

# National Federation of Fishermen's Co-Operatives

Umesha K M

Guest Faculty, Maharaj's College

## Abstract

National Federation of Fishermen's Co-operatives Ltd., (NFFCs) was established in 1982 as All India Federation of Fishermen Cooperatives. It unites state and district level fishery cooperative federations, and currently has 83 member institutions. Its goal is to facilitate the fishing industry in the nation through co-operatives. The NFFCs is involved mainly based in welfare and promotional activities. It provides capacity building training to poor fishers of the country also networking of PFCs and providing support for domestic and export marketing of fish. Supporting training initiatives, facilitating exchanges, welfare development and demonstrating, new technologies, introducing marketing techniques, liaising with member organizations, and providing health care and insurance programs.

**Keywords:** National Federation of Fishermen's Co-operatives Ltd, fishing industry, member institutions, training initiatives, insurance programs.

## Introduction

National Federation of Fishermen's Co-operatives Ltd., (NFFCs) was established in 1982 as All India Federation of Fishermen Cooperatives. It is a national level federation of fisheries co-operative societies and the apex organization of Indian Fisheries Co-operative Movement. It unites state and district level fishery cooperative federations, and currently has 83 member institutions. Its slogan is to promote and develop the fishery co-operative movement in the country, to educate, guide and assist fishers in their efforts to build up and expand the fishery cooperative sector and serve as an exponent of co-operative view in agreement with cooperative principles. The NFFCs is under administrative control of the Indian Ministry of Agriculture, works closely with the Indian government and the National Cooperative Development Cooperation, giving the many small fishing cooperatives a powerful voice in the country. Its goal is to facilitate the fishing industry in the nation through co-operatives. Within a short term of its active functioning, the NFFCs entered a number of activities, both business and promotional, including organizing conferences, supporting training initiatives, facilitating exchanges, welfare development, demonstrating new technologies, introducing marketing techniques, liaising with member organizations, and providing health care and insurance programs.

The NFFCs is involved mainly based in welfare and promotional activities. It provides capacity building training to poor fishers of the country also networking of PFCs and providing support for domestic and export marketing of fish. In 2020, there are 21,741 primary fishery cooperatives, 132 district level fishery co-operatives are functioning in India, with 3.3 million fisher members.

### **Functions of NFFCs**

The main functions of NFFCs are as following given below:

- Arrange supply of fisheries inputs and equipment's
- Transfer technology to fishermen through cooperatives
- Insurance cover to fishermen
- Procure pond/ lake on lease basis for development of fish breed and sale of fish at reasonable price
- Provide consultancy services to the members of fishery cooperatives
- Setting-up training-cum-demonstration units
- Marketing of fish and fish seed and promote exports
- Research and consultancy in fishery co-operatives

### **Major Activities of NFFCs**

The NFFCs is a national level federation of fisheries co-operative societies in the country. Its implementation of many activities to sub branches fisheries co-operative societies across the country has improved the industry.

### **Welfare of Fishers through Insurance**

It is a most important welfare activity for fishermen in the NFFCs. Under the Welfare Activities, NFFCs implement the most acclaimed Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) for active fishermen in collaboration with the concerned state and UTs fishery departments throughout the country. Under this scheme, about 50 per cent of the premium is subsidized by the Central Government and remaining of 50 per cent is borne by the State Government and for the North Eastern and Hill states 80 per cent of the premium is subsidized by the Central Government. In case of UTs, 100 per cent of the premium is subsidized by the Central Government. The Scheme provides for 24 hours accident cover amounting to Rs.2,00,000/- against death/ permanent disability and Rs.100,000/- against permanent disability due to accident against an annual premium of Rs.12/-. Around 30.50 lakh fishers are covered under the scheme covering 24 States and 4 UTs. Over 30 lakh fishers are covered under the Scheme covering 23 States and Six UTs in the year 2019-20.

### **Training & Education**

It is another important activity of the NFFCs. The NFFCs continuously is making its efforts to train and educate the fishers in India. With a view to enhance fish production and employment generate among the fishers and get them better return for their produce, NFFCs has provided training to over 20,000 fishers on many aspects of fisheries and co-operatives with the funding help of the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Department of Fisheries, Government of India, National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad, IFFCO, New Delhi and NABARD during the past five years.

### **Marketing Activities**

Under the marketing activities of NFFCs undertakes the following though it is eight-unit offices and head office. Marketing activities includes promotion of aquaculture, cold chain, inter-state fish marketing, retail marketing of fish, supply of fish to group of ITDC hotels, and promotion of export of fish and fish

products.

### **Cold Chain Activities**

Inland fish culture and interstate & local retail of fish and fish products of National Institute of Fisheries Post Harvest Technology & Training are among the commercial or business activities of NFFCs. Creating of a chain of Retail Fish Centres in controlled and hygienic conditions in the metropolitan cities as well as state capital of India has been the most cherished tasks. In order to provide remunerative price to fish farmers and quality fresh fish to consumers, NFFCs has started a cold chain of its own with the assistance of the Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Department of Fisheries. In order to undertake fish trade that is procuring of fish right from the landing centre, NFFCs is operating two trucks at its BBSR Regional office and one mobile van at its Hyderabad Unit office.

### **Service to Member Institutions**

The NFFCs is continuously pursuing the goal to support member institutions by way of provide computers, to implement the project of Fresh Water Aquaculture in joint venture, to help in inter-state marketing etc. Under this process computers have been provided to member institutions and this process will continue in future also subject to availability of funds.

### **Other Promotional Activities**

The NFFCs are providing resources through co-operatives in the country. They are:

- Firstly, to organization of conferences, workshops on insurance, fish marketing, value addition and processing, co-operative management, etc.
- Secondly, research studies on fisheries cooperative marketing system and status of fishery cooperatives in India.
- Thirdly, dissemination of information relating to export of fish and fish products through the co-operatives.
- Lastly, service to member institutes in formulation of fishery projects, interstate marketing, etc.

### **Trends in Growth of the Fisheries Co-operatives in India**

Fishery sector has a significant role in the Indian economy. Presently, there are over 21,741 functional primary fisheries cooperative societies having a membership of around 33 lakh fishers in the country, who are socially, economically and educationally backward weaker section of the communities. They need skill up-gradation to enable themselves to use at least medium technology in the field of fisheries and also need education for their members of fishermen co- operatives to run their societies efficiently in a viable way. Therefore, there is a huge scope and essential to support them by giving them identification in the mainstream of social sections. In several states there is no exact census of fishers. It has been observed that there are several unidentified and unorganized fishers in India who are deprived of the benefits of various development schemes sanctioned by the Union Government as well as the State Governments. In order to develop a comprehensive database of primary FCSs in the country, the NFFCs has undertaken a primary survey of 21,741 primary cooperative societies across 26 states and 6 union territories across India.

**Functioning of Fishery Co-operative Societies in India (As on 2020)**

S. No	Level of FCSs	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2019-20
1	State Level Federations	22	21	21	27
2	Regional/ District Level Federations	130	132	144	139
3	Primary Level Federation	18,559	18,357	20,639	21,743
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**Source:** Government of India (2020), Annual Report of National Federation of Fishers Co-operatives Ltd., New Delhi.

From the above Table indicates the functioning of FCSs in India during the year of 2020. There is one working of national level federation, under which there are 27 state level federations, 7 regional levels, 132 district levels, and 21,743 functioning of primary FCSs of fisher folks having a membership of 3,353,115 in the country.

**Fishery Co-operative Societies in India (As on 2020)**

S. No	Name of the State/ UTs	No. of Primary FCSs	Percent	No. of Memberships	Percent
1	Andhra Pradesh	2,347	10.80	260579	7.77
2	Arunachal Pradesh	11	0.05	230	0.01
3	Assam	520	2.39	90,000	2.68
4	Bihar	510	2.35	410,007	12.23
5	Chhattisgarh	765	3.52	26,154	0.78
6	Goa	20	0.09	1,503	0.04
7	Gujarat	263	1.21	26,045	0.78
8	Haryana	116	0.53	1276	0.04
9	Himachal Pradesh	45	0.21	5,837	0.17
10	Jammu Kashmir	1	0.00	18	0.00
11	Jharkhand	384	1.77	22,853	0.68
12	Karnataka	566	2.60	204,689	6.10
13	Kerala	651	2.99	460,486	13.73
14	Madhya Pradesh	2,290	10.53	85,731	2.56
15	Maharashtra	3,315	15.25	332,636	9.92
16	Manipur	485	2.23	14,258	0.43
17	Meghalaya	18	0.08	611	0.02
18	Mizoram	47	0.22	1,656	0.05
19	Nagaland	267	1.23	9,234	0.28
20	Odisha	657	3.02	138,143	4.12
21	Punjab	1	0.00	18	0.00
22	Rajasthan	34	0.16	4,130	0.12

23	Sikkim	8	0.04	230	0.01
24	Tamil Nadu	1,355	6.23	679,117	20.25
25	Telangana	4,348	20.00	302,002	9.01
26	Tripura	142	0.65	22,967	0.68
27	Uttar Pradesh	1,011	4.65	54,521	1.63
28	Uttarakhand	13	0.06	634	0.02
29	West Bengal	1,433	6.59	131,578	3.92
30	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	41	0.19	1,361	0.04
31	Daman and Diu	7	0.03	3,176	0.09
32	Lakshadweep	6	0.03	2,910	0.09
33	Puducherry	64	0.29	58,525	1.75
	Total	21,741	100.00	3,353,115	100.00

Source: Government of India (2020), Annual Report of National Federation of Fishers Co-operatives Ltd., New Delhi.

The above Table - depicts the status of fishery co-operative societies in India during the year 2020. It is clear that the status of primary fisheries cooperative societies in the country as well as state specific reports for 26 states and 6 union territories across India.

### Conclusion

Fisheries and aquaculture remain an important source of food, nutrition, employment and income for millions, especially the rural populations. In fact, the sector provides livelihood to about 25 million fishers and fish farmers at the primary level and twice the number along the value chain. Fish being an affordable and rich source of animal protein, is one of the healthiest options to mitigate hunger and nutrient deficiency. Hence it is essential that sustained and focused attention is given to the fisheries sector through policy and financial support to accelerate its development in a sustainable, responsible, inclusive and equitable manner. Further, since majority of fisher folk directly depend on the sector, especially the small scale and artisanal fishers and are continue to fall behind the national indices of socio- economic development, it is essential to provide requisite impetus towards amelioration of poverty and backwardness among these marginalized and vulnerable communities and promote their holistic development and welfare.

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