



**Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives
(Cooperatives Division)**

**ANNUAL REPORT on Performance
Financial Year 2024/2025**

October 2025

About this report

The Annual Report on Performance for Financial Year 2024/2025 of the Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives (Cooperatives Division) has been prepared in accordance with the statutory provision of Section 4B of the Finance and Audit Act and Circular No. 7 of 2018 of the Ministry of Finance.

This Report provides key information on the financial performance and achievements of the Cooperatives Division for the financial year under review, in relation to the resources approved by the National Assembly as well as the strategic direction for the next three years. It also provides for remedial actions taken on issues highlighted by the Director of Audit in his report.

PART I ABOUT THE COOPERATIVES DIVISION	PART II MINISTRY/ DEPARTMENT ACHIEVEMENTS & CHALLENGES
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STATEMENT FROM HONOURABLE MINISTER



Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, I have the pleasure to present the key insights of the Annual Report of the Cooperatives Division for the Financial Year 2024/2025. Behind these pages lies the journey of our vision, our struggles and our triumphs. This report showcases the Ministry's relentless drive to empower the sector as a cornerstone of inclusion.

Stepping into this role as the newly appointed Minister of Industry, SME and Cooperatives, I recognise that a decisive turning point for the cooperative sector lies in the Government Programme 2025-2029.

Among the key measures outlined in the Government Programme 2025-2029 are the enhancing of financial inclusion for under-served communities, the enhancement of regulatory frameworks and a strong commitment to igniting innovation within cooperatives.

The Government's vision is to harness export possibilities of cooperators and proceed with regional market expansion where more cooperators can bring products to market.

I will also lay emphasis to strengthen the legal and institutional framework governing cooperatives. I sincerely hope that this time my Ministry will be more successful in driving the digital transformation through the e-cooperatives project. Charting the way ahead, the Cooperatives Division will be crafting the strategic direction whilst focusing on the consolidation and innovation strategies.

Together, we will work towards building a dynamic, modern, and resilient cooperative sector that contributes meaningfully to national growth and prosperity and for that purpose, the infrastructural buildings put at the disposal of the Cooperatives Division will be revamped to serve the larger community.

I am confident that, with the ongoing commitment and with foresighted objectives of the Government Programme, we can unlock the full potential of cooperatives in Mauritius for more inclusiveness.

Hon Sayed Muhammad Aadil Ameer Meea
Minister of Industry, SME and Cooperatives

STATEMENT FROM PERMANENT SECRETARY

Dear Readers,

With pride, I present the Annual Report on Performance of the Cooperatives Division of the Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives for the Financial Year 2024/2025.

The Cooperatives Division registered a total of 1,400 cooperative societies reaching a total of 86,975 members.

With dedication and commitment, the Audit Unit completed the Audit of Financial Statements Financial Year 2024/2025 for 1,077 cooperative societies.

The Cooperative Societies Unit assisted 800 cooperative societies for compliances and for developing business plans.

This year alone, 80 new cooperative societies were registered, bringing with them fresh energy, bold ideas and endless possibilities.

The Cooperative Development Unit spearheaded six budgetary schemes for the benefit of cooperative societies, namely, the Boost to Local Production, Seedling Production Scheme, Zero Budget Natural Farming Scheme, Livestock Farming Scheme, Waste Recycling Scheme and Digitalisation Scheme. The main objective of these schemes was inter-alia to support cooperative societies to boost local food crop production, undertake livestock breeding, engage and promote modernization by adopting digitalization. Financial support was approved for sixty-eight (68) applications under six (6) Grant Schemes to the tune of Rs. 15.6 million. A monitoring exercise is underway prior to disbursement of the funds

In the same vein, the Cooperative Development Fund operated schemes and sixty-one (61) cooperative societies benefited from grants amounting to Rs 2.7 million for, inter alia, acquisition of ICT equipment, equipment related to their activity and book-keeping and internal control services.

To spark market growth, we brought people together through the organisation of 17 vibrant Cooperative Market Fairs. These fairs become a hub for networking and market expansion where locally manufactured cooperative goods and services are showcased. The ongoing Cooperative Market Fair at Quatre Bornes, has opened doors to exciting marketing opportunities for over 200 participants.

Through its role as the Ministry's training powerhouse, the National Co-operative College empowered 3,715 cooperators with essential skills through training programmes such as training in basic garment making, computer skills, , strategic planning, and cooperative book-keeping and accountancy, amongst others.

Fueled by the Minister's dynamic leadership and steadfast support, these cooperative societies will further strengthen their role in the economy.

I. Pudaruth Ruchaia (Mrs)
Permanent Secretary

**PART I:
ABOUT THE
COOPERATIVES
DIVISION**

VISION, MISSION, VALUE STATEMENT AND ISO CERTIFICATION

OUR VISION

A conducive legal and institutional framework for a rejuvenated, engendered and inclusive cooperative movement for the sustainability of a sound economic and social environment facilitating business development.



OUR MISSION

To facilitate the promotion of diversified, emerging and innovative cooperatives and involve more young persons and women in the development, consolidation and advancement of the cooperative movement.



OUR VALUE STATEMENT

We are committed to provide quality services to both our internal and external customers by continuously improving our systems and procedures and creating the necessary climate for sustainable development.



OUR QUALITY CULTURE

The Cooperatives Division is MS ISO 9001:2015 certified since 2010, ensuring a quality culture embodying customer focus, leadership, engagement of people, process approach, improvement, evidence-based decision making, relationship management and goal congruence. It also promotes the necessary climate for sustainable development in the Cooperative Movement.



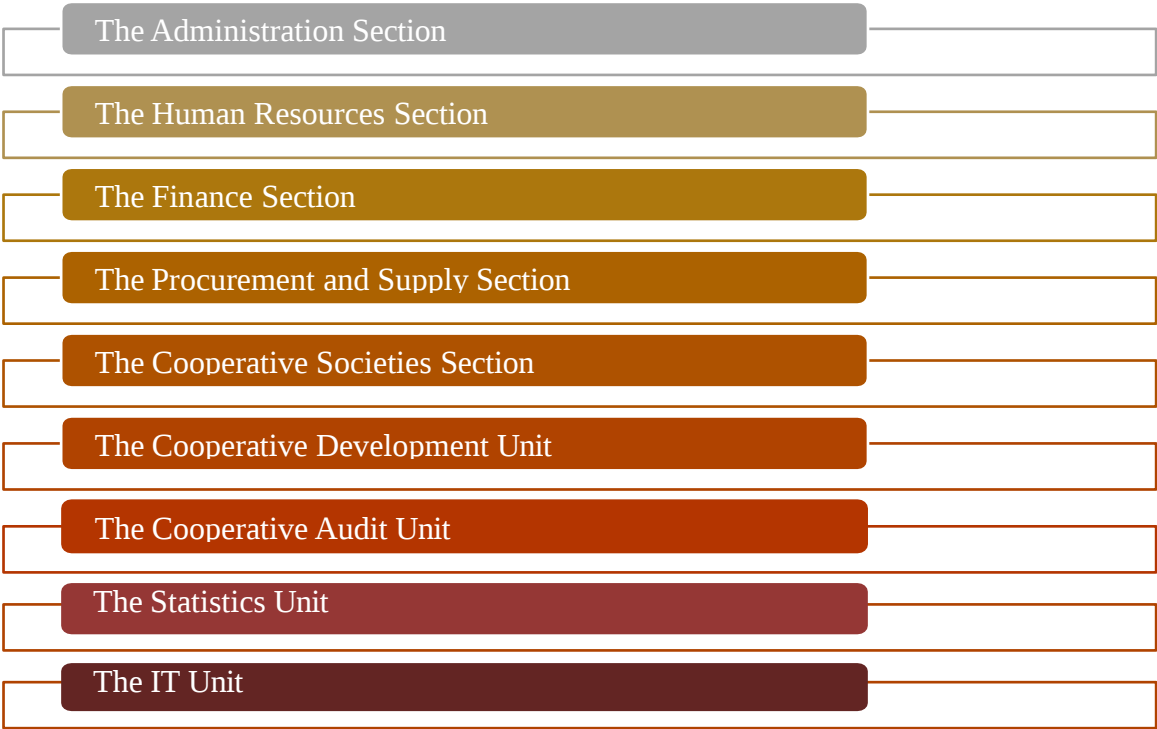
ROLES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE COOPERATIVES DIVISION

The Cooperatives Division has the statutory duty to ensure that the Co-operative Societies operate within the Co-operative legal regulatory framework. It assists in the consolidation, promotion and development of the Co-operative Movement.

The key functions of the Cooperatives Division include the following:

- (i) Provision of legal and institutional framework for cooperatives and cooperative development;
- (ii) Devising and implementing policies to ensure the development of a modern, viable and sustainable cooperative movement;
- (iii) Formation and registration of cooperative societies;
- (iv) Supervision, monitoring and evaluation of the activities of cooperative societies;
- (v) Implementation of projects for the development of the cooperative sector;
- (vi) Audit of financial statements of cooperative societies;
- (vii) Support to cooperative organisations for the implementation of their plans and projects;
- (viii) Operating incentive schemes for the benefit of cooperative societies;
- (ix) Seeking financial and technical assistance from foreign and local donor agencies for the implementation of cooperative projects;
- (x) Provision of infrastructural facilities to cooperative societies;
- (xi) Provision of marketing outlets to cooperative societies; and
- (xii) Provision of education and training to the cooperative movement.

The Cooperatives Division consists of the following Sections/Units:



SECTIONS/UNITS OF THE COOPERATIVES DIVISION

❖ Administration Section

- Achieve the goals and objectives of the Cooperatives Division.
- Formulate policies and strategies.
- Formulate and implement projects, programmes and activities.
- Ensure that customer requirements are met.

❖ Human Resources Section

- Advise management on policies and issues pertaining to human resources.
- Ensure that rules, regulations and other practices relating to human resources are correctly interpreted and implemented.
- Ensure that reforms in Human Resource Management Information System and Performance Management System are carried out effectively.
- Ensure that Human Resource matters and problems are dealt, processed and approved within one (1) week except for cases which involve consultations with other Ministries/Departments.

❖ Finance Section

- Ensure that bills/claims for services provided to the Cooperatives Division are transmitted within one week to the Accountant-General's Department for payment, provided all relevant receipts/invoices are submitted.

❖ Procurement and Supply Section

- Ensure that planning and procurement of goods and services are undertaken in accordance with the Public Procurement Act and Regulations.
- Manage the warehouse for store items.
- Ensure that tenders and quotations are prepared, examined and awarded within time schedule.

❖ Cooperative Societies Section

- Ensure that cooperative societies operate in strict conformity with the Co-operatives Act 2016 and other relevant subsidiary legislation.
- Advise on legal and policy matters concerning cooperative societies.
- Ensure that records regarding list of societies and their categories (active, dormant and deregistered/liquidated) are updated every year.
- Sensitise and raise awareness among the population at large on the benefit of cooperatives.

❖ **Cooperative Development Unit**

- Assist in the formulation of policies and preparation of programmes for the development of the cooperative sector.
- Formulate, implement and monitor national cooperative development projects.
- Provide guidance and support to cooperative societies for the implementation of their plans and projects.
- Assist cooperatives in the drafting of their project write-ups to seek assistance from aid/donor agencies, and to request for lease of state land and loans from financial institutions.
- Provide inputs and coordination of activities in connection with programmes under bilateral commissions.

❖ **Cooperative Audit Unit**

- Carry out audit of cooperative societies and submit relevant reports.
- Review and update the audit approach and procedures.
- Ensure that the quality and sufficiency of audit evidence are maintained in accordance with cooperative legislation.

❖ **Statistics Unit**

- To provide statistics on Cooperatives, which are coherent, relevant, accurate and reliable, consistent with international principles and standards, for effective decision-making. Data are provided through the Annual Report on Cooperatives, or in response to request for information from internal and external users, or through dissemination of ad hoc survey results.

❖ **IT Unit**

- Provide Reliable and Timely ICT services to the Ministry.
- Strive for user satisfaction in respect of ICT services being provided.
- Maintain standards in the provision of ICT services.
- Assist Ministries / Departments in using ICT in their daily tasks.

Key Legislation under the responsibility of the Cooperatives Division

The Cooperatives Division has the statutory duty to enforce the Co-operatives Act 2016.

STATUTORY BODIES, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE COOPERATIVES DIVISION

❖ Body Corporates

(i) Co-operative Development Advisory Board

The Co-operative Development Advisory Board is established under Section 102 of the Co-operatives Act 2016. The objects and functions of the Advisory Board are to:

- a) promote development and sustainability of the cooperative sector;
- b) promote business entrepreneurship in cooperatives;
- c) encourage the cooperative movement to take advantage of investment opportunities at national and regional levels;
- d) ensure coordination and cooperation with organisations concerned with cooperative activities;
- e) carry out research and commission studies on co-operative business sectors and related fields;
- f) promote the clustering of cooperative activities through the creation and development of Cooperative Business Centres;
- g) formulate national policies and strategies; and
- h) advise the Minister generally on any matter relating to cooperative development.

(ii) National Co-operative College

The National Co-operative College, established under Section 103 of the Co-operatives Act 2016, is a body corporate and its objects are to:

- a) provide facilities and engage in research and training for the promotion and development of cooperative entrepreneurship, philosophy, principles and values;
- b) act as a centre for the consolidation and development of the cooperative movement through education and training and for the exchange of information in the field of cooperatives; and
- c) promote and develop capacity building through entrepreneurship and business leadership.

(iii) Co-operative Development Fund

The Co-operative Development Fund (CDF) is established under Section 116 of the Co-operatives Act 2016. The CDF comprises any money payable, under the Co-operatives Act 2016, including any fees, charges and surcharges and any surplus arising on the liquidation of a society, grants and donations. As per Section 116 of the Co-operatives Act 2016, the CDF may use money from the fund for:

- a) the promotion and development of cooperatives;
- b) the implementation of projects namely education, training, research, consultancy and other related activities aiming at the development of the cooperative sector; and
- c) the payment of fees incurred in the application of the Co-operatives Act.

(iv) St. Antoine Planters Co-operative Trust

Following the closure of the St. Antoine Sugar Factory, the St. Antoine Planters Co-operative Trust (SAPCT) was set up by an Act of Parliament in the year 1994 with the objective of assisting sugarcane planters cultivating not more than 6.5 hectares of land falling within the Factory Area of the former St. Antoine Sugar Factory. The SAPCT operates various loan and grant schemes for planters/ cooperative societies cultivating sugar cane within the Factory Area of the former St. Antoine Sugar Factory. The objectives of the SAPCT are, inter-alia, to:

- a) receive and manage funds obtained from the Société Usinière de St. Antoine and from any other organisations including the Government;
- b) provide loans to planters for derocking, mechanisation and any other allied agricultural activities;
- c) finance schemes for providing assistance to the planters for cutting, loading and transport of sugarcane;
- d) assist planters in the acquisition of light farm equipment, implements and tools;
- e) provide support services to Agricultural Cooperative Societies in which the planters are members; and
- f) finance any other activities and schemes aimed at assisting planters to improve their level of production and efficiency generally.

GENDER STATEMENT

The Cooperatives Division actively integrates gender mainstreaming into its policies, projects, and activities. The Division has established a Gender Cell to ensure a structured approach to addressing gender concerns and promoting inclusiveness in cooperative development.

Key Initiatives:

- Gender Balance in Staffing:

The Division maintains a gender-balanced workforce, with 34.4% male staff members and 65.6% female staff members.

- Support to Women Cooperatives:

In Financial Year 2024/2025, the Cooperatives Division sustained its support for the development of women cooperatives through training, financial assistance, and regional market fairs. Notably, the Mauritius Women Entrepreneurs Cooperative Federation Ltd received a grant of Rs 525,000 to operate a tailor and craft shop showcasing products from women cooperatives, while also focusing on capacity-building programs for women entrepreneurs.

ABOUT OUR PEOPLE

The Permanent Secretary is the Accounting Officer of the Cooperatives Division and is responsible for its overall administration and general supervision. She is assisted by three technical arms, namely, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies (RCS), the Acting Secretary for Co-operative Development and the Principal Co-operative Auditor. Further, Administrative backup is provided by the Deputy Permanent Secretary and the Assistant Permanent Secretaries. The line managers from the Human Resources, Financial Operations and Procurement and Supply sections provide guidance on human resources and financial matters.

The Registrar of Co-operative Societies is the head of the Cooperative Societies Section and is assisted by the Deputy Registrar of Co-operatives Societies. Moreover, the Divisional Cooperative Officers, who work under the direct supervision of the Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies, are supported by Principal Cooperative Officers, Senior Cooperative Officers and Cooperative Officers who are posted at the five (5) Cooperative Business Centres around the island.

The Cooperative Development Unit is headed by the Secretary for Cooperative Development and is assisted by Senior Cooperative Development Officers and Cooperative Development Officers.

The Cooperative Audit Unit is headed by the Principal Cooperative Auditor and is assisted by Senior Cooperative Auditors and Cooperative Auditors.

The Statistics Unit is headed by the Principal Statistical Officer (Temporary) and is assisted by Statistical Officers.

The IT Unit is headed by the Senior Systems Analyst and is assisted by the Assistant Systems Analyst.

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM 2024/2025

ADMINISTRATION

Title	Contact Details
Permanent Secretary	Mrs. I. PUDARUTH RUCHAIA Tel: 405 0770 Fax No: 211 1625 Email: iruchaia@govmu.org
Deputy Permanent Secretary	Mrs. SOHUN Pusmawtee Tel No: 405 0770 Fax No: 208 1822 Email: psohun@govmu.org
Assistant Permanent Secretaries	Mrs. DOOKAYKA Nandita Neelum Tel No: 405 0770 Fax No: 208 9263 Email: ndookayka@govmu.org
	Mr. ARLANDA Jean Christian Laval Tel No: 405 0770 Fax No: 208 9263 Email: jarlanda@govmu.org

COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES SECTION

Title	Contact Details
Registrar, Co-operative Societies	Mrs. BEEGOO Geeta Tel No: 405 0770 Fax No: 208 5318 Email: gbeegoo@govmu.org
Deputy Registrar, Co-operative Societies	Mr. BEEKARRY Chintaram Tel No: 405 0770 Fax No: 208 9263 Email: cbeekarry@govmu.org

COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT UNIT

Title	Contact Details
Ag. Secretary for Co-operative Development	Mrs. BASANTA LALA-BALGOBIN Preetee (on vacation leave until Jan 2026) Mrs. AUCKALOO Anju (From 14 April 2025 to date) Tel No:- 405 0770 Fax No :- 211 1312 Email : ajugnarain@govmu.org

COOPERATIVE AUDIT UNIT

Title	Contact Details
Principal Cooperative Auditor	Mr. YEAROO Sheik Reaze Tel No: 405 0770 Fax No: 208 9263 Email: syearoo@govmu.org

HUMAN RESOURCE SECTION

Title	Contact Details
Assistant Manager, Human Resources	Mrs. SHAMLOLL Rekha Tel No: 405 0770 Tel No: 405 0770 Email: rshamlooll@govmu.org

FINANCE SECTION

Title	Contact Details
Assistant Manager, Financial Operations	Mrs. TEELokee Sarita Tel No: 405 0770 Email: steelokee@govmu.org

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY SECTION

Title	Contact Details
Principal Procurement and Supply Officer	Mrs. RAMSURN Kavina Tel No: 405 0770 Fax No: 213 0507 Email: kramsurm@govmu.org

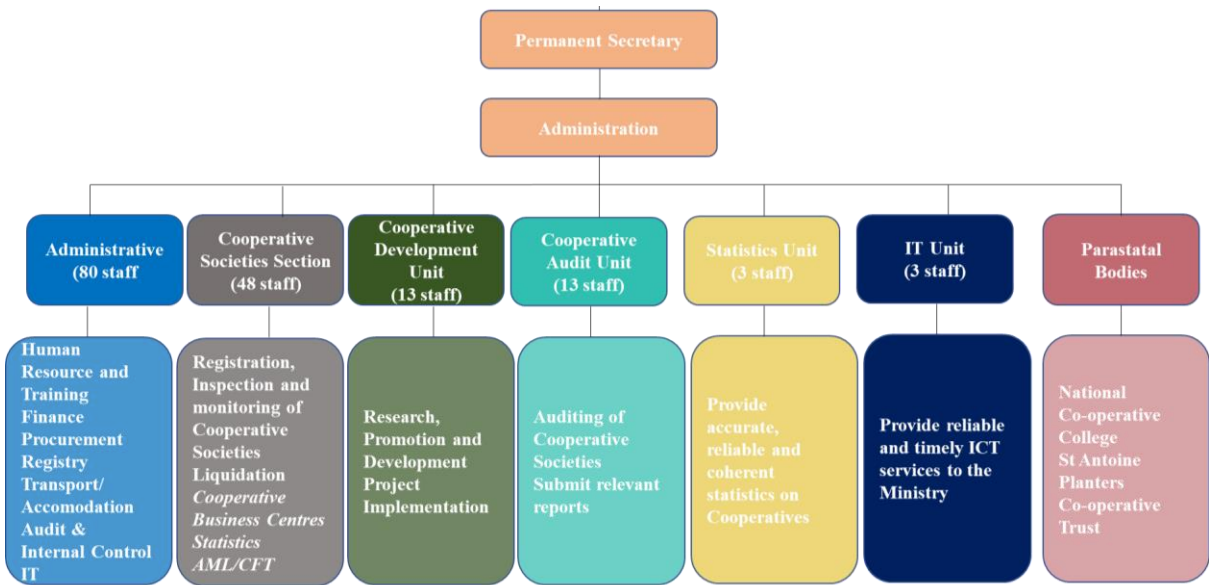
STATISTICS UNIT

Title	Contact Details
Principal Statistical Officer (Temporary)	Mrs. DULLOO Razia Banon Tel No: 405 0770 Email: rdulloo@govmu.org

IT UNIT

Title	Contact Details
Senior Systems Analyst/Head ICT	Mr. O.Awotar Tel No: 405 0770 Email: oawotar@govmu.org

Organisational Structure of the Cooperatives Division



Offices of the Cooperatives Division

The Cooperatives Division of the Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives has its Head Office at the 3rd Floor, LIC Centre, President John Kennedy Street, Port Louis and it also operates five Cooperative Business Centres at:



**PART II:
MINISTRY/
DEPARTMENT
ACHIEVEMENTS
& CHALLENGES**

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

1. ACCESS TO FINANCE

1.1 BOOST TO LOCAL PRODUCTION SCHEME

Cooperative societies are encouraged to increase local food production to attain food security. The scheme provided a grant of up to Rs300,000/- per cooperative society to finance the following items:

- (a) New agricultural equipment;
- (b) New agro-processing equipment;
- (c) New value-addition equipment; and
- (d) Other equipment as appropriate.

For the period under review, thirty-nine (39) applications were approved for a total of Rs10.6million. Monitoring is in progress.

1.2 SEEDLINGS PRODUCTION SCHEME

The scheme assisted cooperative societies to undertake seedling productions to ensure supply of seedlings to boost local production. The scheme provided a grant of Rs250,000/- per cooperative society to finance the following:

- (a) Construction/upgrading of a Seedlings Production Plant for vegetables and fruits;
- (b) Irrigation equipment;
- (c) Tray filler machine;
- (d) Seedlings tables;
- (e) Seeder machine;
- (f) Extraction fan;
- (g) Mister; and
- (h) Any other appropriate equipment.

For the period under review, six (6) applications were approved for a total of Rs1.4million. Monitoring is in progress.

1.3 LIVESTOCK FARMING SCHEME

The scheme aimed to increase local production of livestock where a grant of Rs200,000/- is provided per cooperative society for the purpose of:

- (a) Constructing and upgrading of sheds; and
- (b) Purchase of goats, sheep, pigs and cows.

For the period under review, thirteen (13) applications were approved for a total of Rs2.5million. Monitoring is in progress.

1.4 WASTE RECYCLING SCHEME

The scheme promotes the undertaking of recycling activities by cooperative societies to participate in the circular economy. The scheme financed 50% up to a maximum of Rs500,000/- cooperative society for the purchase of:

- (a) Recycling equipment; and
- (b) Waste transportation vehicle.

1.5 ZERO BUDGET NATURAL FARMING SCHEME

This scheme promotes the supply and use of Jiwamrita (organic fertilizer) by cooperative societies. A grant of Rs200,000/- per cooperative society to finance the production of Jiwamrita through the:

- (a) Purchase of cow/s; and
- (b) Construction/upgrading of cow shed.

For the period under review, three (3) applications were approved for a total of Rs 0.5million. Monitoring is in progress.

1.6 DIGITALISATION SCHEME

The scheme assists cooperative societies to use digital tools to improve the efficiency and productivity of their operations. The scheme provided 50 percent of the digitalisation cost up to a maximum of Rs100,000/- per cooperative society to finance the following:

- (a) Purchase of software solutions as appropriate for the main activities of the cooperative society;
- (b) Consultancy services for the development of customised software;
- (c) Development of mobile applications;
- (d) Design of website; and
- (e) Design of digital marketing platforms such as e-commerce platforms, e-marketing.

For the period under review, seven (7) applications were approved for a total of Rs0.6million. Monitoring is in progress.

1.7 ASSISTANCE TO COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES UNDER THE COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT FUND SCHEMES

The Cooperative Development Fund operated several financial schemes to assist in the growth of cooperatives. For the period under review, a sum of Rs2,755,343.33/- was disbursed under the following schemes to sixty-one (61) cooperative societies:

Schemes	Number of beneficiaries	Amount Disbursed (Rs)
(i) ICT Scheme for Cooperative Societies	47	1,919,244.01
(ii) Equipment Scheme for Cooperative Societies	11	824,099.32
(iii) Grant Scheme to Cooperative Societies availing book-keeping/internal control services from the Mauritius Co-operative Alliance Limited	3	12,000.00
TOTAL	61	2,755,343.33

2. ACCESS TO MARKET TO COOPERATIVES

2.1 QUATRE BORNES COOPERATIVE MARKET FAIRS

The Quatre Bornes Cooperative Market Fairs provide a platform for cooperative societies to showcase their products and establish business networks.

To mark the National Day celebrations 2025 and the launching of the Cooperative Market Fairs 2025 at the Quatre Bornes Market, the Ministry had organised “**La Grande Foire de l’Indépendance**” on 17 March 2025 at Quatre Bornes market.

Cooperative market fairs are held every first and third Mondays of the month, starting from 17 March 2025 to 17 November 2025, except on public holidays. Stalls are allocated to participants free-of-charge and coupled with free entrance to the fairs by the public.

Seventeen (17) Cooperative Market Fairs were unfolded at Quatre Bornes Market, engaging cooperative societies to sell their products throughout the Financial Year 2024/2025.



2.2 REGIONAL COOPERATIVE MARKET FAIR

The Cooperatives Division successfully organised a two-day Regional Cooperative Market Fair at Route Du Vieux Conseil, Port Louis, on Tuesday, 3rd and Wednesday, 4th June 2025. The event provided 36 cooperative societies with free stalls, offering a valuable platform to showcase and sell their locally made products and services. The fair also encouraged networking among cooperatives and enhanced their visibility in the community.



3. REGISTRATION OF COOPERATIVES

3.1 NEW COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES

For the Financial Year 2024/2025, 80 cooperative societies were registered, out of which 47 cooperative societies had been registered as Multi-purpose Cooperative Societies with a view to allowing the society to be engaged in various activities.

4. EVENTS ON COOPERATIVES

4.1 CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF COOPERATIVES 2024



The International Day of Cooperatives (IDC) is an annual celebration of the cooperative movement observed on the first Saturday of July. For the year 2024, the International Day of Cooperatives was celebrated on the 6th of July 2024 on the theme ***“Cooperatives Build a Better Future for All”***.

The aim of the International Day of Cooperatives is to increase awareness of cooperatives and promote the movement's successes and ideals of international solidarity, economic efficiency, equality, and world peace. Through the International Day of Cooperatives, local, national, and international policymakers, civil society organisations and the public in general can learn about the contribution of cooperatives to secure a future for all.

In Mauritius, to mark the International Day of Cooperatives 2024, the Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives (Cooperatives Division) organised a series of activities. The main event was the Celebration of the International Day of Cooperatives 2024 on Saturday 06 July 2024 at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture, Phoenix.

The event on that day equally comprised, *inter-alia*, the following:

- A sketch depicting the evolution of the cooperative movement;
- Exhibition of cooperative products; and

- Musical performances.

4.2 **BOOST THE COOPERATIVE SECTOR**

A working session was held in January 2025 with the Hon. Minister and representatives of the Mauritius Co-operative Alliance (MCA) Ltd to discuss proposals to boost the local cooperative sector.

Proposals were made to restructure the MCA Ltd to strengthen its financial stability, improve operational efficiency and enhance good governance. This would ensure that the organisation effectively fulfilled its mandate and supported cooperative development. Discussions were also held on the amendments to the Co-operatives Act 2016 to address modern challenges and beef up governance, transparency and financial sustainability.



4.3 **GRANT SCHEMES LAUNCHED FOR COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES**

The Ministry organised an Open Day on Wednesday 07 August 2024 at the Plaisance Shopping Village, Rose Belle, where six grant schemes were launched for cooperative societies. These included namely, boost to local production scheme, livestock farming scheme, zero budget natural farming scheme, seedlings production scheme, digitalisation scheme and waste recycling scheme.



The open day was organised to disseminate and provide information on the schemes and the grant facilities. The objectives of the grant schemes were to diversify, modernise and give cooperatives a competitive edge.

5. **PROMOTION OF COOPERATIVES**

5.1 **SENSITISATION ON COOPERATIVES**

The Cooperatives Division carried out various sensitisation programmes around the island. The objective was to promote the cooperative business model and advise on the setting up of cooperative societies, grant schemes and writing-up of business plans. The sensitisation programmes were attended by 1,807 participants.

5.2 **RADIO AND TELEVISION PROGRAMMES**

Officers of the Cooperatives Division participated on radio and television programmes on the occasion of International Day of Cooperatives 2024, to provide information on the support and facilities provided to cooperatives and to promote the cooperative model of doing business.

6. **SUPPORT TO COOPERATIVES**

6.1 **AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF COOPERATIVES**

The total number of Financial Statements audited for the period under review was 1,077.

6.2 **ASSISTANCE FOR PROJECT WRITE-UP**

Assistance was provided to fourteen (14) cooperative societies for project write-ups in respect of their applications for loans, permits, financial assistance and opening of bank accounts for the Financial Year.

7. **BRANDING OF COOPERATIVE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES**

7.1 **COOP MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER” LOGO**

The Ministry developed a logo entitled “Coop Moving Forward Together”. The logo would assist in building a cooperative identity and fostering a professional image. Cooperatives were encouraged to use the logo. A total of four (4) applications for the use of the logo were approved for the Financial Year.

8. **MAINTENANCE OF MS ISO STANDARDS**

8.1 **MS ISO CERTIFICATION OF THE COOPERATIVES DIVISION**

The Cooperatives Division had been certified MS ISO 9001:2008 since 2010 and migrated to MS ISO 9001:2015 with effect from 2017. In August 2024, a surveillance audit was undertaken and the Cooperatives Division maintained its certification.

9. COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

9.1 TRAINING PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE COLLEGE

With a view to building the capacity of cooperatives and promoting the cooperative way of doing business, the National Co-operative College embarked on training programmes and activities as stated hereunder:

Sn	Details	No. of Programmes	Number of Participants
(i)	Vocational Training Programmes (Non-Award)	24	1,187
(ii)	Capacity Building Training Programmes (Non-Award)	18	524
(iii)	Certificate in Cooperative Management (Award)	1	27
(iv)	EduTour in Malaysia for Cooperative Credit Unions of Mauritius and Rodrigues	1	12
(v)	Sensitisation Programme	26	1,229
(vi)	Workshop	1	200
(vii)	Open Day	26	536
Total			3,715

STATUS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF BUDGET MEASURES

Paragraph in Budget Speech	Budget Measure	Status
Boost to Local Production Scheme	The Boost to Local Production Scheme provides financial assistance of Rs300,000 to a cooperative society to finance the purchase of the following equipment items to increase local food production to attain food security: (a) New agricultural equipment; (b) New agro-processing equipment; (c) New value-addition equipment; (d) Other equipment as appropriate. A sum of Rs12 million was earmarked for this Scheme in Financial Year 2024/2025.	Disbursement withheld in FY 24/25. Monitoring in progress
Zero Budget Natural Farming Scheme for Cooperative Societies	The Zero Budget Natural Farming Scheme provides financial assistance of Rs200,000 to a cooperative society to finance the following for the production of Jiwamrita, an organic fertilizer: (a) Purchase of cows; and (b) Construction/upgrading of the cow shed. A sum of Rs 1 million was earmarked for this Scheme in Financial Year 2024/2025.	Disbursement withheld in FY 24/25. Monitoring in progress
Livestock Farming Scheme for Cooperative Societies	The Livestock Farming Scheme provides financial assistance of Rs200,000 to a cooperative society to finance the following to increase local production of livestock: (a) Construction and upgrading of sheds; and (b) Purchase of goats, sheep, pigs and cows.	Disbursement withheld in FY 24/25. Monitoring in progress

Paragraph in Budget Speech	Budget Measure	Status
	A sum of Rs 4 million had been earmarked for this Scheme in Financial Year 2024/2025.	
Waste Recycling Scheme for Cooperative Societies	The Waste Recycling Scheme finances 50% of the total costs of the following up to a maximum of Rs500,000 per cooperative society to carry out recycling activities and participate in circular economy: (a) Recycling equipment. (b) Waste Transportation vehicle. Applicants were advised to consult the relevant authorities regarding the categories of waste which can be recycled and the regulations and conditions for registration as a recycler and obtention of a waste carrier licence. A sum of Rs 1 million was earmarked for this Scheme in Financial Year 2024/2025.	Disbursement withheld in FY 24/25. Monitoring in progress
Seedlings Production Scheme for Cooperative Societies	The Seedlings Production Scheme provides financial assistance of Rs250,000 to a cooperative society to finance the following for the supply of seedlings to boost local production: (a) Construction/upgrading of a Seedlings Production Plant for vegetables and fruits; (b) Irrigation equipment; (c) Tray filler machine; (d) Seedlings tables; (e) Seeder machine; (f) Extraction fan; (g) Mister; and (h) Any other appropriate equipment. A sum of Rs 2 million was earmarked for this Scheme in Financial Year 2024/2025.	Disbursement withheld in FY 24/25. Monitoring in progress

Paragraph in Budget Speech	Budget Measure	Status
Digitalisation Scheme for Cooperative Societies	The Digitalisation Scheme provides 50 percent of the following digitalisation cost up to a maximum of Rs 100,000 to encourage cooperative societies to use digital tools to improve the efficiency and productivity of their operations: (a) Purchase of software solutions as appropriate for the main activities of the cooperative society; (b) Consultancy services for the development of customised software; (c) Development of mobile applications; (d) Design of website; and (e) Design of digital marketing platforms such as e-commerce platforms, e-marketing. A sum of Rs 1 million was earmarked for this Scheme in Financial Year 2024/2025.	Disbursement withheld in FY 24/25. Monitoring in progress

STATUS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF KEY ACTIONS

Key Action	Key Performance Indicator	Target	Actual
Support and facilitating the growth and development of the Cooperative Sector	Number of cooperative societies assisted through technical support and schemes/projects	700	800
Promote the development of cooperative entrepreneurship	Number of cooperative members trained	900	1368

RISK MANAGEMENT, CITIZEN ORIENTED INITIATIVES AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

The Permanent Secretary is responsible for exercising care, skill and diligence in identifying, assessing and monitoring risks.

The system of internal audit of the Cooperatives Division is designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding:

- (a) The effectiveness and efficiency of operations in the Department;
- (b) Safeguard of assets and data of the Department;
- (c) Reliability of financial and non-financial reporting;
- (d) Prevention of fraud and irregularities; and
- (e) Compliance with applicable laws, regulations and instructions as well as policies and established procedures.

Further, there is an Audit Committee which has the responsibility to assist and advise the Accounting Officer/Supervising Officer regarding the following:

- (a) monitoring and reviewing both the risk control and governance processes in the organisation;
- (b) supervision of the entire audit and reporting process;
- (c) ensuring auditor independence;
- (d) ensuring that proper and timely attention is paid to control issues and compliance weaknesses; and
- (e) ensuring that audit recommendations and other corrective actions are implemented.

Moreover, the Ministry is MS ISO 9001:2015 Certified since 2017. The implementation of the certification includes a component of risk management which takes into account each process of each Section of the Ministry and any potential risks. The risks identified are carefully monitored and evaluated for better and effective management thereof.

There is also an Anti-Corruption Committee at the level of the Cooperatives Division to conduct risk assessment to identify corruption risks and to take remedial actions. In addition, there is a Transformation Implementation Committee which oversees, monitors and evaluates the development and implementation of the Business Transformation initiatives of the Cooperatives Division in line with the Public Sector Business Transformation Strategy.

Further, the Cooperatives Division has an Anti-Money Laundering and Combatting the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) Unit, which is responsible to review and update guidelines to ensure consistent and effective application of the AML/CFT legal framework. National institutional set-ups such as the Financial Intelligence Unit is involved in this joint effort by providing technical assistance and capacity building.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN – DIRECTOR OF AUDIT COMMENTS

The Report of the Director of Audit FY 2023/2024 highlighted the following:

ISSUES	DOA RECOMMENDATIONS	PROPOSED MEASURES/REMARKS
Waste Recycling Scheme	The terms and conditions of the scheme should be reviewed so as to meet the needs of potential beneficiaries.	In FY 2023/2024 the eligibility as well as the terms and conditions of the scheme were reviewed.
Zero Budget Natural Farming Scheme	- To ensure compliance with all conditions of the scheme. - To take necessary action in case of risk of conflict of interest.	- Monitoring visits were conducted to ensure the conditions of the scheme are being adhered to. - To reinforce the mechanism in the future, applicants will be requested to sign an undertaking and declaration form for any conflict of interest with the supplier/s at the time of application.
Goat Farming Scheme	To set up a Monitoring Committee to monitor projects following the disbursement and take appropriate corrective actions to address deviations.	- A Project Steering Committee for Grant Schemes has been established under the Chairpersonship of the Permanent Secretary on the grant schemes. - A Coordination Committee will also be set up. <i>(Sub Committee on Monitoring of Grant Schemes and Technical Evaluation Committee set up in Aug 2025)</i>
Boost to Local production Scheme	- To set up a Monitoring Committee to monitor projects following the disbursement and take appropriate corrective actions to address deviations. - A Coordinating Committee may be set up to ensure that grants are given only to eligible and compliant beneficiaries	A Project Steering Committee for Grant Schemes has been established under the Chairpersonship of the Permanent Secretary on the grant schemes.

		• A Coordination Committee will also be set up. <i>(Sub Committee on monitoring of Grant Schemes and Technical Evaluation Committee set up in Aug 2025)</i>
Poor Governance over submission of Financial Statements by Cooperative Societies	• To take corrective action for non-compliance.	• Directives for the submission of financial statements under the Co-operatives Act 2016 were issued to all cooperative societies. • Officers are assisting cooperative societies in the preparation of the financial statements. • Monthly reviews and inquiries are being conducted to ensure proper submission of financial statements.

PART: III
FINANCIAL
PERFORMANCE

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS, ANALYSIS OF MAJOR CHANGES AND STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE

Head/Sub-Head of Expenditure	2023-2024 Actual	2024-2025 Estimates	2024-2025 Actual	Analysis of Major Changes
	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)	
240-104	Cooperatives Development			
Compensation of Employees	81,432,356	88,600,000	91,526,843	
Goods and Services	18,615,750	22,400,000	19,303,468	
Grants	9,852,395	10,200,000	10,157,922	
Other Expense <i>Transfers to Non-Profit Institutions</i>	6,997,812	5,500,000	5,499,770	
Other Expense <i>Transfers to Private Enterprises</i>	-	-	-	
Acquisition of Non-Assets	9,520,514	10,400,000	9,094,344	
Total	126,418,827	137,100,000	135,582,347	



PART: IV WAY FORWARD

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

A situational analysis using the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) model was carried out to explore both the internal and external factors influencing the operations of the Cooperatives Division as highlighted below:



Strengths

- Clear mission, vision and strategic direction
- Government support
- Well established organizational structure
- Trained and experienced personnel
- Established process and procedures for provision of quality service delivery-MS ISO 9001:2015 certified
- Supportive legal framework

Weaknesses

- Lack of technology /digital infrastructure
- Lack of interest from youth and women in cooperative activities
- There is an aging population and a lack of technological adaptation.
- Gap in innovation and leadership across cooperative societies

Opportunities

- Early Momentum in Green and Renewable Energy, sustainable agriculture, Circular Economy Expansion.
- Support cooperatives to engage in activities of national importance such as food security.
- Memorandum of Understanding for capacity building, youth engagement and sustainable development projects.
- Potential for greater adoption of information technology within cooperatives to rationalise operations.

Threats

- Climate change and market volatility and its impacts on agriculture- based cooperatives
- Slow pace of modernisation, digital and innovation adoption in some cooperative sectors.
- External economic factors and financial fragility affecting cooperative market access, productivity and profitability.
- Youth disengagement and ageing membership could hamper long-term vitality.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

The Cooperatives Division is focusing on consolidating, diversifying and empowering cooperative societies to render them competitive, sustainable, and resilient. The strategic direction for the coming years includes the following key initiatives:

(A) Good Governance and Legal Framework

(i) Implementation of the AML/CFT framework for Cooperative Credit Unions to increase public confidence and financial integrity.

(ii) The Cooperatives Act 2016 will be revisited to adapt to the modern business context, facilitate cooperative business, management of cooperative societies, reinforce compliance, and ensure good governance.

(B) Support growth, development and competitiveness of cooperative societies

- Operation of Grant schemes for cooperatives societies to assist cooperatives to boost local production, modernize their activities and engage in energy efficiency projects/circular economy.
- Implementation of an E-Cooperatives Project to support the transition from a manual to a digital mode of operation for processes related to management of cooperatives and to digitally transform the business processes of the Cooperatives Division.
- Promote the formation of cooperative societies in non-traditional and emerging activities like renewable energy, eco-friendly products, digital transformation.
- Organize cooperative market fairs to promote visibility of products produced by cooperative societies.
- Conduct sensitization programmes to disseminate information on the cooperative business model.
- Capacity building programmes for cooperative societies through the National Co-operative College.
- Support youth empowerment through formation of new cooperatives.
- Facilitate women engagement in cooperative societies.
- To strengthen collaboration with international organizations, donor agencies, and development partners to leverage financial and technical assistance for cooperative projects, through bilateral and multilateral cooperation.
- Risk Management develop a comprehensive risk management framework to address internal and external risks, including climate change impacts, market volatility, and operational challenges within cooperatives.
- To prepare a National Strategic Action Plan for the cooperative sector for years 2025-2029 to provide a clear, coordinated and long-term road map for addressing the challenges faced by cooperatives societies.
- Promote export potential of selected cooperative societies.

The Cooperatives Division is committed to empowering cooperatives, fostering sustainable development, and contributing to the socio-economic progress of Mauritius. With a clear strategic focus, the Cooperatives Division aims at building a vibrant, innovative, and inclusive cooperative sector that drives national development and uplifts communities.

Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives (Cooperatives Division)



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