ANNEXURE-3

Gujarat State Women's Sewa Co operative Federation Ltd.

SEWA is an organisation of poor, self-employed women workers. These are women who earn a living through their own labour or small businesses. They do not obtain regular salaried employment with welfare benefits like workers in the organised sector. They are the unprotected labour force of our country. Their work is not counted and hence remains invisible. In fact, women workers themselves remain uncounted, undercounted and invisible.

Gujarat State Women's Sewa Co operative Federation Ltd. is one of the Sister Organisation of SEWA. The Federation's main task is to ensure the active participation of poor self employed women in the cooperative movement and also to enable them to obtain regular work and steady income through their own cooperatives. Any primary women's cooperative in Gujarat can become the member of the Federation.

The federation is a state – level organisation of 84 women's cooperatives as its members. Registered in 1993, it is the first of its kind. SEWA-sponsored cooperatives took the initiative to form this apex level federation of cooperatives, in order to obtain training,
marketing, capacity-building and support for policy action with the government.

In the past six years, the federation’s outreach and range of activities has grown considerably. It is very actively assisting producer’s groups to export their crafts. In 1999, Rs. 20 lakhs worth of crafts were exported with the Federation’s assistance. In particular, the Federation helped two district-level associations, Kutch craft Association and Banaskantha DWCRA Mahila SEWA Association to export and sell their patchwork embroidery in Paris.

A new and important venture, linking vegetable growers directly with vendors, thereby cutting out exploitative middlemen, was initiated this year. The Federation obtained a shop (Shop No.40) in the main vegetable wholesale market of Ahmedabad after considerable struggle and pressure from SEWA.

The wholesalers, generally themselves middlemen, were reluctant to permit the Federation to break into their tightly controlled trade. But the collective strength of growers and sellers, the Federation SEWA Bank and SEWA prevailed. The shop is now operating and its business expanding. Both vegetable growers and sellers (vendors) are obtaining better prices for their produce, having got rid of the exploitative middle layer of contractors and middlemen.
Now the federation is working on providing transportation to reach the produce from SEWA’s rural producer members to the city for sale to SEWA’s retail vegetable vendors.

In 1996, the Federation became a member of the National Cooperative Union of India. It has obtained an ‘A’ grade by government auditors for the quality of its services and efficient management.
Himalayan Action Research Centre (HARC), Uttrakhand

Himalayan Action Research Centre (HARC), is an autonomous voluntary development organization, which aims to help the mountain people by working for their holistic, integrated and sustainable development based on the indigenous knowledge, cultural values, and local resources. It was established in 1988.

HARC, has been serving the cause of people-centered, people-managed, people-controlled and people-owned development process. It believes that sustainable development and good governance can be ensured only through active and effective involvement of the local community irrespective of caste, class or gender. It strives for empowering the people in ways such that they can take their own decisions regarding their progress and build a stable society that is free of social, economic and gender inequity.

HARC has a special focus on women and other marginalized section of the society who makes a significant contribution to the socio-economic and cultural development of their family, community and nation and yet do not get their due.

Women Self-help Groups (SHGs) are being promoted by HARC to bring about economic independence among rural women in the hills. These SHGs have been helpful in expanding and making the role of
women visible in social and economic development of their families, village and the region at large. Under the institutional building interventions, HARC facilitates the process of formation of SHGs of rural women, ensuring that they have access to saving schemes, credit facilities and cash money through income generation activities.

Thus HARC has done the twin task of making these groups and federations self reliant in institution strengthening on one hand while increasing their access to social security schemes on the other.

In rural areas where people especially women are ignorant of these beneficial schemes, HARC has done pioneer work in bringing to the people relevant information and know-how.

These SHGs also provide a common platform for women to discuss and address their problems and other social issues.

HARC promotes organic farming in the hills by building the capacities of the farmers in the areas of organic farm planning, organic documentation, internal control system, farm mapping system, training and demonstration on techniques of organic farming like vermi-compost, liquid manure, wormii wash. HARC is facilitating the process of organic certification of 900 hectares of agricultural land of more than 4000 farmers in districts Uttarkashi, and Chamoli.
Through the capacity building trainings, HARC helps build knowledge, increase awareness levels and develop the skills of women to enable & empower them to understand, plan and prioritize work.
**Rajasthan Cooperative Dairy Federation (RCDF)**

Dairy development was initiated by the state government in the early seventies under the auspices of Rajasthan State Dairy Development Corporation (RSDDC) registered in 1975. Two years later RCDF assumed responsibility for many of the functions of RSDDC. It became the nodal agency for implementation of operation flood in the state.

Rajasthan Cooperative Dairy Federation (RCDF) set up in 1977 as the implementing agency for dairy development programs in Rajasthan is registered as a society under the Rajasthan cooperative societies act 1965.

**Three tier system**

The dairy co-operative movement operates on three tier system wherein farmer members own dairy co-operative societies (DCS) which own district milk producer's union. The unions collectively own the RCDF. It is a vertically integrated structure that establishes a direct linkage between those who produce the milk and those who consume it.

**Federation** - Provides service & support to unions. Marketing within and outside state, liaison with government and NGO agencies, mobilization of resources & coordinating & planning programmes / projects.
**Union** - Develops village milk cooperative network, procures milk from DCS, processes & markets. Sale of cattle feed and related inputs, promotion of cross breeding through AI and NS, promotion of fodder development and general support & supervision to DCS.

**DCS** - Provides input services to its members and procurement of milk.

The dairy co-operatives depict the following institutional properties:

- Democratically elected board of DCS, milk unions & Federation from among their members.
- Adoption of such bye laws which ensure democratic process on the principles of cooperation.
- Management & ownership of assets by the cooperatives.
- Autonomy in pricing, marketing & appointment of personnel.
- Employment of professional.
- Total control of the organisation is in the hands of its members.

Government of India has realized the existing disparities, and potential of women, and initiated a number of programmes for socio-economic emancipation of women during the plan periods. A number of institutions were conceived and policy support extended in making this goal a reality. Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) is one such program being implemented by the Department of Women and Child Development, the Ministry of Human...
Resource Development. Under STEP, Government of India has been promoting Women Dairy Cooperative Societies (WDCSs) through the various State Dairy Cooperative Federations in the country. Government of Rajasthan is one of the states implementing WDCSs under STEP.
MarketPlace: Handwork of India

MarketPlace: Handwork of India, a women's cooperative, makes and exports apparel to the US. Over 450 women are today managing a turnover of $780,000. The initiative has transformed their lives.

MarketPlace office is in Santa Cruz, Mumbai, Maharashtra. The excitement in the small office is palpable as the women get ready to send their seasonal shipment of clothes and interiors to Chicago, USA. These women who live in a low-income neighbourhood in Mumbai, are proud of the fact that they're outfitting women living in plush settlements halfway across the globe, and have become self-reliant in the process. Looking at them you begin to fully understand MarketPlace’s motto: 'Dignity, not charity'.

MarketPlace operates under the umbrella organisation SHARE (Save the Handicapped's Rehabilitation Efforts), set up in Mumbai in June 1980 as a non-profit organisation to rehabilitate and empower women at the grassroots. The organization was begun by Pushpika Freitas and Lalita Monteiro in an attempt to rehabilitate cured leprosy patients (mostly women).
SHARE started out with three women -- all from low income group families in Mumbai. the number of artisans at MarketPlace grew from three to over 75 in three years, and the women came from all kinds of communities.

The women, whose skills were confined to hand-stitching, started out making patchwork quilts which were later put up for sale. But although the women were complimented on the superb quality and design of their products, the idea of selling them in the Indian market failed miserably. This led to a re-think in strategy where it was decided to change the product from quilts to apparel, and to explore markets outside India.

In 1986 MarketPlace: Handwork of India was registered as a non-profit organisation in Chicago, USA.

The five supplier cooperatives -- Hemlata Fabrics in Pedana, Andhra Pradesh, Praveen Printers in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, Udyog Kala Kendra in Uttan, Maharashtra, Farzana Textiles in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, Mallikarjuna Handloom Fabric in Nalgonda district of Andhra Pradesh -- meet with the producer cooperatives once every two months. Together they review fabric quality, delivery of the fabric, and payments.
Of the eight producer cooperatives MarketPlace works with, seven are situated in and around Mumbai. They are: Arpan in Thane, Ashiana at Tardeo, Ghar Udyog in Santa Cruz East, Pushpanjali in Chembur, Sahara Handicraft in Santa Cruz East, Udaan Mandal in Santa Cruz East, Women Artisan’s Rehabilitation Enterprise (Ware) in Santa Cruz East.

Members of the cooperatives sew or embroider products at home. Working at home is important as the women can then decide when to work and for how long. They can also simultaneously look after their homes and families. Some tasks like checking fabric, cutting out garments and finishing them, are consolidated at the central workshop. Many women also take on collective tasks like quality control, monitoring the receipt of fabrics, design development, etc.

While MarketPlace empowers the women economically, SHARE helps to monitor and facilitate social programmes. Programmes developed and managed by the artisans include: Artisans Speak, where the women decide on a theme for each MarketPlace catalogue; Social Action, in which the women decide on a social problem in their
community that they wish to change; and Children's Education Fund, which is run by older children for the benefit of younger ones, and includes such things as summer camps and libraries.

Working with Market Place has led to an improvement in the quality of life for many people. As wage-earners, the artisans become confident of taking part in the decision-making process at home as well as becoming an integral part of the artisan group.