

**International Year of Cooperatives-2025**

**06 October 2025**

**Promoting Micro Credit through Cooperatives for WSHGs/ JLGs/ Other User Groups**

In celebration of the International Year of Cooperatives-2025, a camp on "Promoting Micro Credit through Cooperatives for WSHGs/ JLGs/ Other User Groups" was organised on 06.10.2025 at Panjgain (Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh). The camp witnessed active participation of various farmers, WSHGs, JLGs and also the members of an FPO. Various sessions were conducted for the participants.

DDM, NABARD addressed the participants regarding the significant benefits of forming self-help groups (SHGs), joint liability groups (JLGs), and other user groups, emphasising the critical role of micro credit linkage. It was explained that forming these groups enables members to bypass informal moneylenders, develop crucial financial discipline, and gain access to collateral-free, affordable credit from formal banking institutions. This linkage not only helps individuals access multiple doses of credit to scale up their livelihood activities but also empowers rural poor, particularly women, to undertake entrepreneurial activities, enhance their market access, and ultimately achieve economic independence and improved living standards for their households. The Cooperative Societies and Cooperative Banks can significantly help these groups in accessing credit due to their high reach in rural areas.

Bank officials from HPStCB guided the participants on various schemes available for small groups, explaining that they offer a range of affordable loan products for farm and non-farm activities, and actively participate in collateral-free lending programs like the SHG-Bank Linkage Programme to foster rural entrepreneurship and development. Increased doses of loans to successful SHGs and also to individual SHG members in the form of MUDRA Loans or an overdraft facility were also discussed. Participants were asked to reach their nearest cooperative societies or bank branches for any assistance regarding credit-related needs.

The questions raised by the participants were duly answered, ensuring clarity on the loan application process, available subsidies under government schemes, the specifics of collateral-free credit, the KYC process etc.

The event was attended by approximately 50 participants.

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