

Perception of fishers on fisheries co-operative services

Fisheries Co-operatives Societies plays significant roles in fisheries resource management, managing fishing effort, fish marketing etc. in various countries. The services offered by a particular Co-operative Society are uniform. But, the perception and utilization of the services may vary. A study was carried out at Narakkal - Nayarambalam Fishermen Development Welfare Co-operative Society at Narakkal panchayat, Vypeen Island, Ernakulum, Kerala to assess the perception of fishers on the services offered by the Society. The three-tier structure viz., primary co-operatives at village level, secondary co-operatives at district level and apex co-operatives at state level with definite roles and responsibilities was first brought into effect in 1917. The primary activities of credit/production have diversified into various business and welfare activities. Fish selling through fishermen co-operatives is one such activity which is a way of ensuring fair return to the fishermen and keeps the Societies functional through profits generated. A sample of 75 fishers was contacted for the study. The fishermen perception on co-operative services was estimated using a five point Likert Scale.

From the results, it was found that 94 per cent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that

they were earning profit by selling fish through co-operatives (Table 1).

More than 80 per cent accepted that co-operatives were the best credit source, ensured unity among fishermen and improved the standard of living. More than 50 per cent felt that co-operatives had no role in fisheries management.

Table 1. Fishers' perception on fisheries co-operative services (in %)

Particulars	SA*	A*	N*	D*	SD*
Potential and attractive credit source	2	86	4	8	0
Ensure fishermen unity	4	78	6	12	0
Provide training on fishing activities	0	18	24	54	4
Satisfying the needs of fishermen	2	52	20	26	0
Fish selling is profitable	4	90	4	2	0
Improves standard of living of fishermen	2	86	2	6	0

*SA - Strongly Agree, A - Agree, N - Neither agree nor disagree, SD - Strongly Disagree, D - Disagree

Table 2. Determinants of fishers' perception on co-operative services (in %)

Particulars	SA*	A*	N*	D*	SD*
Client-friendliness	6.25	85.42	4.17	4.17	0.00
Timely loan availability	4.17	29.17	16.67	50.00	0.00
Profitability	4.17	83.33	4.17	6.25	2.08
Technical assistance	0.00	22.92	25.00	52.08	0.00
Input supply	2.08	43.75	31.25	16.67	6.25
Hassle-free procedures	2.08	87.50	4.17	2.08	4.17
Repayment flexibility	6.25	43.75	12.50	33.33	4.17

*SA - Strongly Agree, A - Agree, N - Neither agree nor disagree, SD - Strongly Disagree, D - Disagree

The major determinants of the fishers' perception were the role of co-operatives in input supply (94%), client friendliness (92%) and hassle-free procedures for approval and repayment of loans (89%) (Table 2).

The co-operatives were preferred least due to the lack of timely loans (33%) and non-provision of technical assistance (29%). For societies to better their performance, assessment of stakeholders' perception and satisfaction on co-operative services can play an important role.

Jeyanthi P., Chandrasekar V.* and Nikita Gopal

ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Cochin

** Veraval Research Centre of ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Veraval*
