

INDIAN COOPERATIVE REVIEW

IN THIS ISSUE

ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS AND COOPERATIVE
INITIATIVES IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

—*Robby Tulas*

THE STATE AND COOPERATION :
A RETROSPECTIVE SCENARIO

—*Dr. M. Joseph & Shri B. Tamilan*

PERFORMANCE OF ARALEPET SILK HANDLOOM
WEAVERS PRODUCTION & SALES COOPERATIVE
SOCIETY—A CASE STUDY

—*K. Ravichandran*

PURCHASE BEHAVIOUR OF CONSUMERS IN
CONSUMER COOPERATIVES

—*S.A. Ravichandran & N.R. Padmanaban*

SALVAGING THE PRIDE OF CREDIT COOPS :
A STRATEGY TO IMPROVE RECOVERIES

—*C.S. Murty*

CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY—AN EMPIRICAL
STUDY

—*Dr. G. Veerakumaran & K. Praveen*

ROLE AND PERFORMANCE OF BEEKEEPERS
COOPERATIVE SOCIETY

—*S.K. Chauhan & Lalit Sharma*

NATIONAL COOPERATIVE UNION OF INDIA

3, Siri Institutional Area, Khel Gaon Marg, Hanz Khas, New Delhi-110016



Concern For Community - An Empirical Study

DR. G. VEERAKUMARAN* & K. PRAVEEN**

Introduction

PRIMARY Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks are erstwhile Land Mortgage Banks, established in Punjab, Bengal and Madras Presidencies in the 1920s. Found primarily for providing financial assistance to debt stricken farmers to service their prior debts, these banks operated with funds raised through the issue of debentures fully guaranteed by the state government. By the late sixties they changed their portfolio in favour of land based productive assets instead of debt redemption and therefore came to be called as Land Development Banks. Further, they metamorphised into Agriculture Development Banks, and then to their present stature in the eighties, as their priorities got redefined to suit the multifarious needs of the farm and non-farm sectors. In the seventy five years of their existence the banks have registered a conspicuous growth in their lending operations through a variety of innovative schemes to suit the definite target groups.

Our nation still holds a backward status in relation to the welfare of small farmers, scheduled caste, scheduled tribes and women. The cooperatives are expected to be the catalyst for socio-economic reforms. Many research studies show that the banks are not significantly contributing to the development of weaker sections. Hence an attempt is hereby made to know the extent of membership offered to the weaker sections. The present study is confined to the Palakkad Primary Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Bank, Kerala State.

*Assistant Professor, **Research Student, College of Cooperation, Banking & Management, Kerala Agricultural University, Mannuthy, Trichur-650 651.

Organizational Profile

The Palakkad Primary Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Bank Ltd. No. F1029 was registered on 20th June, 1938 as the Palakkad Cooperative Land Mortgage Bank under Section 7(1) of the Madras Land Mortgage Bank Act 1934. Its business operation started on 10-08-1939 with a share capital of Rs. 1132 collected from 82 of its founder members. The Bank has since played an important role in catering to the credit requirements of the agriculturists. Consequent on the promulgation of Kerala State Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Bank Act 1985, the Bank was renamed as the Palakkad Primary Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Bank. Until recently the area of operation of the Bank covered Alathur, Palakkad and Chittur taluks of Palakkad district. However, consequent on the Bank's trifurcation with effect from 01-02-1994, its jurisdiction was restricted to Palakkad taluk alone.

Membership

"A" class members are individuals having voting rights. "B" class members are nominal members whose admission is necessary to join in the execution of any document in favour of the Bank that is required to be registered as co-partner. As is evident from the table "A" class membership recorded a steady rise until 1986-87 but declined abruptly in 1987. This is only a repercussion of Bank's hike in price of "A" class shares from Rs. 10 to Rs. 50 during the year. From 1987-88 to 1991-92 the membership depicted an increasing trend. As a result of trifurcation of the Bank in 1994, however, the membership declined to the present level of 4350.

The "B" class membership showed fluctuations throughout the period under study while the "B" class membership was 11993 in 1984-85, it declined to 2400 in 1993-94 marking a decline to nearly one-fifths as revealed by the growth index.

Small Farmers

Members who own less than 5 acres of land in the area of operation of the Bank is classified as small farmers. The Table reveals that the percentage of small farmers to total members on both pre and post trifurcation status increased consistently. The small farmers constituted only 43 per cent of the total membership in 1984-85, but it increased to 62 per cent of the total membership in 1993-94.

Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes

It is evident from the Table that the percentages of scheduled caste/scheduled tribes members to total members was rather meagre and constantly on the decline throughout the period of study. During 1983-84 scheduled caste/

scheduled tribe members accounted for 11.28 per cent of the total membership while in 1993-94 they constituted only 10.09 per cent of membership marking a two-thirds decline, as shown by the growth index.

Women Membership

As is evident from the Table, women constituted insignificantly to the total membership. Though the women membership tended to fluctuate most of the times, their percentage composition increased marginally between 1984-85 and 1987-88. Nevertheless the total number of women members declined to nearly one-half during the period as is attested by the growth index.

Conclusion

The 1991 population census revealed that the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes constituted 17 per cent of the total population in Palakkad district. But in the selected Bank Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe's membership shows only ten percent during that period.

Female population exceeds male population with 51 per cent in Palakkad district. On contrary the membership position in the Bank revolves around 13 per cent.

The unique Feature of Kerala State is that the average operational holding is only 0.31 hectare. because of this reason many farmers are small farmers and it is reflected in the membership ratio too.

Hence, it is suggested that the eligible scheduled caste and scheduled tribe farmers and workers may be admitted as members. Further it is felt that the Bank should give more importance to admit women members.

Table

Membership Particulars of the Palakkad Primary Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Bank

Year	'A' Class members	'B' Class members	Small farmers	SC/ST members	Women members
1	2	3	4	5	6
1984-85	11362	11993 (100)	4879 (42.94) (100)	1348 (11.86) (100)	1598 (14.06) (100)
1985-86	11947 (105)	7312 (61)	5403 (45.22) (111)	1355(11.34) (101)	1677 (14.04) (105)
1986-87	12468 (110)	7012 (58)	5869 (47.07) (120)	(1367 (10.96) (101)	1762 (14.13) (110)

1	2	3	4	5	6
1987-88	8813 (78)	1879 (16)	5001 (56.74) (103)	(950) (10.77) (70)	1219 (13.83) (76)
1988-89	9180 (81)	2439 (20)	5234 (57.01) (107)	974 (10.61) (72)	1158 (12.61) (72)
1989-90	9417 (83)	3997 (33)	5534 (58.76) (113)	998 (10.59) (74)	1274 (13.53) (80)
1990-91	9553 (84)	3651 (30)	5597 (58.83) (115)	1003 (10.49) (74)	1277 (13.37) (80)
1991-92	10069 (84)	7205 (30)	5956 (58.83) (115)	1003 (10.49) (74)	1277 (13.37) (80)
1992-93	9905 (87)	4400 (37)	6063 (61.21) (124)	1020 (10.29) (76)	1284 (12.96) (80)
1993-94	4350 (38)	2400 (20)	2710 (62.29) (56)	439 (10.09) (33)	749 (12.21) (47)

Note : Figures in parentheses (row) denotes percentage to A Class Members (column) denotes growth index

Source : Progress reports of the Bank.