

# **Innovations for the Network of Co-operative Researchers**

## **Consultation Meeting Recommendations**

*13<sup>th</sup> March 2014, NCUI Meeting Room B at 11.00 a.m.*

### **Network & alliances with stakeholders, practitioners & researchers**

The Forum can potentially create a network of all the practitioners, stakeholders and researchers in the field of Indian Cooperatives and Innovation. The forum can form alliances with various institutions invested in similar activities to undertake effective study with in these sectors. Following are few of the recommendations that were generated from the discourse in the consultation meeting:

- The forum can form alliances with academic institutions and research bodies such as Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Co-operative Management (VAMNICOM), National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD), Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA), FMDI, Gandhigram University and stakeholders in the cooperative and innovation sector.
- United Nations Solution Exchange Programme is a very potent medium for disseminating process guidelines, information databases and researches produced by the Forum to the right stakeholders.
- The forum can also host seminars, conferences and consultation meetings to be organized every year.
- The forum can develop a Network of Research Organizations and facilitate exchange of information and structural support to re vitalize the research work being done institutions and researchers in the field of cooperative and innovation.
- It is vital that the work done by these networks and alliances are made widely available in the electronic media is very necessary to ensure global access and exchange of ideas.

### **Facilitate Thematic quality and member centric research**

The current research on Indian cooperatives and innovation seems to lack of quality and rigour. IFFCO Foundation can act as a facilitator in influencing and encouraging quality research in the field of cooperatives and innovation through the following initiatives:

- The forum can support research studies that concentrate on their effect on the cooperative members, understanding member profiles of the cooperatives.

- IFFCO Foundation can take the initiative of publishing reference materials like ‘A Compendium of Important Research in Cooperatives and Innovation’ and ‘Ready Reckoner of Cooperative & Innovation.’ This kind of data will prove to be a helpful source of reference and literature review to researchers invested in this field.
- The forum can make efforts communicate the academic research to the end user at the grass root level and also communicate the grass root needs to the academic bodies to influence research that can have relevant repercussions on the efforts and initiatives in this sector.

### **Development of Reliable Database**

All the experts at the meeting agreed that there is a significant information gap in relevant databases on Indian Cooperative and innovation. This lack of primary data severely hampers quality research in these sectors. IFFCO Foundation can take the initiative in facilitating the development of an exhaustive and reliable electronic database for academicians, researchers and practitioners in the field of Cooperatives and Innovation. This data needs to be easily accessible to all the stakeholders in this sector.

### **Policy Advocacy**

The forum can also act as a link between policy makers, academic researchers and grass root practitioners in the following ways:

- The forum can analyze policies and programmes in Indian Cooperative and innovation and recommend positive change to these institutions. In this way, the Forum could help in correcting the information gap in policy making the cooperative and innovation field.
- As the initial step, the forum can envisage the institutionalization of an E-news letter focusing on the ground realities, current research and recommendations to the policy makers and other stakeholders. Such a newsletter should be widely distributed among the network of policy makers and other decision making and implementation agencies.