

self-help groups (SHGs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), etc.

Cabinet Approves Plan to Cover All Villages with Dairy, Fisheries Cooperatives and PACs

The Union Cabinet has approved a plan to establish Primary Agricultural Credit societies (PACS) in all uncovered panchayats, viable dairy cooperatives in each uncovered panchayat/village, and viable fishery cooperatives in each coastal panchayat/village, as well as in panchayat/villages having large water bodies, while also strengthening the existing cooperative societies. The plan will be implemented with the support of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), and the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) through a "whole-of-government" approach to converge various schemes of the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying. The initial target is to establish 200,000 multipurpose PACS/dairy/fishery cooperatives within the next five years. The plan will provide farmers with requisite forward and backward linkages to market their produce, enhance their income, obtain credit facilities and other services at the village level. Further, establishing new PACS/dairy/fishery cooperative societies would generate employment opportunities in rural areas, which would have multiplier effect for the rural economy.