



“Creating hope for a better tomorrow”

Narakkal-Nayarambalam Fishermen Development Welfare Co-operative Society Ltd, Kerala
won

“Best Co-operative Society” award on World Fisheries Day -2020

GENESIS:

In earlier days, the fishing crafts were owned by the affluent and wealthy persons in Kerala state and they rented these crafts to the fishermen in the community. The fishermen spent most of their hard-earned money on paying the rent for the crafts with low incomes and high expenses and hardly had any savings from their fishing activities. Also, the middlemen in the supply-chain were very demanding which reduced the incomes of the fishermen.



Fig 1: General body meeting of the Society

In order to resolve the problems faced by the fishermen community, a society named “Narakkal-Nayarambalam Fishermen Development Welfare Co-operative Society Ltd” was formed with an objective to provide loans to the fishermen group for buying fishing crafts. This Society was registered on 28th January, 1988 in affiliation with Matsyafed, the Kerala State Co-operative Federation for Fisheries Development Ltd. The society is located in *Narakkal Panchayath*, Ernakulam district. Initially, it started as a small group with 25 members and has now reached to 3,791 members. This society was formed to cater to the welfare of fishermen. Consequently, the fishermen started earning profits from their fishing activities. Thus, the society brought in a significant change in the lives of fishermen in the community.

BUSINESS ACTIVITIES:

To put an end to the exploitation of the middlemen, the Society started beach level auction on the 1st of September 1999 at Kaalamukku, Vypin. An authorized auctioneer of the society is available at the auction centre round the clock. The auction proceeds are directly credited to the respective accounts of the fishing groups and payments made immediately. As a result of this practice, the fishermen are getting maximum price for their daily catch. The society and Matsyafed get a commission of 1.50% realized from the auctioned amount. The groups are given bonus during festival season. This process is successfully continuing for the benefit of all the fishing groups of the society. National Institute of Fisheries Post Harvest Technology and Training (NIFPHATT) has been helping the cooperative in selling the fish.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

Society has been assisting fishermen with various kinds of loans since its inception. It started with financial assistance given from flood relief scheme since 1986. Thereafter, society is being assisted with loans from National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), National Backward Classes Finance & Development

Corporation (NBCFDC) and The National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC) etc. A loan for the repair of fishing implements with a maximum limit of Rs. 3.0 Lakhs was sanctioned to the Society.

To inculcate saving practices among fishermen community, various deposit schemes were introduced such as monthly deposit scheme starting from Rs. 500/- to Rs. 5000/- over a period of 12 to 40 months, marriage assistance deposit scheme 'Mangalya' to meet the expenses of marriage and death relief fund to extend financial assistance after death.

WELFARE SCHEMES:

Welfare schemes like 'Santhwanam' Annual Pension Scheme is given to male members of society who have completed 70 years of age and holding membership for 15 years in the society. Award for academic excellence is given with cash reward and trophies to those who bagged the first three positions in S.S.L.C, Higher Secondary and Vocational Higher Secondary Exams.

Consolation prizes will be given to those who score more than 60% marks. Assistance for treatments with the help of the Social Benefit Scheme of Ernakulam District Co-Op bank was given to the members who are seriously ill.

As a relief to the fishermen from the exorbitant prices of medicine from the open market, a medical store was started on 28th January 2007 at Narakkal. Medicines are sold at discounted rates varying from 10-15%. Society runs a MINI VYASA STORE for selling fishing equipment's like nets, floats, leads, ropes and twine at reasonable prices. The nets are brought directly from Net Factory and sold through the Vyasa store.



Figure 3: Medical store of the cooperative

Rewards and Recognition

- Best Society award from MATSYAFED in 2014-15
- Best Society award from The District co-operative bank, Ernakulam, Kerala
- Induchoodan Memorial Award from FACT CD employee's cooperative society in 2015



Figure 1: Best Society award being received from NCDC in 2018