1st Cooperative Digital Conclave-2024
"Digitizing Cooperatives, Attaining Vision 2030"

Concept Paper

Date

March 14-15, 2024

Venue

Hotel Yak and Yeti
Durbarmarg, Kathmandu

Organizer:

Sponsors:

Supporters and Partners:

Context and Background

In the historical context, a second generation mainframe computer had been applied in Nepal in 1971 AD census. Whereas 1991 became the revolutionary period of global information technology. However, Nepal had been experiencing differently. In present context, Nepal is experiencing moderate progress so far. Usage of technology in diverse sector varies depending upon its needs, capacity, progress as well as outcomes.

Among others, cooperative sectors are not an exception. The chronological record clearly indicates that cooperative sectors are reluctant to utilizing the opportunity of information and technology. Digitization and Digitalization has become a mere planning in documents. The quantitative and structural framework of cooperatives in Nepal needs to adopt ICT for smooth operation and innovative approaches. A total of 31373 cooperatives and five layer of structural framework of cooperative movement of Nepal[1] is in place. Pinning them in the ICT and digitization of workplace is quite mandatory for meaningful results.

In the present scenario, Cooperative Movement of Nepal is experiencing digitized working culture in a moderate manner. Digitizing workplace and delivering product and services to their members and community through digital platforms are only progressive. Current legal, structural and policy provision to apply digital application and networking in cooperative sector is quite a tricky. National Information and Communication Technology Policy 2015[2], existing Laws of Nepal and Digital Nepal Framework[3] is not much generous towards cooperative sectors in terms of open policy.

Cooperatives are not resourceful nor technically sound to optimize the usage of ICT. However, growing cooperatives are practicing digitization in their workplace and leveraging digitalization in their services and products. Basically, the financial cooperatives are utilizing ICT based platforms in the satisfactory level whereas other

commodity cooperatives are less utilizing the digital opportunities. The digital picture of cooperatives is confined due to the national digital policy, interrelated

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[1] The structural cooperative movement of Nepal consist five consecutive layers: primary, district, province, central and national level cooperative organizations

[2] Ministry of Information and Communication, Government of Nepal endorsed ICT policy Nepal on 2015. For more information, please visit:
https://dhulikhelmun.gov.np/sites/dhulikhelmun.gov.np/files/documents/ICT%20policy%20Nepal.pdf

[3] To understand digital Nepal Framework please visit:
https://nepalindata.com/media/resources/items/15/bEN_Digital_Nepal_Framework_V7.2March2019.pdf

acts, less public expenditure in digitization, digitalization and digital transformation as well as limited resources, technical competencies, technology understanding and mindset.

In this complexity, especially in the post COVID 19 context, the need of technological intervention in cooperative sector is well justified. Keeping this fact in view, the conclave is designed to develop, revitalize and repositioning digital products in the workplace of cooperatives. Nevertheless, the policy, institutional and behavioral competencies to optimize the usage of digitalization in product and service delivery will be well identified by the conclave.

Contemporary Attempts

Cooperative sector of Nepal, however; has progressed moderately in the usage of ICT and digital platforms. National Cooperative Federations of Nepal has screened various software service provider and recommend a brand of Info Developers, Infinity Software System applicable in financial cooperatives for governance aspect. Apart from this, NCF is penetrating Cyber Security System of Virav Technology to stop all types of cyber-attacks. Apart, NCF has prepared Cooperative Cyber Security Policy and Cooperative Cyber Security Guidelines[4] for cooperative movement of Nepal. NCF has installed Office Process Automation System (OPAS) to digitize the official daily works. Further, NCF has prepared the communication strategy, social media operation procedure and established the virtual studio in the post COVID scenario underpinning less paper works. For future prospect, NCF is lobbying for the establishment of cooperative data center.

Nepal Federation of Savings and Credit Cooperative Unions (NEFSCUN), a central level federation has been practicing digitization and digitalization in the workplace and member services. NEFSCUN is in line to implement Integrated Common Technology in Savings and Credit Cooperative Society (SACCOS). Accordingly, National Cooperative Bank Ltd (NCBL) is equally stressing on the digital usage to provide its services to be connected on payment getaway system. Accordingly, National Agriculture Cooperative Central Federation (NACCFL) is lobbying for coop

e-commerce platform and other central unions are also pressing their desires on to obtain digital platforms. Primary cooperatives are providing financial services

digitally. Saving and Credit Cooperatives are in front to provide financial solutions via Internet Banking, Core Banking, ATM and wallet, Mobile Banking, Tablet Banking, Branchless Banking and Digital Payment as well as online shopping portals are in use.

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[4] NCF has developed two policy documents: Cooperative Cyber Security Policy and Directives; to manage, control and leverage usage of digital platforms in cooperative sector

Needs:

Upscaling the existing scenarios is most necessary to compete with public and private sector financial and non-financial organizations. Revitalizing policy provisions to mainstream cooperative sector in digital Nepal, developing e-commerce platform for coops products purchase and sales, developing Cooperative Management Information System within Cooperative Movement of Nepal, optimizing Cooperative and Poverty Management Information System (CoPoMIS)[5], Connecting cooperatives in National Payment Getaway are essentials for cooperatives at large.

Accordingly, digitization in the workplace of cooperatives is equally important. Office Automation, stressing on Paperless Delivery, developing Business Applications, Digital Security, Communication and Digital competencies among management teams is mandatory for smart works. In the other, digitalization in product and service delivery is a basic importance such as Digital Payment Services, Storing Data on cloud, working remotely, security, accessibility and so on. To eliminate all these hurdles, are cooperatives ready to adopt digitization in their workplace?

Theme

"*Digitizing Cooperatives, Attaining Vision 2030*"
The theme focused on transformation of traditional cooperative workplaces by leveraging digital tools and technologies to attain Cooperative Vision 2030.

Objectives

- To share knowledge on the importance of digitization in the cooperative workplace
- To identify and recommend policy gap in the digitization and digitalization process in cooperatives
- To develop consensus among stakeholders for digital collaboration

- To identify and recommend robust cooperative software and cyber security system
- Ensuring Data Security in cooperatives

Why to Attend?

- Network with over 250 Cooperative Stakeholders
- Meet with Leading ICT Experts and Policy Makers

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[5] To understand on COPOMIS user manual please visit:
https://deoc.gov.np/copomis/lgco_manual_(Autosaved)_nep_1629885567.pdf

- Deep dive into technology potentials in Cooperatives
- Discover new opportunities with advance software and cyber security service providers
- Discuss on how and why are we ready to adopt ICT in a workplace
- Adaptation of cost effective information technology tools
- Key Takeaways for digital transformation in your cooperatives

Expected Participants:

- Cooperative Leaders
- Top Level Management (CEOs, Managers, Department Heads, IT Officer, Communication Officers)
- Government Officials
- Universities and Academician
- IT Service Providers
- Software Companies
- IT Students
- Cyber Security Offices
- Interested Individuals

Speakers:

Stated in Agendas

Tagline: Digitizing Cooperatives, Attaining Vision 2030

Day 01 March 14, 2024 AD | चैत्र ०१, २०८० बि.स. Thursday | बिहीबार		
(8:15 - 9:15 AM / 60 Mins) **Registration and Breakfast**		
(9:15 - 10:30 AM /45 Mins): **Opening and Inauguration Session** **Theme 1: Reimagining the Cooperatives in 2030**		
Time	**Activity / Particular**	**RP / Remarks**
9:15	Sitting of the Dias	NCF Chairperson & Guests
9:20	Welcome Address and Program Highlight	**Mr. Ramesh Prasad Pokhrel**, Senior Vice Chair
9:25	Digital Opening of the Conclave	**Hon'ble Padam Giri**, Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affair

9:30	Speech	**Mr. Pravin Subedi**, Executive Director, InfoDevelopers Pvt. Ltd.
9:35	Speech	Mr. Pitamber Ghimire, Registrar, Department of Cooperatives
9:40	Keynote - *Reimagining the Cooperatives in 2030*	**Dr. Yubaraj Khatiwoda, Former Finance Minister**
9:55	Remarks from Chief Guest	**Hon'ble Padam Giri,** Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affair
10:00	Concluding Remarks by Chair	**Ms. Om Devi Malla**, Chairperson, NCF

(10:15 - 10:45 / 30 Mins)
Tea/Coffee Break

(10:45 - 12:30 PM /90 Mins):
Thematic Panel Session
Theme 2: Sharing Knowledge to fully Digitalizing Cooperatives by 2030

Time	Activity / Particular	RP / Remarks
10:45	Chairing of the Session	Session Chair: **Mr. Minraj Kadel**, Immediate Past Chairman
10:50	Presentation on: ***Past Experiences of Digitalizing Cooperatives in Nepal: the Evolution, roadmap and way ahead***	*Mr. Madhav Poudel, CEO, VYCCU Saving and Credit Cooperative Society*
11:05	Panel Session on: ***Digitalizing Cooperatives:- Bottlenecks, Pain Points and Learnings***	Moderator: **Mr. Suresh Thapa,** Deputy General Manager, NCF Resource Person: **1. Mr. Paritosh Paudyal,** Board of Director, NCF **2. Ms. Kalpana Shrestha,** Chairperson, Makwanpur Saving and Credit Cooperatives Union Ltd. **3. Mr. Krishna Kanta Mishra,** CEO, Janakalyan SACCOS **4. Er. Devendra Khadka,** CEO, Synergy Tech Pvt. LTd. **5. Mr. Sanjay Mahaseth,** Founder, MBank Technologies Pvt. Ltd.
12:20	Summarizing Remarks	**Mr. Minraj Kadel**, Immediate Past Chairman

(12:30 - 13:30 PM/ 60 Mins)
Lunch /Networking Break

(13:30 - 15:00 PM /90 Mins): Thematic Presentation Session Theme 3: Digital Technology, Solutions and Threat Landscape for Digitalizing the Cooperatives		
Time	**Activity / Particular**	**RP / Remarks**
13:30	Chairing of the Session	**Mr. Ganesh Shah**, Former Minister
13:35	Presentation on: *Digital Technology and Solutions for Digitalizing the Cooperatives*	Presentator: **Mr. Umesh Raghubanshi,** CEO, InfoDevelopers Pvt. Ltd.
14:00	Presentation on: *Threat Landscape while Digitalizing the Cooperatives*	Presentator: **Mr. Bijay Limbu Senihang,** CEO, Vairav Technology Pvt. Ltd.
14:25	Presentation on: *Integrating Digital Technology for Digitalizing the Cooperatives.*	Presentator: **Mr. Sanjib Subba, CEO,** Nepal Electronic Payment System Ltd.
14:45	Interactive Q&A Panel Session on: *Addressing the Technology and Threat Landscape for Digitalizing Cooperatives by 2030*	Facilitator: **Mr. Babul Khanal,** Deputy General Manager, NCF Resource Person: 1. **Mr. Umesh Raghubanshi,** CEO, InfoDevelopers Pvt. Ltd. 2. **Mr. Bijay Limbu Senihang**, CEO, Vairav Technology Pvt. Ltd. 3. **Mr. Sanjib Subba,** CEO, Nepal Electronic Payment System Ltd. 4. **Mr. Poshak Raj Paudel**, CEO, Citizens Life Insurance Company
15:15	Summarizing Remarks	**Mr. Ganesh Shah,** Former Minister
(15:20 - 15:45 / 25 Mins) Tea/Coffee Break		
(15:45 - 17:30 PM /90 Mins): Thematic Panel Session Theme 4: Policy for Enabling Digitalization of Cooperatives		
Time	**Activity / Particular**	**RP / Remarks**
15:45	Chairing of the Session	**Mr. Keshav Prasad Badal**, Former Chairman, NCF
15:50	Presentation on: *Policies for enabling Digitalization of the Cooperatives in Nepal*	Presentator: *Dr. Gunakar Bhatta, Executive Director, NRB*

16:15	Panel Session on: ***Policy for bridging the gaps and digitalizing Cooperatives in Nepal.***	Moderator: **Mr. Hempal Shrestha, Co-Founder, ICT Foundation Nepal** Resource Person: 1. **Mr.** *Gokarna Mani Duwadee,* *Secretary, Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation* 2. **Dr. Usha Jha,** Former Member, NPC 3. **Mr. Manohar Kumar Bhattarai,** ICT Export 4. **Mr. Chandra Prasad Dhakal,** Chairman, NEFSCUN
17:30	Summarizing Remarks	**Mr. Keshav Prasad Badal**, Former Chairman, NCF

Day 02
March 15, 2024 | चैत्र ०२, २०८० बि. स.
Friday | शुक्रबार

(8:15 - 9:15 AM / 60 Mins)
Registration and Breakfast

(9:15 - 10:30 AM /75 Mins):
Reflection and Setting the Agenda Session
Theme 5: Reflection and Consensus Building for Digital Cooperatives in 2030

Time	Activity / Particular	RP / Remarks
9:20	Calling of the Dias	Mr. Gopi Krishna Bhandari, Senior Officer, NCF
9:30	Welcome and outline of the 2nd day's Concalve (Agenda/Schedule)	Mr. Gopi Krishna Bhandari, Senior Officer, NCF
9:40	Video and Photo Reflections from Day 01 of the Cooperative Digital Conclave	Tech Team
9:50	Keynote - ***Reflections and Agendas for marching ahead with fully Digital Cooperatives in 2030***	**Ms. Chitra Kumari Thamsuhang Subba,** General Manager, NCF, Keynote Speaker

(10:20 - 10:45 AM / 15 Mins)
Tea/Coffee Break

(10:45 - 12:30 PM /90 Mins):
Group Work (Breakout Parallel Session -3)
Theme 6: Setting the Agendas for Digital Cooperatives by 2030

Time	Activity / Particular	RP / Remarks
10:45	Three Breakout Session	Facilitator
10:50	First Breakout (Parallel) Session on:	1. **Mr. Umesh Raghubanshi,** CEO, Info Developers

	Digital technology and Solution recommendation for Digital Cooperative in Nepal	Pvt. Ltd. -
10:50	Second Breakout (Parallel) Session on: *Policy recommendation for Digital Cooperative in Nepal*	**Mr. Sanjib Subba, CEO,** Nepal Electronic Payment System Ltd.
10:50	Third Breakout (Parallel) Session on: *Threat Lanscape recommendation for Digital Cooperative in Nepal*	1. **Mr. Bijay Limbu Senihang, CEO, Vairav Technology Pvt. Ltd.**
12:00	Panel Session on: *Accelerating Digital Cooperatives for Prosper Nepal*	Moderator: **Mr. Ramsudan Timilsina,** Communication Officer, NCF Resource Person: 1. **CA Mr. Badri Guragain**, CEO, National Cooperative Bank Ltd. 2. **Mr. Neelesh Pradhan**, CEO, NCHL 3. Mr. **Sujan Babu Adhikari**, Chairman, Aakash Digital Pvt. Ltd 4. **Mr. Ismaran Duwadi** Chairman, Mobile Finance Technology Pvt. Ltd. 5. **Mr. Shreesh Poudel, CEO,** MORUDigital Wallet
13:00	Summarizing Remarks	Moderators Chair

(13:00 - 13:55 PM/ 60 Mins) **Lunch /Networking Break**

(13:55 - 15:30 PM /90 Mins):
Thematic Conclusion Session
Theme 7: Conclusion, Recommendations and Kathmandu Declaration for Digital Cooperatives 2030

Time	Activity / Particular	RP / Remarks
13:55	MC	**Mr. Tek Prasad Chaulagain**, BOD, NCF
14:00	Chairing of the Session	NCF
14:05	Presentation of the First Breakout (Parallel) Session on: *Digital technology and Solution recommendation for Digital Cooperative in Nepal*	**Team Leader (TBD)** **Mr. Rishikesh Lamichhane, IT Officer** (Documentation/Note Taker)
14:15	Presentation of the Second Breakout (Parallel) Session on: *Policy recommendation for Digital Cooperative in Nepal*	Team Leader (TBD) **Ms. Devi Maya Baskota, Training Officer** (Documentation/Note Taker)

14:25	Presentation of the Third Breakout (Parallel) Session on: *Threat Landscape recommendation for Digital Cooperative in Nepal*	**Team Leader (TBD)** **Mr. Amit Adhikari, Program Officer** ((Documentation/Note Taker)
14:35	*Final Recommendations and Signing of the Kathmandu Declaration for Digital Cooperatives 2030*	Secretariat
15:15	*Closing* Remarks	NCF
15:20	Vote of Thanks Orgn/NCF Notes/Report Back	NCF

(15:30 - 16: / 30 Mins)
Tea/Coffee Break

Organizers
National Cooperative Federation of Nepal (NCF)

Sponsorship
InfoDevelopers Pvt. Ltd.
Vairav Technology Pvt. Ltd.

Supporter
Aakash Digital
MFinance
Moru Digital Wallet
MBank

Insurance Partner
Citizen Life Insurance

Media Partner
Nepal Society of Co-operative Journalist-CJN

Format
The conclave will employee a specifically "Working Paper Presentation, Breakout sessions, Panel Discussion Sessions and Participants' comments". There will be a chair presenter and panelist in each session followed by Q&A in a large audience.

The panel discussion will be held in the two different format: 1. Open Discussion 2. Facilitated by a moderator.

Sponsoring Opportunities

The conclave is a common platform to share and exchange ideas on digital collaboration among cooperatives -to - cooperatives, stakeholders and service providers. Therefore, affirmative networking opportunities will be explored to exchanges unique ideas among participants' vis a vis organization. The scale of the conclave allows participants and researchers to pin the vital signs of digital world. By pledging a conclave sponsor, institutions and individuals are recognized as a contributor for the successful completion of digital mega event. If you are interested to leverage your business environment in the digital world, you are encouraged to sponsor this event. Various level of sponsorship options are available via direct contact to ncfcoop@gmail.com.

Program Date

March 14-15, 2024

Venue

Hotel Yak and Yeti, Durbarmarg, Kathmandu

Participation

Sector	Numbers
Cooperative Sector	175
Non Cooperative Sector	75

Registration and Participation Model

Participants are expected to do early registration. The registration will be closed 15 days before for necessary preparation. Generally, the participants will be asked to cover their own travel and accommodation cost except for some specific conditions. A minimum registration fee of NPR 11,300 (Eleven Thousand Three Hundred Only) including VAT to cover the basic services throughout the 2 days' conclave including program kits, coffee, breakfast as well as lunch and refreshment.

Resource Person

Subject Experts

Declarations:

A declaration will be made as a commitment for actions.

- Participant's Cooperative develop mindset to digitize their workplace.
- Participant's cooperatives were aware and practice minimum digitization tools in their workplace.
- Government of Nepal and stakeholder discussion initiated to improved ICT policy to enable cooperatives services
- Stakeholders open their windows for collective collaboration for better digital outputs
- Governance friendly cooperative software and cyber security system will be in place
- Cooperatives realized and practiced digitalization process and run on data security
- Conceptualized and aware on digital transformation process

The End

C o o p e r a t i v e   D i g i t a l   C o n c l a v e - 2 0 2 4
Digitizing Cooperatives, Attaining Vision 2030