

## **Producer Organisation Promoting Institute (POPI) Project**

NABARD has sanctioned a project for Maharashtra Cooperative Development Corporation, to form, promote, train and hand hold a total of 30 Farmer Producer Companies in the first and second phase.

In 2019, five companies were allotted in five districts and in 2020, 25 additional companies were allotted by NABARD for a period of 3 years. At the district level, the companies were formed with the help of NABARD's District Development Manager and District Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies. Upon the satisfactory performance of the companies in the first three years, there is a provision in the project to get an extension for the next two years. A Project Monitoring and Implementation Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of District Development Manager of NABARD to monitor and evaluate the project. District Superintending Agriculture Officer, Project Director, ATMA, District Deputy Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Head, Agril. Science Centre, Lead Bank Manager, Directors of Farmer Producer Company and representative of Maharashtra Cooperative Development Corporation are the members of the said Committee.

Under the project, companies are receiving Rs.11.44 lakh per company in the initial three years for Registration, CEO salary, preparation of Business Development Plan, Board of Directors training, CEO training, awareness programs for members and incentive to POPI. POPI has to complete the effective training and work of the Farmer Producer Companies in 8 phases (36 months). MCDC has appointed District wise, Farmer Producer Company wise Co-ordinators to coordinate the activities of Farmer Producer Companies established under POPI.

MCDC is working and providing guidance to companies to obtain licenses for Agricultural Input business, e-NAM registration, registration on online platform, Direct Marketing License, Agriculture Produce Market Committee trading license, market linkages with private companies/exporters/processing companies for supply of their agriculture produce, taking advantage of SMART, MAGNET and POCRA projects, connecting F. P. O.s with Consumer Cooperatives, taking advantage of various Government schemes, preparing Business Development Plan etc.