

Cooperative Literacy Camp I – Paschim Payung PACS, Kalimpong

Venue: Paschim Payung PACS, Kalimpong

Date: 24 June 2025

Participants: BoDs, staff, and members from 4 PACS- approx 40 heads

Guests: DDM NABARD, CEO Darjeeling DCCB, DCO Kalimpong

As part of the **International Year of Cooperatives (IYC)** celebrations, a **Cooperative Literacy Camp** was organized at **Paschim Payung PACS, Kalimpong**, on bringing together Board of Directors, staff, and members from four local PACS. The programme aimed at strengthening cooperative governance, awareness, and modernisation at the grassroots level.

Key Messages from Guests

- **CEO, Darjeeling DCCB** highlighted that cooperatives are **people-centric institutions**, where members are both owners and beneficiaries. She shared the **history and principles of the cooperative movement**, emphasizing that PACS form the backbone of India's rural credit system. She encouraged BoDs to ensure **active participation, democratic functioning, and accountability**.
- **DDM, NABARD** cited the example of **Amul**, demonstrating how collective effort can transform small producers into a globally recognized cooperative success story. He stressed upon the modernisation, including **computerisation of PACS**, is critical for efficiency and transparency and role of **Multipurpose PACS (MPACS)** in providing diverse services to rural communities.
- **DCO, Kalimpong** addressed the responsibilities of BoDs, saying, *“BoDs are custodians of cooperative values and must guide their PACS towards collective growth.”* He also highlighted the role of BoDs and **transparency, discipline, and adherence to byelaws** for the long-term sustainability of PACS.

Discussion and Learning Points

- Principles and history of cooperatives.
- Roles and responsibilities of BoDs.
- Importance of PACS computerisation and digital record-keeping.
- Inspiration from successful cooperatives like Amul.
- Potential for diversification through MPACS.

Outcome

The camp enhanced cooperative literacy among BoDs and members, strengthened understanding of governance practices, and reinforced the importance of **modernisation and member participation**. The participants collectively pledged to uphold cooperative values and contribute to the **growth and sustainability of their PACS**.

