

Role of Satara District Central Co-operative Bank in agriculture and rural development

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Satara District Central Co-operative (SDCC) Bank is playing a vital role in agriculture and rural development by providing timely and sufficient loan to farmers. The Bank is a leading co-operative bank in India. It has won "Best Performance Award" of NABARD for six times. The financial position of the Bank is very strong. The recovery percentage is more than 99 per cent and deposits are Rs. 1707 crores, whereas loan disbursed is Rs. 955 crores as on 31st March 2008. The net NPA is 0 per cent. The Bank has developed its own funds. Therefore, it is self-sufficient. Board of Directors of the bank is studious and has great vision. The funds of the bank are mostly utilized for financing rural people for Agriculture and Agric.-allied activities which reflect in increasing the rural economy. Thus, the SDCC Bank is a unique example of co-operation in the country.

India is an agricultural country and about 70 per cent of the population is engaged in agriculture and agriculture related enterprises. Agriculture is the main source of income. Satara is a small district situated in western part of Deccan plateau in Maharashtra. The people of the district are economically backward and they depend on agriculture for their livelihood. About 60 years ago, the farmers in the district had no money for investment in agriculture. The great visionary, Ex-deputy Prime Minister of India, Mr. Yashwantraoji Chavan, noticed this problem. He decided to overcome this problem by establishing an institute for providing financial support to the farmers. The seeds of this unusual saga were sown about 58 years back in Satara and on 15th August 1949 the 'Satara District Central Co-operative Bank' was formed. The actual

functioning of the Bank started on 11th Nov. 1950.

Major features of the Bank:

The bank was formed with limited resources. In 1950, the deposits were only Rs. 9.97 lakhs and loan disbursement was about Rs. 6.27 lakhs. Now in 2008, deposits are, 1707 crores and sanctioned loans are about, 955 crores. Thus, slowly but steadily, the Bank has achieved tremendous success. The Bank has maintained audit class 'A' since its inception. The Bank has provided the most successful co-operative banking pattern to Maharashtra and also to all India. Bank plays a major role in formulation and implementation of the District Credit Plan.

SDCC Bank is leading co-operative bank in India. This bank has been honored by the NABARD by awarding Best Performance Award for six times. The bank has followed all the guidelines issued by RBI and NABARD. The recovery of the bank has always remained more than 90 per cent. During last three years, recovery was more than 99 per cent. The bank has maintained good capital adequacy ratio. The net NPA per cent is nil. Per branch productivity and per employee business are also excellent. The bank has always remained in profit. The financial position of the bank is very strong. During the financial year 2007-08, bank has recorded highest operating profit *i.e.* 33.00 crores.

Thus, the SDCC Bank is the nucleus of flourishing movement, that is bringing prosperity, well being and better standard of living to the farmers in the district.

Financial position:

The financial position of bank from 31.3.05 to 31.3.08 has been presented in Table 1.

Financial support to small farmers:

Short term loan:

The bank started loan disbursement to the farmers in 1950 to increase their agricultural production. In Satara district, more than 90 per cent farmers are small and poor. The financing institutes were not ready to provide loan to

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