishing boats, nets and engines
- Creation of infrastructure facilities for marketing, transport vehicles, ice plants, cold storages, retail outlets, processing units, etc.
- Development of inland fisheries, seed farms, hatcheries, etc.
- Preparation of feasibility reports.
- Integrated Fisheries Projects (Marine, Inland and Brackish Water).



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NCDC

Assisting Cooperatives. Always!

To know details- <https://www.ncdc.in/index.jsp?page=fisheries>

- **Mode of Funding**
- Financial assistance is provided through the State Govt. or directly to the eligible cooperatives.

The National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) was established by an **Act of Parliament in 1963** as a statutory Corporation under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.

Organizational Structure of Co-operative Societies

- In the co-operative fisheries sector existing today with the primary fishery co-operative at the base having individual fisherman as members followed by federation of primary fishery societies at the district or regional level and the state federation of the latter at the apex level.
- **Administration of co-operative society:**
 - The general meeting of members is hold once in a year and deals with such items of business as:
 - * Election of the board of directors.
 - * Appointment of internal auditors.
 - * Approving the proceedings year's statement account and balance-sheet.
 - * Allocation of profits.
 - * Fixing the limit of borrowing by the society
 - * Fixing the maximum credit limit of each member of the fishing team.
 - * Framing rules for collection.
 - * Storage and auctioning of fish.
 - * Consider the audit memo and other correspondence received from the Co-operative department.