



International Year  
of Cooperatives  
Cooperatives Build  
a Better World



**Indian Society for Studies in Cooperation (ISSC)**

and

**The Gujarat State Cooperative Union**

In collaboration with

**Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management,  
Pune**

Jointly organize

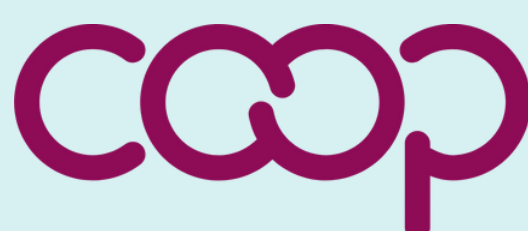
**40<sup>th</sup> Annual National Research Conference  
on**

# **Cooperative Build a Better World: Innovation & AI for an Inclusive and Sustainable Future**

**12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> December 2025**



Shri Vaikunthbhai Mehta Cooperative Management Centre,  
Bhavnagar- Dholera Highway,  
Nari , Bhavnagar,  
Gujarat 364 004



## About Us

**Indian Society for Studies in Cooperation (ISSC):** The Indian Society for Studies in Cooperation (ISSC) was established in 1979 with the primary goal of promoting research and studies in cooperation among universities and other institutions working in the area of cooperation, and it is headquartered at VAMNICOM in Pune. It is made up of institutions and individual members working for cooperatives, agriculture, rural development and academics. At present Society have more than 500 members, who are divided into two categories: institutional donors, and individual life members. Every year, Society hosts Annual National Research Conference in various areas of Country to address major topics concerning cooperation and associated areas of socio-economic concerns. Each of these Conferences invites papers on topics chosen for research and deliberations. Society has conducted, organized, and coordinated number of research studies on basic and applied aspects of cooperation.

**The Gujarat State Cooperative Union:** Established on 19 April 1960 following the bifurcation of Greater Mumbai State, the Gujarat State Cooperative Union has played a pivotal role in advancing cooperative education, training, and development across the state. Drawing inspiration from the legacy of visionary leaders such as Shri Jagjivandas Shivlal Parikh and Shri Madhavalal Bhailalbai Shah, the Union works in close coordination with 25 District Cooperative Unions. Today, Gujarat is home to over 89,221 cooperative societies, significantly contributing to the socio-economic welfare of its members. A landmark achievement in this journey was the establishment of the Junior Co-operative Training Centre in Bhavnagar in 1958. Under the dynamic leadership of Shri Ghanshyambhai Amin, who has been at the helm since 1993, the vision of establishing a state-of-the-art Cooperative Management Centre, dedicated to the legacy of Shri Vaikunthbhai Mehta was successfully transformed into reality. The Bhavnagar centre now offers a comprehensive 20-week Diploma in Cooperative Management (DCM) and features modern infrastructure, including three fully equipped classrooms, a library, computer lab, conference hall, and hostel facilities accommodating up to 100 students along with a dining area. These facilities make it one of the well-equipped cooperative training centers in Gujarat further reinforcing the states commitment to cooperative excellence.

## Cooperative Movement in India

The Cooperative Movement in India, rooted in the ancient philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (the world is one family), has undergone significant transformation since its inception. Initially driven by voluntary efforts, the movement gained legal recognition with the enactment of the Cooperative Credit Societies Act in 1904. Following independence, cooperatives were integrated into national development strategies, with a focus on collaboration with village panchayats to promote rural development and financial inclusion. Institutions such as the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) have been instrumental in providing financial support and guidance to cooperatives. The establishment of the Ministry of Cooperation in 2021 further reflects the Government's commitment to fostering the growth of cooperatives. Today, cooperatives in India, which operate on principles of prioritizing people over capital, play a crucial role in inclusive economic growth and social empowerment, particularly for marginalized communities. This vast network includes over 8, 00,000 registered cooperative societies with more than 30 crore members, underscoring the significant reach and impact of the cooperative model and in contributing to India's socio-economic development.

## Introduction of the Theme

The global cooperative movement has long stood as a model of democratic ownership, economic participation, and community-centered development. In recent years, the challenge posed by climate change, digital divides, socio-economic inequality, and global market disruptions have enhanced the need for more resilient, inclusive, and innovative economic systems. In this context, cooperatives grounded in values of mutual aid, solidarity, and collective empowerment are uniquely positioned to lead the transition toward a more sustainable and equitable world.

Cooperative structure, emphasizing shared ownership and democratic decision-making, enables cooperatives to adapt to changing economic conditions, withstand crises, and contribute to sustainable development. Their resilience is rooted in collective action, where members work together to achieve common goals and build thriving communities. For example, cooperatives have successfully navigated economic disruptions like financial crises and market volatility by leveraging their local knowledge and strong community ties.

With the adoption of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and a global push for digital transformation, cooperatives are now reimagining their roles not just as economic entities but as change makers in innovation, climate resilience, and social inclusion. As the world navigates the Fourth Industrial Revolution, characterized by transformative technologies like artificial intelligence, digitalization, and automation, cooperatives offer a model of economic and social empowerment that can ensure sustainable and inclusive growth. Their emphasis on democratic governance and community resilience makes them ideally suited to adapt to technological shifts while maintaining a focus on social equity and environmental sustainability. Thus, integrating cooperatives into global policy discussions is essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and fostering a more equitable and sustainable future.

The UN International Year of Cooperatives 2025 (IYC 2025) spotlights cooperatives as engines of sustainable development under the theme "Cooperatives Build a Better World." This global celebration amplifies their role in tackling inequality, climate change, and digital divides through collective action. IYC 2025 calls for policies that empower cooperatives from inclusive finance to green transition support while showcasing their success in delivering the SDGs. By uniting governments, businesses, and civil society, the year aims to scale cooperative solutions that put people and planet first, proving that economic democracy can drive transformative change worldwide.

40th Annual National Research Conference of ISSC under the theme "Cooperatives Build a Better World: Innovation & AI for an Inclusive and Sustainable Future", aims to highlight that, how cooperatives can harness innovation and technology while ensuring that no one is left behind in the journey toward sustainable development will explore how cooperatives can be pivotal in fostering resilience, sustainability, and equitable growth, contributing to a global movement towards a more inclusive and sustainable future. Through presentations, discussions, and workshops, we will explore the cooperative model's potential to drive community-driven solutions that address the complex challenges of our time.

Grasp the above aspects, 40<sup>th</sup> Annual National Research Conference aims to address a wide range of topics for cooperatives. The specific areas for discussion with the sub-themes are

- Innovations and Best Practices in Cooperative Models Adopting to Technological Advancements,
- AI and Digitalization process in the Cooperatives,
- Inclusivity in Cooperatives,
- Innovation for All: Supporting Women and Youth in Cooperatives,
- Amendments and Requirements in the Cooperative Legislation,
- Future Ready Cooperatives Harnessing Industrial Revolution 4.0 for Sustainable and Self Reliant Economy,
- Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India: New Initiatives and Its Impact,
- Amrit Kaal and Vikshit Bharat: Leveraging Cooperatives for a Developed and Inclusive India,
- Cooperatives and the Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),
- Cooperatives and Social Equity Advancing Inclusive Economic Growth,
- Capacity Building for Tomorrow: Teaching Cooperative Members to Use Digital Tools and AI,
- AI for a Greener Future: Helping Cooperatives Fight Climate Change
- Better Governance: Using Technology to Improve Transparency and Trust in Cooperatives

These thematic topics are NOT exclusive and shall be re-defined based on the received submissions from the participants/members of the society.

## Participants

The conference will be attended by about 300 delegates consisting of Research Scholars, Academicians, Policy Makers, Government Officials, Professionals, Representatives of Development Agencies, Private Sector, Donors, Civil Society Organizations, and Members of Cooperatives / staff of cooperatives.

## Call for Papers

Research papers and case studies are invited from policy advisors, government officials, professionals, agricultural scientists, and representatives of development agencies, Research Scholars, Academicians and others on the above themes. The details of paper submission and formats are as follows:

## 1. Abstract

Researchers interested to present their papers in the Conference need to submit an abstract of not more than 600 words. The papers should contain 4-10 key words. Send the abstract to ISSC, Pune by email at the following addresses:

[isscpune@yahoo.co.in](mailto:isscpune@yahoo.co.in)

The abstracts should be submitted in the following format:

1. Title of paper
2. Name(s) and affiliations of Authors
3. Main theme/ objective of the paper
4. Methodological and/or Conceptual approach
5. Bibliography, Keywords and Contact details.

**Last date for abstract submission is 16<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

## 2. Full paper publication

**General Instruction for Abstract and Full paper Submission:** The text shall be in Times New Roman, single spacing, 12 fonts and Normal letters. The title should be in Times New Roman, 14 Fonts, and Bold. It should broadly include the research question, methodology, likely contribution to the field of knowledge and relevant literature. The full paper should be limited to 6000 words. It should be sent in hard and soft copy.

- |                                      |                         |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. No. of Pages Not exceeding 15nos. | 9. Statistical analysis |
| 2. Abstract                          | 10. Findings            |
| 3. Key words                         | 11. Conclusion          |
| 4. Introduction                      | 12. Recommendations     |
| 5. Need of the study/justification   | 13. Further Research    |
| 6. Literature survey                 | 14. References          |
| 7. Research Methodology              |                         |
| 8. Primary Analyzed Data             |                         |
| a. table nos.                        |                         |
| b. table title                       |                         |
| c. units .... Very important         |                         |
| d. cell size and font                |                         |
| e. source at the bottom              |                         |

All submissions must be original and may not be under review by another Publication. Selected papers will be published as book; chapters in an edited book with ISBN number. The full paper should be limited to 6000 words. The paper should be preferably based on the primary data /case studies. Length of papers generally of six to eight pages in A-4size. It should be sent in hard and soft copy.

## 3. Paper Presentation

The mode of presentation is preferably, offline. Best papers will be felicitated in the next (41<sup>th</sup> ANRC) conference. There will be no separate registration for paper presentations.

**Last date for submission of full paper/s is 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

#### 4. Best Paper Award & Prizes

Researchers interested to present their papers in the Conference need to submit an abstract of not more than 600 words. The papers should contain 4-10 key words. Send the abstract to ISSC, Pune by email at the following addresses:



**Rs. 1000/- each (Nine Consolation Prizes) 3 in each category**

#### Conference Registration

- Registration Fee for ISSC Members Rs. 1000/- per member
- Accompanying spouses Rs. 1500/- pp.
- Non-members Rs. 2000/-pp
- University Research Scholars and Students Rs. 500/-pp
- Registration form is available on ISSC website: [isscpune.in](http://isscpune.in)

|                            |                                                  |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Name of the Bank</b>    | Saraswat Cooperative Bank, VAMNICOM Branch, Pune |
| <b>Name of the Account</b> | Indian Society for Studies in Cooperation        |
| <b>Name of the Account</b> | Indian Society for Studies in Cooperation        |
| <b>Account Number</b>      | 110 2001 0000 1289                               |
| <b>IFSC Code</b>           | SRCB 0000 110                                    |

#### Important Dates



Deadline for abstracts' submissions



Notification to authors



Last date to send full papers & presentations



40<sup>th</sup> ISSC ANR Conference

#### Accommodation

The conference is residential. Accommodation at concessional rates will be provided as per availability; in the Hostel, as first come first serve basis. Good hotel accommodations are available at Bhavnagar.

#### How to Reach Bhavnagar

Bhavnagar is well connected by Road, Railway and Air. The distance between Vaikunthbhai Mehta Coop. Management Centre and the Bhavnagar Airport is 15 kms and the Bhavnagar Railway Terminus is 10 kms.

#### Mailing Address and Contact Persons

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