



Ministry of Business  
Enterprise, Co-operatives  
and Consumer Protection  
(Co-operatives Division)

# **INCENTIVES, FACILITIES & SUPPORT SERVICES TO CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES FOR 2011**

May 2011

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## **Introduction**

At present, there are many support, structures and facilities available to meet both the financial and non-financial needs of co-operative societies. However, it is noted that many societies do not avail themselves of those facilities mainly due to lack of information and proper communication.

This brochure on ‘Incentives, Facilities and Support Services to Co-operative Societies for 2011’ aims at providing co-operative societies and co-operators with the necessary information on the various incentives, facilities and support services being put at their disposal by different Ministries/Departments/Organisations, namely:

- The Ministry of Business, Enterprise, Co-operatives and Consumer Protection (Co-operatives Division)
- The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority
- The Ministry of Fisheries and Rodrigues (Fisheries Division)
- The Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security – Food Security Fund
- The Agricultural Research and Extension Unit
- The Development Bank of Mauritius Ltd
- The Mauritius Post and Co-operative Bank Ltd
- The Mauritius Business Growth Scheme Office
- Leasing Companies-The Leasing Equipment Modernisation Schemes for Small and Medium Enterprises under the Economic Restructuring and Competitiveness Programme
- The National Empowerment Foundation

This brochure comprises existing schemes and support measures, and will serve as a tool and guide to co-operative societies. However, the information compiled therein pertains to existing schemes and support measures obtained from the above organizations and may be subject to change.

It is, therefore, strongly recommended to contact the relevant Institutions so as to be informed of latest updates.





**SECTION 1:**  
CO-OPERATIVES



## **Section 1: Co-operatives**

### **WHAT IS A CO-OPERATIVE?**

Co-operatives are defined by the International Co-operative Alliance as autonomous associations of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprises.

A co-operative may also be defined as a business owned and controlled equally by the people who use its services or by the people who work there for their mutual benefit.

Co-operative societies in Mauritius are regulated by the Co-operatives Act 2005 and the Co-operatives (Amendment) Act 2006. Any co-operative society may be set up with at least five members and a minimum share capital of Rs5,000. The Co-operative Societies are owned and managed by their members.

### **WHY A CO-OPERATIVE?**

- For achieving economy of size
- For increasing bargaining power
- For sharing cost of production
- For empowerment of members
- For gaining access to new markets
- To reduce risks associated with new enterprises
- To purchase in bulk to achieve lower prices
- To provide credit under reasonable terms
- To provide opportunities for employment

### **CO-OPERATIVE VALUES**

- Self-help
- Self-responsibility
- Democracy
- Equity
- Honesty
- Equality
- Solidarity and caring for others

### **CO-OPERATIVE PRINCIPLES**

- Voluntary and open membership
- Democratic member control
- Member economic participation
- Autonomy and independence
- Education, training and information
- Co-operation among co-operatives
- Concern for the community



## **SECTION 2:**

MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE,  
CO-OPERATIVES AND CONSUMER PROTECTION  
(CO-OPERATIVES DIVISION)



## **Section 2: Ministry of Business, Enterprise, Co-operatives and Consumer Protection (Co-operatives Division)**

It is widely recognized that co-operatives play an important role in the generation of national income, the economic democratisation process and on the strengthening of the foundation of the present economy.

Government reckons the importance of the co-operative sector and is therefore, encouraging the development of the co-operative movement by providing the appropriate financial, fiscal and policy support.

The main objectives of the Ministry of Business, Enterprise, Co-operatives and Consumer Protection (Co-operatives Division) are to facilitate the promotion and development of the co-operative movement.

### **VISION OF THE CO-OPERATIVES DIVISION**

To promote functional and financially autonomous co-operative enterprises, enhancing economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations of their members.

### **MISSION OF THE CO-OPERATIVES DIVISION**

To facilitate and assist the development of co-operatives through the creation and provision of favourable and conducive legal and institutional environment along with adequate support and incentives.

### **OTHER OBJECTIVES OF THE CO-OPERATIVES DIVISION**

The other objectives of the Co-operatives Division are to:

- (i) enforce the legislation for co-operatives and ensure that co-operatives abide by the provisions of co-operative law;
- (ii) devise and implement such policies that would ensure the development of the co-operative sector; and
- (iii) assist in the capacity building of co-operatives by providing incentives and support services.

### **MAIN SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE CO-OPERATIVES DIVISION**

The main services provided by the Co-operatives Division are as follows:

- Provision of legal framework for co-operatives
- Formation and registration of co-operative societies
- Audit of financial accounts of co-operative societies
- Monitoring and supervision of the activities of co-operative societies
- Provision of education and training to the co-operative movement
- Providing technical and financial assistance for the implementation of projects for the development of the co-operative sector
- Guidance and support to co-operatives for the implementation of their plans and projects
- Seeking financial and technical assistance from foreign and local donor agencies for the implementation of co-operative projects

## **INCENTIVES, FACILITIES AND SUPPORT SERVICES TO CO-OPERATIVES BY THE CO-OPERATIVES DIVISION**

The Co-operatives Division is presently offering the following incentives, facilities and support services to co-operatives:

<b>Incentives/Facilities/ Support Services</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Fiscal Incentives</b>	<p>Fiscal incentives provided to co-operatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) No stamp duty is levied on:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) an instrument executed by the co-operative society; and</li> <li>(ii) an instrument executed by a member in relation to business transacted with the society, in accordance with its rules.</li> </ul> </li> <li>b) No fee is payable by any co-operative society under any enactment relating to registration dues, transcription or inscription fees, except on deed of transfer witnessing the transfer of a motor vehicle.</li> <li>c) Dividend paid by a co-operative society is exempted from income tax.</li> <li>d) Duty free facilities on goods vehicles are provided to fishermen co-operatives.</li> <li>e) The surplus generated from sugar operations by sugar cane co-operatives is exempted from income tax.</li> </ul>
<b>Free Audit</b>	<p>The audit of accounts of co-operative societies is carried out by Government Officials free of charge for co-operative societies with turnover less than Rs10 million.</p>
<b>Free Education and Training</b>	<p>Government has set up a National Institute for Co-operative Entrepreneurship (NICE) which caters for the educational and training needs of co-operatives. The Institute offers a wide range of courses free-of-charge to co-operators, organises workshops and seminars, and carries out sensitisation programmes for the promotion, consolidation and development of the co-operative movement in Mauritius.</p>
<b>Infrastructural Facilities</b>	<p>Infrastructural facilities are provided to fishermen co-operatives, cow breeders' co-operatives and pig breeders' co-operatives to empower them and enabling them to carry out their activities in a professional manner.</p>
<b>Free Marketing Outlets</b>	<p>Co-operative market fairs are organized around the Island with the main objective of providing an outlet to co-operatives for marketing their products. The fair also aims at creating a greater visibility for co-operatives and sensitizing the general public about the role of the Co-operative Movement in Mauritius and its contribution in the socio-economic development of the country.</p>

<b>Incentives/Facilities/ Support Services</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Promotion of Co-operatives</b>	Government also assists in the promotion of co-operatives through organization of media programmes, talks, sensitization campaigns and workshops.
<b>Government Support for Fair Trade Certification</b>	To assist co-operative societies to obtain Fair Trade Certification and to consequently enjoy the benefits under the certification, Government is providing one-off grant to co-operative societies to meet payment of application fees, initial certification fees, consultancy fees and training fees required for the Fair Trade Certification. Further, the Co-operatives Division is carrying out sensitization programmes on the Fair Trade concept and the importance of grouping together in co-operatives to benefit from Fair Trade Certification.
<b>Project implementation</b>	Guidance and support to co-operatives for the implementation of their plans and projects
<b>Directory of Co-operative Products and Services</b>	Publication of a Directory of Co-operative Products and Services for the information of co-operators.

### **Contact Details**

The Ministry of Business, Enterprise, Co-operatives and Consumer Protection  
(Co-operatives Division)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, LIC Centre,  
President John Kennedy Street,  
Port Louis.  
Tel: (230) 208 4812-14, 208 7463-65, Fax: (230) 208 9263  
Website: <http://cooperatives.gov.mu>

### **Officer Responsible for Co-operative Societies Section**

Acting Registrar of Co-operative Societies  
Tel: 208 5318, PABX: 208 4812-14 Ext. 237

### **Officer Responsible for Co-operative Development Unit**

Dr. M. Nardeosingh  
Secretary for Co-operative Development  
Tel: 211 1312, PABX: 208 4812-14 Ext. 238  
Email: [mnardeosing@mail.gov.mu](mailto:mnardeosing@mail.gov.mu)

### **Contact Person for Registration of Co-operative Societies**

Mr. G. Thomas, Principal Co-operative Officer  
Tel: 211 7739, PABX: 208 4812-14 Ext. 235

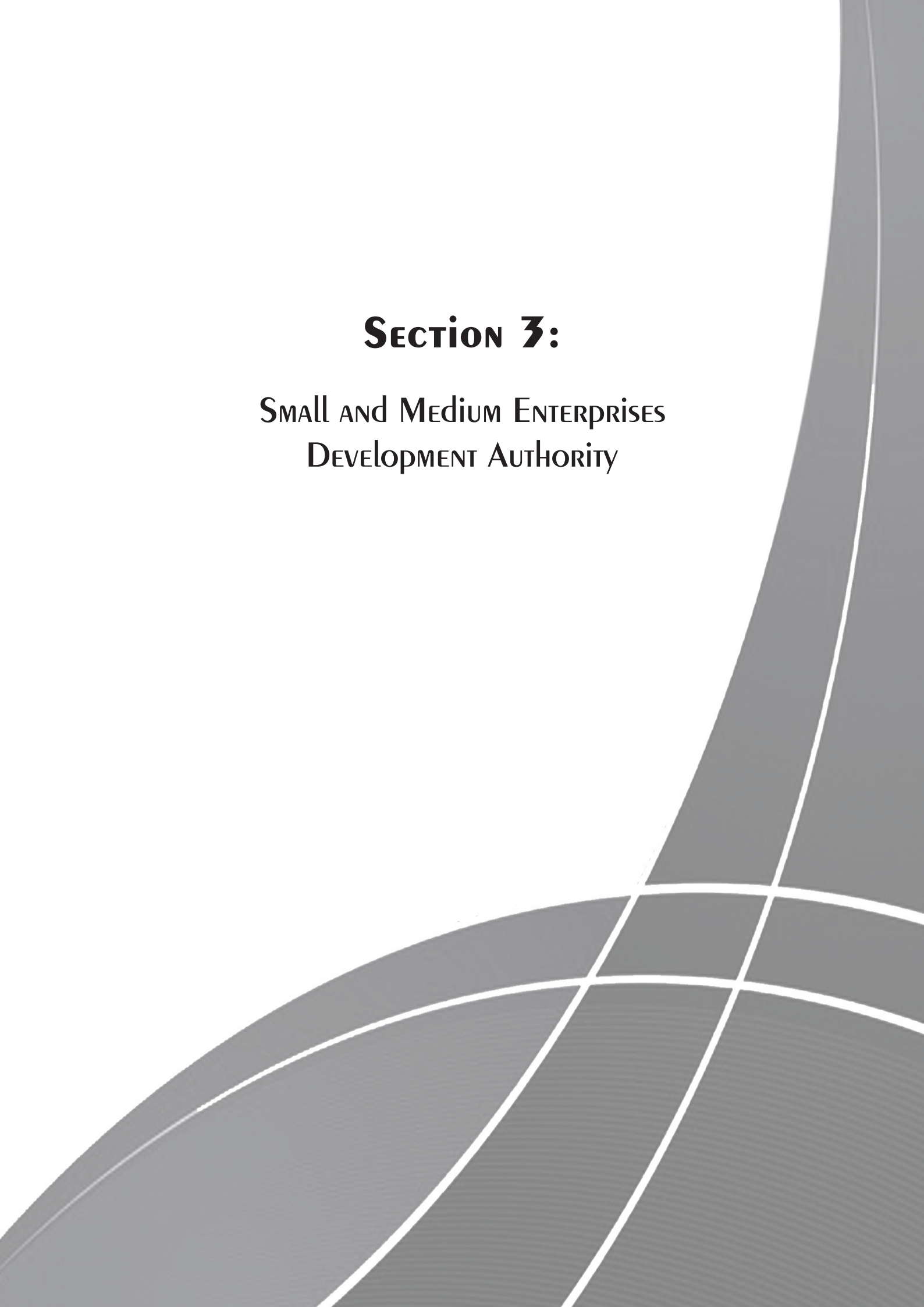
### **Contact Person for Training Facilities**

The Director, National Institute for Co-operative Entrepreneurship (NICE)  
Address: Bois Marchand Street, Terre Rouge. Tel: 249 0111, Fax: 249 1832



# **SECTION 3:**

**SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**





### **Section 3: Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA)**

The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) promotes the development and growth of the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Mauritius. SMEDA provides support to potential and existing small and medium enterprises with a view to enabling them to start new enterprises.

SMEDA also receives and processes applications from entrepreneurs for registration of SMEs.

According to SMEDA Act 2009, SMEs should be engaged in any legal business activity having an annual turnover less than Rs50 million. A small enterprise is an enterprise having an annual turnover of not more than Rs10 million while a medium enterprise is an enterprise having an annual turnover of more than Rs10 million but not more than Rs50 million.

#### **INCENTIVES, FACILITIES AND SUPPORT SERVICES TO CO-OPERATIVES BY SMEDA WHICH MAY BENEFIT CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES**

For Co-operatives to benefit from the various incentives, facilities and support services provided by SMEDA, they should be registered with SMEDA.

Incentives, Facilities and Support Services to Small and Medium Enterprises provided by SMEDA which may also benefit co-operative societies:

<b>Incentives/Facilities/ Support Services</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Business Facilitation &amp; Counselling</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Business Facilitation &amp; Counselling</b></li> <li>- Conceiving a Business idea</li> <li>- Guidance on Business Plan Preparation</li> <li>- Advice on Procedures to set up enterprise</li> <li>- Liaising with Local Authorities/Departments</li> <li>- Information on Financial Schemes</li> <li>- Follow-up and Monitoring</li> <li>- Registration</li> </ul>
<b>Entrepreneurship Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Entrepreneurship Development Training</b></li> <li>- Entrepreneurship Development Programmes for Potential Entrepreneurs</li> <li>- Skills Development Programmes               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Technical (Training in Handicraft – Fibrecraft, Fancy Jewellery, Garment &amp; Fashion Design, Textile Painting, Basketry, Woodcraft, Curtain Making, Packaging)</li> <li>○ Managerial programmes</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Marketing Assistance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Marketing Assistance</b></li> <li>- Marketing Advice</li> <li>- Marketing Research</li> <li>- Marketing Strategy and Plan               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Organization of Fairs</li> <li>○ Craft Shops</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Liaising with foreign support institutions for business forums and exhibitions</li> </ul>

<b>Incentives/Facilities/ Support Services</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Infomediary Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Infomediary Service</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Information Service</li> <li>- Documentation Centre               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Internet Facilities</li> <li>○ Periodicals, Reports &amp; Books</li> <li>○ Directory of Small Enterprises</li> <li>○ Kompas &amp; Other Databases</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Technical Assistance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Design Services</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Skills Development</li> <li>- Technical Advice</li> <li>- Counselling</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Genuine Mauritian Product Logo (GMP) - as from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Genuine Mauritian Product Logo (GMP)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A new logo known as the Genuine Mauritian Product (GMP) will now be used for all “Made in Mauritius” goods in order to protect them from unfair competition and encourage people to buy products made locally.</li> <li>- The logo will also help to counter bad practice and identify the local products.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Exemption of Customs Duty on Double Space Cabin Vehicles</b>	<p>Exemption of customs duty on double space cabin vehicles and all single space cabin vehicles for SMEs registered with SMEDA to facilitate transportation of raw materials and finished goods.</p> <p>Eligibility Criteria - SMEs with turnover of at least Rs3 million that have been in operation for at least 2 years in furniture making, light engineering or footwear.</p> <p>Contact details: Mrs Wong, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, New Government Centre, Port-Louis, Tel No.: 201 1729, Fax No.: 201 3027</p>
<b>Exemption of Land Conversion Tax</b>	<p>Exemption of land conversion tax for the relocation, expansion or the setting up of an industrial enterprise.</p> <p>Eligibility Criteria: SMEs-holder of a registration certificate issued by SMEDA</p> <p>Contact details: Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security (Land Conversion Section), 9th Floor, Renganaden Seeneevassen Building, Cnr Jules Koenig &amp; Maillard Streets, Port-Louis, Tel No.: 211 4356, Fax No.: 213 0029</p>

<b>Incentives/Facilities/ Support Services</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Road Tax at Concessionary Rate</b>	<p>Reduced road tax (Rs4,000) on dual purpose vehicle with engine capacity of 1600cc and more.</p> <p>Eligibility Criteria: SMEs registered with SMEDA and employing at least 5 persons.</p> <p>Contact details: Miss Nojeeb, National Transport Authority (NTA), MSI Building, Royal Road Cassis, Tel No.: 202 2802, Fax No.: 212 9399.</p>

### **Contact Details**

#### **SMEDA**

Industrial Zone, Coromandel

Tel: 233 0500

Fax: 233 5545

Email: [smeda@orange.mu](mailto:smeda@orange.mu)

Website: <http://sme.gov.mu>

#### **SMEDA Regional Offices**

Co-operative Centre

Nagiah Road

Rose-Belle

Tel: 627 1225

Fax: 627 1225

Email: [sehdarb@intnet.mu](mailto:sehdarb@intnet.mu)

#### **DBM Building**

New Traffic Centre

Goodlands

Tel: 282 1909

Fax: 282 1909

Email: [sehdagl@intnet.mu](mailto:sehdagl@intnet.mu)

#### **Rodrigues Branch**

Malabar Rodrigues

Tel: 831 4428

Fax: 831 4446

Email: [smidorod@intnet.mu](mailto:smidorod@intnet.mu)



## **SECTION 4:**

**MINISTRY of FISHERIES AND RODRIGUES  
(FISHERIES DIVISION)**



## **Section 4: Ministry of Fisheries and Rodrigues (Fisheries Division)**

The mission of the Fisheries Division is to provide an enabling environment for the promotion of sustainable development of the fisheries sector and to ensure continued economic growth, social development within the framework of good governance.

### **OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF THE FISHERIES DIVISION**

- Sustainable exploitation of aquatic resources and realization of the pro-poor reform programme to ensure support to vulnerable groups by enhancing the income base of the coastal dwellers and the fishermen community.

### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE FISHERIES DIVISION**

- Ensure that all fisheries activities allow and promote the conservation of vital marine ecosystem.
- Promote and regulate the optimal long-term sustainable utilization of living marine resources.
- Undertake research and development.
- Establish a conducive environment in which the fishing industry can prosper, contributes towards the development of Mauritius in a world class seafood hub and derive optimal benefits from marine living resources.
- Minimize conflicts with other users of the marine resources, such as the transport and tourism sector.
- Further the interest of Mauritius within the international fisheries community including encouraging the international trade of fish commodities while recognizing and actively supporting our commitment to international law and conventions.
- Provide professional, responsive and customer focused services.
- Deliver our services efficiently and effectively providing task value for money.
- Continuously invest in Human Resources Development.

### **MAIN SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE FISHERIES DIVISION**

The main services provided by the Ministry are:

#### ***Fisheries Training, Extension & Development***

- Training of fishermen
- Setting and maintenance of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)
- Extension
- Awareness programme

#### ***Fisheries Protection Service***

- Enforcement of legislation
- Registration of fishers
- Registration of boats
- Fishing permits (artisanal)
- Awareness programme

#### ***Fisheries Planning***

- Planning, design and monitoring of projects
- Appraisal of projects

#### ***Fisheries Management***

- Monitoring, Control & Surveillance
- Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS)

- Licensing of fishing vessels
- Awareness programme
- One stop Shop

***Fisheries Research***

- Fish toxicity
- Visits
- Documentation Unit
- Awareness programme

***Marine Conservation***

- Management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)
- Marine Parks Centres
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) appraisals
- Awareness programme

***Marine Science***

- Water quality monitoring
- Pollution case studies

***Aquaculture***

- Resource propagation
- Extension
- Exhibitions
- Awareness programme

**INCENTIVES, FACILITIES AND SUPPORT SERVICES BY THE FISHERIES DIVISION WHICH MAY BENEFIT FISHERMEN IN CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES**

The Fisheries Division is offering the following incentives, facilities, and support services which may benefit fishermen in co-operatives:

<b>Incentives/Facilities/ Support Services</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Bad Weather Allowance</b>	A bad weather allowance of Rs 224 per day is provided to fishermen. 100% rate of bad weather allowance to fishermen admitted to a clinic or hospital.
<b>Close Seasons Allowance</b>	Close seasons allowance of Rs 224 per day is provided to nets fishermen.
<b>Winter Allowance</b>	Winter allowance is provided to bank fishers
<b>Compensation for Voluntary Surrender of a Large Net or Gill Net Licence</b>	A compensation package is provided to fishermen for voluntary surrender of a large net or gill net licence
<b>Death Grant</b>	A death grant of Rs 200,000 is provided for death of fishermen at sea
<b>Fish Aggregating Devices</b>	Fish aggregating devices(FADs) are set

<b>Incentives/Facilities/ Support Services</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Training Courses</b>	Provision of training courses to artisanal fishermen and stipend of Rs 300/day to attend the course
<b>Scholarships to Children of the Fishing Community</b>	Scholarships to children of the fishing community for studies up to the tertiary level are provided
<b>Assistance to Fishermen Family in Distress</b>	Interim assistance is provided to fishermen family in distress
<b>Financial Assistance for Repairs of Accidentally Damaged Fishing Boats and Outboard Motors</b>	Financial assistance to a maximum of Rs5,000 is provided to fishermen for repairs of accidentally damaged fishing boats and outboard motors.
<b>Loans</b>	Loans are sanctioned to fishers under different schemes operated by the Development Bank of Mauritius
<b>Duty Free Facilities</b>	Duty free facilities on goods vehicles are provided to fishermen co-operatives.
<b>Grant for Purchase of Semi Industrial Fishing Boats</b>	Grant to the extent of 25% is provided on purchase of semi industrial fishing boats

### **Contact Details**

#### **Ministry of Fisheries and Rodrigues (Fisheries Division)**

4<sup>th</sup> Floor, LIC Centre,  
 President John Kennedy Street,  
 Port Louis.  
 Tel: 211 2470 to 211 2475  
 Fax: 208 1929  
 E-mail: fishadmin@mail.gov.mu  
 Website: <http://fisheries.gov.mu>



## **SECTION 5:**

**MINISTRY OF AGRO-INDUSTRY AND FOOD SECURITY  
– FOOD SECURITY FUND**



## **Section 5: Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security – Food Security Fund (FSF)**

Government has set up a Food Security Fund (FSF) to provide financial assistance to breeders, planters and farmers grouped in co-operatives or associations to enable them to increase local food production with a view to ensuring food security in the country. The Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security and the Food Security Fund Committee have launched the following schemes with a view to giving a boost to local food sector and assisting in reducing imports of food and dependency on basic foodstuffs:

### **INCENTIVES, FACILITIES AND SUPPORT SERVICES BY THE FOOD SECURITY FUND WHICH MAY BENEFIT CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES**

The FSF is operating the schemes which may benefit co-operative societies:

<b>Incentives/Facilities/ Support Services</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Scheme for Purchase of Improved Breeding Stock of Heifers/Cows</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Grant of a maximum of Rs20,000/heifer and/or Rs30,000/cow</li> <li>- Loan of a maximum of Rs30,000/heifer and/or Rs40,000/cow</li> <li>- Interest Rate: 3%, Term of Loan: 5 years including one year moratorium</li> <li>- Maximum 50 heads</li> <li>- Bank: DBM Ltd</li> </ul>
<b>Scheme for Construction/ Renovation of buildings for Livestock</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Loan of a maximum of Rs3,000,000 for construction/renovation of cowsheds.</li> <li>- Interest Rate: 5%, Term of Loan: 8 years including 3 years moratorium</li> <li>- Bank: DBM Ltd</li> </ul>
<b>Scheme for Plantation of Fodder</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Grant of a maximum of Rs17,000 per arpent for plantation of fodder for a maximum of 25 arpents.</li> <li>- Bank: MPCB Ltd</li> </ul>
<b>Scheme for Purchase of Equipment/Machinery</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Loan of a maximum of Rs3,000,000 for purchase of an equipment</li> <li>- Loan of a maximum of Rs5,000,000 for purchase of more than an equipment</li> <li>- Interest Rate: 5%, Term of Loan: 8 years including 3 years moratorium</li> <li>- Bank: MPCB Ltd</li> </ul>
<b>Scheme for Purchase of Improved Breeding Stock of Sheep and Goat</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Grant of a maximum of Rs10,000/head (sheep and goat)</li> <li>- Loan of a maximum of Rs10,000/head (sheep and goat)</li> <li>- Interest Rate: 3%, Term of Loan: 5 years including 1 year moratorium</li> <li>- Maximum: 50 heads</li> <li>- Bank: DBM Ltd</li> </ul>

**Contact Details**

**Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU)**

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Newry Complex,

St Jean Road,

Quatre Bornes.

Tel No.: 466 3885, 464 4876

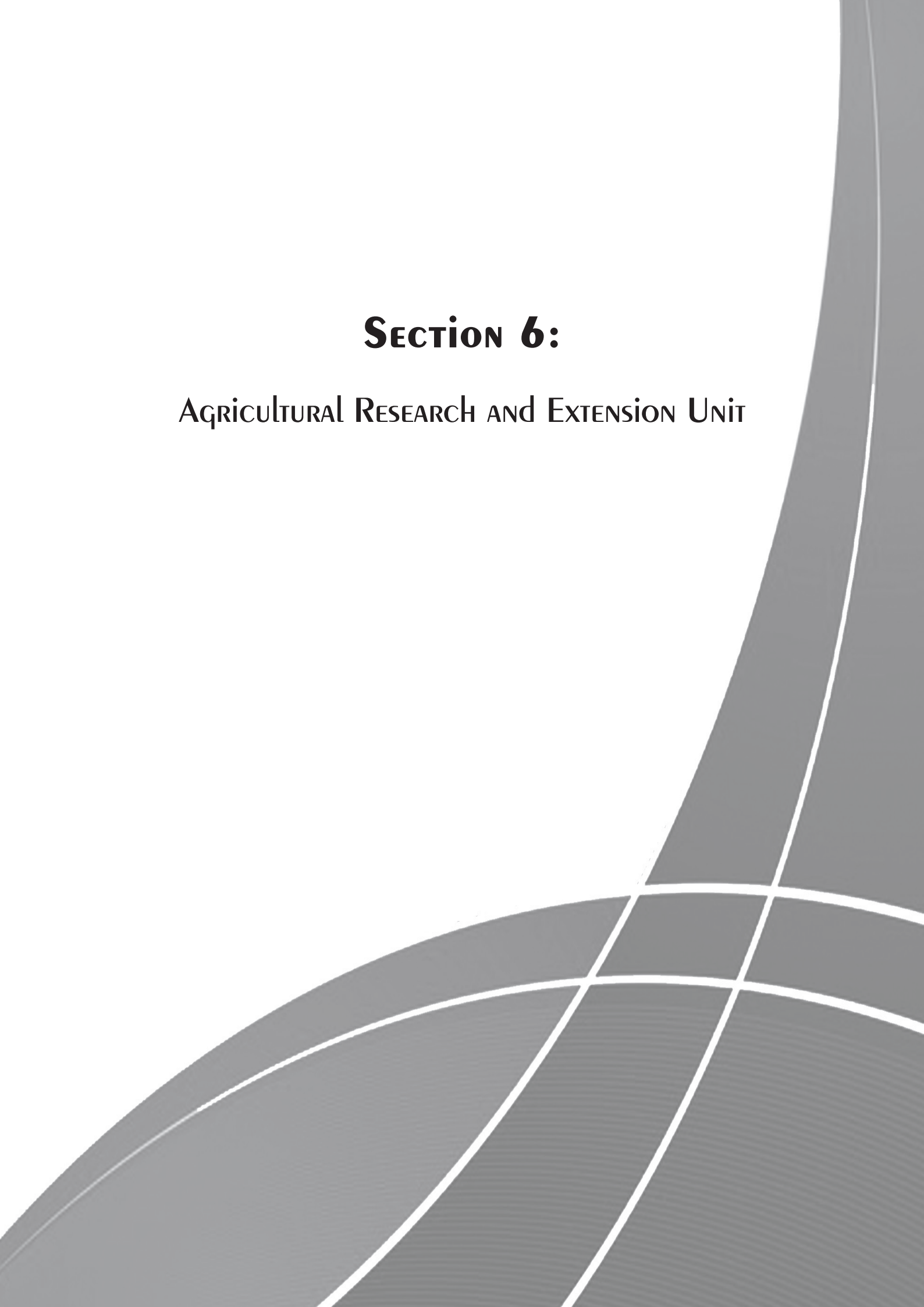
Fax No.: 464 8809

Email: [areu@intnet.mu](mailto:areu@intnet.mu)

Website: <http://www.areu.mu>

## **SECTION 6:**

### **AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION UNIT**





## **Section 6: Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU)**

The mission of the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit is to serve the non-sugar agricultural sector (crop and livestock) through excellence in cost-effective high-quality research and extension for better agricultural production, and to meet the policy requirements of the government in terms of agricultural diversification and food production generally.

AREU aims at increasing farmers' knowledge and skills, thereby raising their productivity and income improving their standard of living, and lifting their social and educational standards.

### **INCENTIVES, FACILITIES AND SUPPORT SERVICES BY AREU WHICH MAY BENEFIT CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES**

AREU provides a range of services through its research and extension activities for the benefit of co-operative societies as hereunder:

<b>Incentives/Facilities/ Support Services</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Crop and Livestock Research</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research activities in the non-sugar sector (crops, livestock) to increase production</li> <li>• Addressing farmers attending farm production, clients problems through application of relevant knowledge and techniques</li> <li>• Transfer of knowledge and skills to promote sustainable production for the benefit of agricultural producers, consumers and the environment</li> </ul>
<b>Crop and Livestock Extension Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training of farmers through the Farming Training School and Model Farms Centres</li> <li>• On-farm advisory service for production and protection of foodcrops, fruits and livestock</li> <li>• Diagnostic service for pests and diseases of foodcrops, fruits and livestock</li> <li>• Issue of vouchers for the purchase of vegetable seeds</li> <li>• Interface between the farming community and service providers</li> <li>• Investigation of farmers' needs and grievances</li> <li>• On-farm research opportunities</li> <li>• Facilitation for access to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Incentive schemes (Small Farmers Efficiency Scheme and DBM, Food Security Fund);</li> <li>○ Restricted pesticides; and</li> <li>○ Seed and planting materials, fodder, molasses, bagasse and livestock feed</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Provision of buck service for breed improvement in goats</li> </ul>

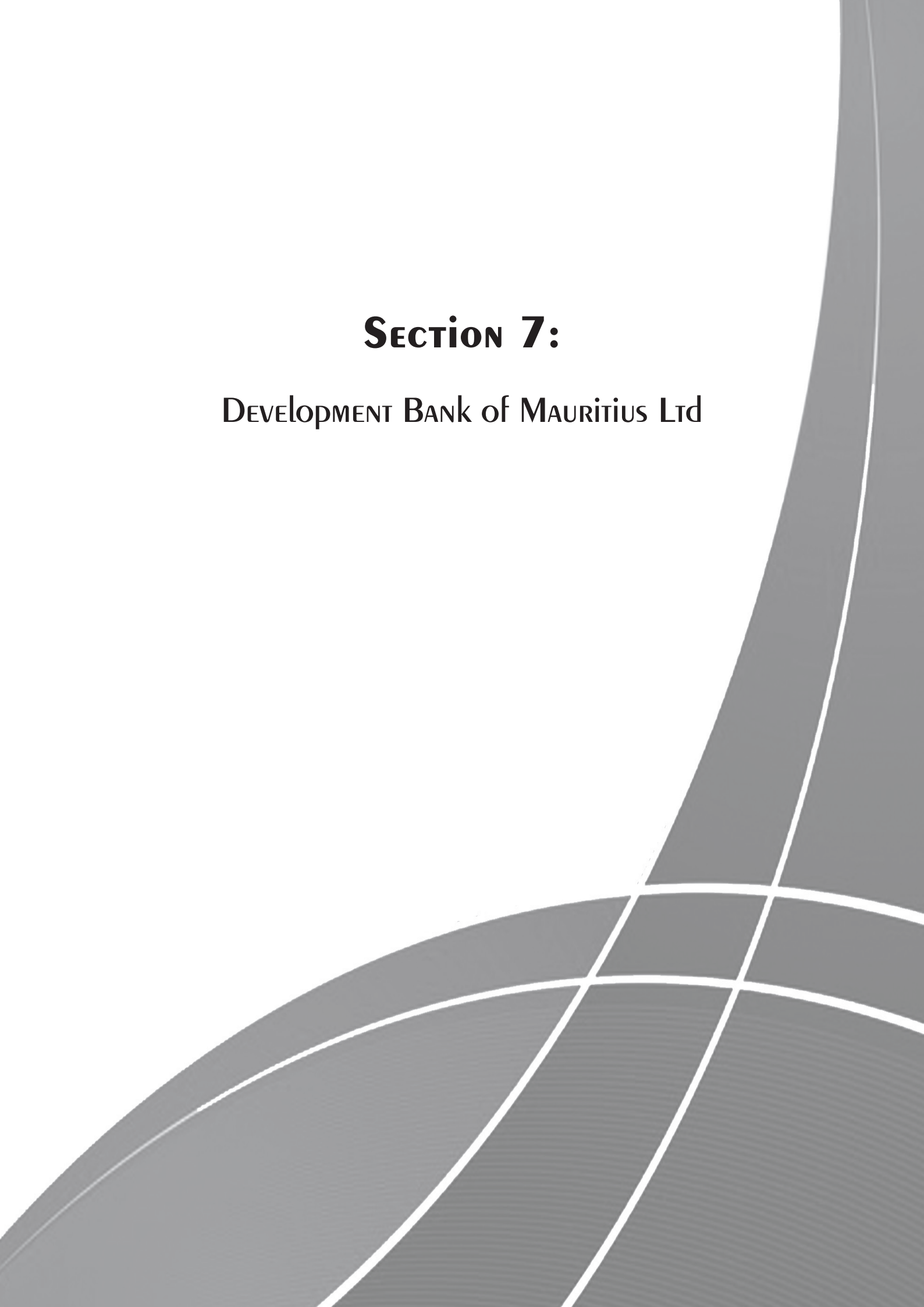
<b>Incentives/Facilities/ Support Services</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Services provided by AREU under the aegis of Food and Agricultural Research Council</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hot-water treatment of cabbage/cauliflower seeds against Black Rot Disease and tomato seeds against Bacterial Scab and Bacterial Speck diseases</li> <li>• Treatment of tomato seeds against the Tomato Mosaic Virus (ToMV)</li> <li>• Training of farmers on production practices</li> <li>• Field visits to offer practical advice to individual farmers</li> <li>• Training in elementary agriculture for farmers, Agricultural Youth Clubs and Women’s Associations</li> <li>• Conducted tours and field demonstration of improved agricultural techniques</li> <li>• Meetings with farmers and Farmers’ Associations to brainstorm on problems and solutions thereto</li> <li>• Radio talks on crop and livestock production techniques for the benefit of farmers</li> <li>• Advisory publications on crop and livestock production as well as the bi-monthly bulletin “Farming News”</li> <li>• Delivery of vouchers for purchase of seeds and other inputs</li> <li>• Issue of certificates and field reports in connection with farmers’ applications for government-sponsored loan schemes, duty exemption on utility vehicles under the SFES and farm structures, fencing materials and equipment</li> <li>• Provide assistance to write business plan and projects in crop and livestock production</li> <li>• Collect production data in crop and livestock sector</li> <li>• Review cost of production of economic crops and livestock</li> <li>• Collect data on farm inputs</li> <li>• Assess damage to crops and livestock production following natural calamities</li> <li>• Implement government support measures to assist vulnerable farmers</li> </ul>

**Contact Details**

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# **SECTION 7:**

**DEVELOPMENT BANK of MAURITIUS LTD**





## **Section 7: Development Bank of Mauritius Ltd (DBM)**

The vision of the Development Bank of Mauritius Ltd (DBM) is to serve as a catalyst for the promotion of accelerated socio-economic development of Mauritius and its mission is to be a financial institution of excellence and a strategic partner in providing an array of flexible support facilities to all, big and small, engaged in the socio economic activities.

### **SCHEMES OPERATED BY THE DBM WHICH MAY BENEFIT CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES**

The following schemes offered by the DBM may benefit co-operative societies:

<b>Incentives/Facilities/ Support Services</b>	<b>Details</b>	
<b>UNDER COMMERCIAL WINDOW</b>		
<b>Normal Scheme for the Agricultural Sector</b>	<b><i>Purpose of Loan:</i></b>	To finance projects in the following sectors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sugar cane – plantation, replantation, derocking, mechanisation, irrigation, faisance valoir, multipurpose</li> <li>• Vegetable, fruit and flower - plantation, mechanisation, derocking and irrigation</li> <li>• Tobacco cultivation</li> <li>• Livestock breeding</li> <li>• Transport – utility vehicle</li> <li>• Fishing, including bank fishing and aquaculture</li> <li>• Agro-processing, food preservation and other agricultural diversification projects</li> <li>• Seafood hub</li> </ul>
	<b><i>Maximum Loan Amount:</i></b>	80% of project cost up to a ceiling of Rs5million
	<b><i>Interest Rate:</i></b>	10 % p.a
	<b><i>Repayment Period:</i></b>	Up to 7 years
	<b><i>Moratorium Period:</i></b>	Up to 2 years
	<b><i>Security:</i></b>	(i) General Floating Charge and/or Fixed Charge on immovable property. (ii) Pledge of sugar proceeds or bad weather allowance, where applicable (iii) Gage sans déplacement on vehicle, where applicable (iv) Mortgage on fishing vessel, where applicable (v) Pledge of rights to the lease, where applicable (vi) Fixed Charge on Pledge of rights to the lease (vii) Any other collateral security acceptable to the DBM

<b>Incentives/Facilities/ Support Services</b>	<b>Details</b>	
	<b>Eligibility:</b>	(i) Planters/farmers registered with AREU, SIFB, FSC (ii) Operators registered with the Ministry of Fisheries and Rodrigues (iii) Other operators in the agri-business sector holding valid licences (iv) Other projects recommended by AREU
<b>Business Development Scheme</b>	<b>Purpose of Loan:</b>	To finance projects in the following sectors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manufacturing - start-ups, expansion, modernisation, computerisation, working capital finance</li> <li>• Trade and service - setting up, expansion, modernisation, computerisation, working capital finance</li> <li>• Transport - purchase of public service vehicle (taxis, buses, lorries etc), installation of GPS-based security, anti-theft and energy-saving devices</li> <li>• Printing and publishing - setting up, expansion, modernisation, computerisation</li> <li>• Health – setting-up, expansion, refurbishment of clinics, pharmacies</li> <li>• Tourism – setting-up, expansion, refurbishment of hotels/restaurants, purchase of contract cars</li> <li>• Any other tourism-related activity</li> <li>• Professionals - setting up of office</li> <li>• ICT - start-ups, expansion, modernisation and other ICT-related projects</li> <li>• Art – art exhibition, recordings, stage plays, publication of books</li> <li>• Participation in overseas trade fairs and surveys</li> <li>• Setting up of market fair and craft villages</li> </ul>
	<b>Maximum Loan Amount:</b>	75% of project cost up to a ceiling of Rs 5 million
	<b>Interest Rate:</b>	10 % p.a
	<b>Repayment Period:</b>	Up to 6 years
	<b>Moratorium Period:</b>	Up to 1 year

<b>Incentives/Facilities/ Support Services</b>	<b>Details</b>	
	<b>Security:</b>	(i) General Floating Charge and/or Fixed Charge on immovable property (ii) Personal Guarantee, where applicable (iii) Gage sans déplacement on vehicle, where applicable (iv) Pledge of rights to the lease, where applicable (v) Fixed Charge on Pledge of rights to the lease (vi) Any other collateral security acceptable to the DBM
	<b>Eligibility:</b>	(i) Individuals, Partnerships or Companies holding valid licences/permits (ii) Registered local and export-oriented SMEs (iii) Projects recommended by Enterprise Mauritius, BOI, SMEDA, Tourism Authority and other relevant institutions (iv) Any small viable enterprise holding a Business Registration Card
<b>Small Business Development-Related Scheme</b>	<b>Purpose of Loan:</b>	To finance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the purchase of land for industrial or commercial purpose</li> <li>▪ the construction of industrial, commercial or office building</li> <li>▪ any other business-related projects</li> </ul>
	<b>Maximum Loan Amount:</b>	75% of project cost up to a ceiling of Rs 5 million
	<b>Interest Rate:</b>	10 % p.a
	<b>Repayment Period:</b>	Up to 8 years
	<b>Moratorium Period:</b>	Up to 2 years (for construction of building)
	<b>Security:</b>	(i) General Floating Charge (ii) Fixed Charge on immovable property (iii) Any other collateral security acceptable to the DBM
	<b>Eligibility:</b>	(i) Individuals, Partnerships or Companies holding valid licences/permits (ii) Registered local and export-oriented SMEs (iii) Projects recommended by Enterprise Mauritius, BOI, SMEDA and other relevant institutions

Incentives/Facilities/ Support Services	Details	
<b>UNDER GOVERNMENT WINDOW</b>		
<b>Booster Micro Credit Loan Scheme</b>	<b>Purpose of Loan:</b>	To finance projects with value addition including: (a) Small enterprises in the manufacturing, agricultural, agri-business, handicraft (b) Small tourism and tourism-related activities (c) Small plant nurseries (d) Vegetables, fruits and flower cultivation on a small scale (e) Kindergartens (f) Small livestock breeding activities (g) ICT and ICT-related activities (h) Services including training (i) E-commerce (j) Small trades (excluding hawkers) (k) Working capital requirements for manufacturing/processing/handicraft or other projects with value addition up to a ceiling of Rs 75,000
	<b>Maximum Loan Amount:</b>	Rs 150,000 (covering up to 100% of cost of project)
	<b>Interest Rate:</b>	9 % p.a
	<b>Repayment Period:</b>	Up to 5 years
	<b>Moratorium Period:</b>	Up to 1 year
	<b>Security:</b>	General Floating Charge
	<b>Eligibility:</b>	(i) Entrepreneurs registered with NEF, SMEDA, AREU, IVTB, Tourism Authority, NCB etc (ii) Women entrepreneurs registered with NWEC or NEF (iii) Laid-off workers in the EPZ or other sectors (iv) Retrenched workers in the Sugar sector (v) Any other micro/small entrepreneurs holding a Business Registration Card and having a viable project (vi) Existing value-added activities requiring working capital finance (vii) Any other project with value addition recommended by NEF, NWEC or SMEDA

<b>Incentives/Facilities/ Support Services</b>	<b>Details</b>	
<b>Booster (Micro Credit) Loan Scheme For Women Entrepreneurs</b>	<b>Purpose of Loan:</b>	To finance projects with value addition including: (a) Small enterprises in the manufacturing, agricultural, agri-business, handicraft (b) Small tourism and tourism-related activities (c) Small plant nurseries (d) Vegetables, fruits and flower cultivation on a small scale (e) Kindergartens (f) Small livestock breeding activities (g) ICT and ICT-related activities (h) Services including training (i) E-commerce (j) Small trades (excluding hawkers) (k) Working capital requirements for manufacturing/processing/handicraft or other projects with value addition up to a ceiling of Rs 75,000
	<b>Maximum Loan Amount:</b>	Rs 150,000 (covering up to 100% of cost of project)
	<b>Interest Rate:</b>	9 % p.a
	<b>Repayment Period:</b>	Up to 5 years
	<b>Moratorium Period:</b>	Up to 1 year
	<b>Security:</b>	Promissory Note
	<b>Eligibility:</b>	(i) Women entrepreneurs registered with NWEC, NEF, SMEDA, AREU, IVTB, Tourism Authority, NCB etc (ii) Laid-off workers in the EPZ or other sectors (iii) Retrenched workers in the Sugar sector (iv) Any other micro/small women entrepreneurs holding a Business Registration Card and having a viable project (v) Existing value-added activities requiring working capital finance (vi) Any other project with value addition recommended by NEF, NWEC or SMEDA

<b>Incentives/Facilities/ Support Services</b>	<b>Details</b>	
<b>Micro Credit Financing Scheme (Vulnerable groups)</b>	<b>Purpose of Loan:</b>	Providing finance to micro entrepreneurs in vulnerable groups involved in income-generating activities
	<b>Maximum Loan Amount:</b>	Rs 50,000
	<b>Interest Rate:</b>	5% p.a
	<b>Repayment Period:</b>	4 years plus 6 months moratorium
	<b>Security:</b>	General Floating Charge
	<b>Eligibility:</b>	(i) Micro entrepreneurs in vulnerable groups involved in any economic activity. (ii) Family income not to exceed Rs 6,000 monthly
<b>Quasi-Equity Financing Scheme</b>	<b>Purpose:</b>	Providing equity and quasi-equity to SMEs
	<b>Maximum Investment:</b>	75% of project cost up to a ceiling of Rs500,000 as follows: (i) 49% in the form of quasi-equity, namely Redeemable Preference Shares or debentures with an appropriate coupon rate. (ii) 26% in the form of an equity loan to enable the promoter/s to buy shares in the company
	<b>Interest Rate:</b>	Quasi-Equity: Coupon rate ranging from 9.0% to 13.0 % depending upon time of repayment. Equity Loan: 9% p.a
	<b>Repayment Period:</b>	Quasi-Equity: Exit at the end of five years with a conversion clause at the option of DBM. Equity Loan: The loan along unpaid interests accrued thereon at the rate of 9% p.a shall be repayable after five years. Interest will be payable yearly with a moratorium of one year.
	<b>Security:</b>	Quasi-Equity: None Equity Loan: 1. General Floating Charge on promoter's/borrower's assets. 2. Pledge of the shares
	<b>Eligibility:</b>	(i) SMEs involved in the manufacturing, agri-business, tourism, trade or service sectors and holding an acceptable business plan. (ii) Companies registered with the Registrar of Businesses

<b>Incentives/Facilities/ Support Services</b>	<b>Details</b>	
	<b>Exit Strategy:</b>	<p>Quasi-Equity: Exit will be subject to repayment according to the coupon rate of the quasi-equity.</p> <p>In case of non-payment at the end of 5 years, quasi-equity will be convertible into ordinary shares.</p> <p>Equity Loan: The equity loan shall be repayable along with unpaid interest accrued at the end of five years.</p>
<b>Transitional Support Scheme for Small Companies</b>	<b>Purpose of scheme</b>	<p>To provide additional financial support:</p> <p>(i) for the purchase of equipment for modernisation of the unit and/or</p> <p>(ii) to meet working capital requirements, on a revolving basis and/or</p> <p>(iii) to restructure existing debts</p>
	<b>Maximum Loan Amount</b>	<p>95% of project cost up to a ceiling of Rs 1million as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Purchase of equipment only &gt; Rs 1m</li> <li>▪ Debt restructuring only &gt; Rs 1m</li> <li>▪ Purchase of equipment &amp; debt restructuring &gt; Rs 1m</li> <li>▪ Purchase of equipment &amp; working capital &gt; Rs 1m</li> <li>▪ Debt restructuring &amp; working capital &gt; Rs 1m</li> <li>▪ Working capital only &gt; Rs 1m</li> </ul>
	<b>Interest Rate</b>	Repo Rate (presently 5.25% p.a)
	<b>Repayment Period</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Purchase of equipment</i>- 3 to 5 years</li> <li>▪ <i>Debt restructuring</i>- Up to 5 years</li> <li>▪ <i>Revolving Working Capital</i>- Based on one production cycle</li> </ul>
	<b>Security</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Purchase of equipment</i></li> <li>-Fixed charge on equipment</li> <li>-Pledge/assignment of income proceeds (arrangement to be reached with commercial banks)</li> <li>▪ <i>Debt restructuring</i></li> <li>-Same security as taken by DBM and/or the other bank whose loan is being paid back</li> <li>▪ <i>Revolving working capital</i></li> <li>-Pledge/assignment of income proceeds (arrangement to be reached with commercial banks)</li> </ul>

<b>Incentives/Facilities/ Support Services</b>	<b>Details</b>	
	<b>Conditions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) The shareholder/s shall inject 5% from their own sources.</li> <li>(ii) If the company already has a loan, the existing liabilities plus the loan shall not exceed Rs 5million for DBM's clients and Rs 2million for other small companies</li> <li>(iii) The company shall submit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Audited accounts for at least 1 year</li> <li>-Cash flow forecast for next 6 months</li> <li>-Evidence of orders, if any, and sales forecast for the coming 6 months</li> <li>-A restructuring plan where applicable</li> <li>-Where no audited accounts are available, the company will be required to submit, along with the cash flow forecast, bank statements and certified copies of annual returns and accounts filed with the Registrar of Companies</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<b>Special Conditions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) SMEDA will assist SME companies in coming up with appropriate business plan and/or restructuring plans acceptable to the DBM. Where companies cannot provide appropriate business plan or restructuring plan, the Business Support Unit of the Bank will assist them.</li> <li>(ii) DBM shall set a dedicated Credit Committee to examine and approve applications.</li> <li>(iii) Jewellery companies must be registered with the Assay Office and must hold valid licences.</li> </ul>
	<b>Eligibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) The enterprise must be a legally established corporate entity having a turnover not exceeding Rs 5 Million and Rs15 Million for DBM's existing clients</li> <li>(ii) The company must have been in operation for at least 2 years</li> <li>(iii) Newly registered companies whose shareholder/s has/have a previous satisfactory track record for at least 2 years</li> <li>(iv) The company must provide a business plan and/or a financial restructuring plan justifying the need for support</li> </ul>

Incentives/Facilities/ Support Services	Details		
	<b>Validity Period</b>	<b>Up to December 2011</b>	
<b>Special Loan Scheme for the Agriculture Sector</b>	<b>Purpose of Loan:</b>	<p>To finance projects in the following sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Potato or onion cultivation</li> <li>▪ Fruit and flower - cultivation, fine derocking, irrigation</li> <li>▪ Biotechnology - hydroponics, tissue culture etc</li> <li>▪ Storage of agricultural produce - construction of shed/store</li> <li>▪ Production of agricultural seedlings</li> <li>▪ Off-lagoon fishing- purchase of fishing vessel and engine/s</li> </ul>	
	<b>Maximum Loan Amount:</b>	80% of project cost as follows:	
		Potato cultivation	-Up to Rs30,000/arpent
		Onion Cultivation	-Up to Rs25,000/arpent
		Vegetables & fruits (a) Irrigation  (b) Fine derocking & plantation	-Up to Rs40,000/arpent or Rs200,000/borrower
			-Up to Rs25,000/arpent or Rs100,000/borrower
		Fruit and flower production	-Up to Rs 40,000/arpent or Rs200,000/borrower
		Biotechnology- hydroponics, tissue culture etc	-Up to Rs 1.0 million per project
		Storage of agricultural produce - construction of shed/store	-Up to Rs 200,000 per project
	Nurseries - Production of agricultural seedlings	-Up to Rs 250,000 per project	
Off-lagoon fishing- purchase of fishing vessel and engine/s	-Up to Rs 200,000 per project		
<b>Interest Rate:</b>	9% p.a		
<b>Repayment Period:</b>	Up to 7 years, including a moratorium of up to 2 years		
<b>Security:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ General Floating Charge and/or Fixed Charge on immovable property.</li> <li>▪ Pledge of sugar proceeds, where applicable</li> <li>▪ Any other collateral security acceptable to the DBM</li> <li>▪ Insurance of fishing vessel</li> </ul>		

<b>Incentives/Facilities/ Support Services</b>	<b>Details</b>	
	<b>Eligibility:</b>	(i) Planters/farmers registered with AREU,SIFB,FSC (ii) Operators registered with the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Fisheries (iii) Other operators in the agri-business sector holding valid licences (iv) Other projects recommended by AREU
<b>Purchase of Improved Breeding Stock Scheme (Under the Food Security Fund)</b>	<b>Purpose of loan:</b>	Purchase of breeding animals (dairy cows/heifers, sheep and/or goats) in order to upgrade the local genetic pool
	<b>Maximum number of animals eligible per applicant (dairy cows/heifers, sheep and/or goats):</b>	50
	<b><u>Per dairy cow</u></b>	Rs 30,000
	<b>Maximum Grant:</b>	Rs 40,000. Any balance in purchase price to be contributed by beneficiary.
	<b>Maximum Loan amount:</b>	
	<b><u>Per dairy heifer</u></b>	Rs 20,000
	<b>Maximum Grant:</b>	Rs 30,000. Any balance in purchase price to be contributed by beneficiary.
	<b>Maximum Loan amount:</b>	
<b><u>Sheep and goat</u></b>	Rs 10,000 per head or 50% of purchase price, whichever is lower	
<b>Maximum Grant:</b>	Rs 10,000 per head or 50% of purchase price, whichever is lower	
<b>Maximum Loan amount:</b>		
<b>Interest rate for the loan:</b>	3 % p.a	
<b>Moratorium Period:</b>	1 year	
<b>Repayment Period:</b>	5 years inclusive of moratorium period	

<b>Incentives/Facilities/ Support Services</b>	<b>Details</b>	
	<b>Security:</b>	(i) Fixed charge on building (ii) General Floating Charge against the co-operative society, association, société or company (iii) General Floating Charge against the members of the co-operative society, association, société or company, excluding the residential property or land owned by the members (iv) Decreasing Term Assurance, where applicable (v) Pledge of rights to the lease of state land, where applicable (vi) Fixed charge on pledge of rights to the lease of state land, where applicable
	<b>Eligibility:</b>	(i) Registered (new or existing) agricultural co-operative society, association, société or company. <b>Individual breeders are NOT eligible</b> (ii) Satisfactory financial record
	<b>Validity Period:</b>	Until exhaustion of funds
<b>Loan Scheme for the Construction or Renovation of Buildings for Livestock (dairy cow and beef cattle, sheep/goat) and Poultry Activities (Under the Food Security Fund)</b>	<b>Purpose of loan:</b>	Construction/renovation of buildings for livestock activities (dairy cow and beef cattle, sheep/goat and poultry)
	<b>Maximum Loan Amount:</b>	Rs 3 million (100% of project cost)
	<b>Interest rate:</b>	5 % p.a
	<b>Moratorium Period:</b>	3 years
	<b>Repayment Period:</b>	5 years after moratorium period
	<b>Security:</b>	(i) Fixed charge on land and building on which project is located (ii) General Floating Charge against the borrower, excluding residential property (iii) General Floating Charge against the members of the co-operative society, association, société, company or individual, excluding their residential property, where applicable (iv) Decreasing Term Assurance, where applicable (v) Pledge of rights to the lease of state land, where applicable

<b>Incentives/Facilities/ Support Services</b>	<b>Details</b>	
		(vi) Fixed charge on pledge of rights to the lease of state land, where applicable (vii) An insurance policy to cover the building/s against fire, cyclones and other natural calamities
	<b>Eligibility:</b>	(i) Registered (new or existing) agricultural co-operative society, association, société or company. (ii) The annual turnover of the beneficiary, as backed by bank statements or audited accounts, must not exceed for <b>groups of:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ dairy breeders- Rs 10 Million</li> <li>○ beef cattle breeders - Rs 2 million</li> <li>○ sheep and goat breeders – Rs 500,000</li> </ul> (iii) Poultry breeders (groups or individuals) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ with a maximum of 1,000 layers per production cycle</li> <li>○ with a maximum of 5,000 broilers per production cycle or with an annual turnover not exceeding Rs 5million</li> </ul> (iv) Other poultry breeders with an annual turnover not exceeding Rs500,000 (v) Satisfactory financial record
	<b>Validity Period:</b>	Until exhaustion of funds

### Contact Details

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## **SECTION 8:**

**MAURITIUS POST AND CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD**



## **Section 8: Mauritius Post and Co-operative Bank Ltd (MPCB)**

The Mauritius Post and Cooperative Bank Ltd (MPCB) offers a vast array of products and services encompassing Personal Banking, Corporate Banking, Trade Finance & Treasury Services.

Domestic operations comprise a national network of 12 branches and 15 ATMs around the Island. In addition to offering a range of traditional banking services, MPCB is continuing to enlarge its product portfolio to include new financial products to meet market needs.

### **SCHEMES OPERATED BY THE MPCB WHICH MAY BENEFIT CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES**

The following schemes offered by the MPCB may benefit co-operative societies:

<b>Incentives/Facilities/ Support Services</b>	<b>Details</b>	
<b>A. SCHEMES UNDER THE FOOD SECURITY FUND</b>		
<b>1. Purchase of Machineries, Equipments</b>	<b>Eligibility:</b>	All planters/breeders must be grouped into cooperatives, companies, societies or associations
	<b>Maximum loan:</b>	A maximum of Rs3million for purchase of ONE agricultural equipment/ processing equipment.  A maximum of Rs5million for the purchase of MORE than one agricultural equipment/ processing equipment
	<b>Tenor:</b>	8 years including 3 years moratorium
	<b>Total Exposure:</b>	Rs20million
<b>2. Purchase of Fishing Vessel for Off Lagoon Fishing (Rodrigues)</b>	<b>Beneficiaries:</b>	Co-operative of artisanal fishermen from Rodrigues  Project needs to be approved by Fisheries Division
	<b>Tenor:</b>	10 years including 3 years moratorium
	<b>Total Exposure:</b>	Rs5million
<b>Application procedures for above schemes under Food Security Fund:</b>		
All applicants will have to go to AREU for application of their respective loans. AREU will decide about their eligibility and amount of facilities to be granted as per the schemes of		

Food Security Fund. AREU will then send all the applications to Ministry of Agro Industry, Food Production and Security to be approved by the Evaluation Committee of Food Security Fund. The Ministry will then send the application to the Bank for processing

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<b>B. SCHEMES FOR SUGAR CANE &amp; TOBACCO PLANTATION</b>			
<b>Interest Rate for crop Year 2010-2011</b>			
	<b>Prime Lending Rate Presently @ 7.50% p.a.</b>	<b>Margin Rate</b>	<b>Minimum Effective Interest Rate</b>
<b>Crop Loan</b>	7.50% p.a.	- 0.25%	7.25 %
<b>Re-plantation Loan</b>	7.50% p.a.	+ 0.25%	7.75 %
<b>Tobacco Loan</b>	7.50% p.a.	+ 0.75%	8.25%
<b>Amounts Eligible:</b>			
<b>Upkeep of Ratoons Loan</b>	Rs18,000/-(per arpent) (Rs500 per ton)		
<b>New plantation Loan</b>			
<b>Mechanical Means</b>	Rs25,000/-(per arpent)		
<b>Manual Means</b>	Rs20,000/-(per arpent)		
<b>Tobacco Loan</b>			
<b>(Flue Cured)</b>	Rs30,000/-(per arpent)		
<b>(Air Cured)</b>	Rs20,000/-(per arpent)		

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# **SECTION 9:**

**MAURITIUS BUSINESS GROWTH SCHEME Office**



## **Section 9: Mauritius Business Growth Scheme Office**

The Mauritius Business Growth Scheme (MBGS) is a component of the Manufacturing and Services Development and Competitiveness (MSDC) Project financed by the Mauritian Government through a loan from the World Bank. The objective of the MBGS is to facilitate the maximum possible growth in private sector economic activity by supporting enterprise productivity and competitiveness, specifically in areas of skills and training, technology upgrading, standards and marketing constraints facing private sector enterprises

MBGS works in partnership with Mauritian enterprises (including SMEs) and clusters to determine what type of demand driven, practical, concrete assistance is needed.

### **INCENTIVES, FACILITIES AND SUPPORT SERVICES BY MBGS WHICH MAY BENEFIT CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES**

The MBGS provides cost sharing grants for the buying in of outside expert services or technical assistance as hereunder:

<b>Incentives/Facilities/ Support Services</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>50 - 50 Matching Grants Programme</b>	<p>The Mauritius Business Growth 50-50 Scheme pays 50% of the cost of activities or programmes of activities undertaken by a company to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop its business.</li> <li>• Boost its sales.</li> <li>• Increase its local, regional or global competitiveness.</li> <li>• Expand existing markets or enter new markets.</li> <li>• Develop new products or product lines.</li> <li>• Work on designs, research or development.</li> <li>• Improve its management, logistical, financial or supply chain related performances.</li> <li>• Obtain quality certifications.</li> <li>• Seek local or international technical expertise and consultancy.</li> </ul> <p>Expand employment.</p> <p>All MBGS related activities must be specific business development activities. Expenditures on fixed assets, overheads, and working capital or routine business operations are not eligible.</p> <p>MBGS pays 50% of the cost of eligible activities, up to a maximum of US\$100,000 per company over the life of the Scheme.</p> <p>MBGS is a grant – not a loan. The grant is paid in full after the activities are completed. The company must therefore pay the full costs of all MBGS related activities first, and the grant will subsequently refund 50%. Partial, step by step payments can also be made to the SMEs, in order to ease their financial burden.</p>

<b>Incentives/Facilities/ Support Services</b>	<b>Details</b>
	<p><b><i>Eligibility</i></b> All Mauritius registered businesses involved in manufacturing, processing, agriculture, fisheries, services or providing business development services are eligible for assistance from the MBGS. A business is not eligible if it is involved exclusively in trading or banking.</p> <p><b><i>Mode of Application</i></b> The first step is to submit the Application Form Online or download it and return it to the MBGS offices. This will show if the company and the proposed activities are eligible for grant support.</p> <p>The company will be advised as to its eligibility within 10 working days from the receipt of application form in the MBGS offices. If the company is eligible, it will be immediately contacted by an MBGS team member, to discuss the project further.</p>
<b>90 – 10 Pay Back Scheme</b>	<p>The 90 - 10 Mauritius Business Growth Scheme pays 90% of the cost of practical, focused, “field based” activities undertaken by a company to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop its business.</li> <li>• Boost its sales.</li> <li>• Increase its local, regional or global competitiveness.</li> <li>• Expand existing markets or enter new markets.</li> <li>• Develop new products or product lines.</li> <li>• Work on designs, research or development.</li> <li>• Improve its management, logistical, financial or supply chain related performances.</li> <li>• Obtain quality certifications.</li> <li>• Seek local or international technical expertise and consultancy.</li> </ul> <p>Expand employment.</p> <p>All MBGS related activities must be specific business development activities. Expenditures on fixed assets, overheads, and working capital or routine business operations are not eligible.</p> <p>MBGS pays 90% of the cost of eligible activities, up to a maximum of US\$ 100,000 per company over the life of the Scheme.</p> <p>The grant is paid in full after the activities are completed. Activities and payments can be staged if necessary. The company must therefore pay the full costs of all MBGS related activities first. It will be subsequently refunded within five working days from receipts of all documents and receipts by the MBGS office. Repayment is then done by individual companies as from the third year of the project, based on a royalty of 11% of incremental sales.</p>

<b>Incentives/Facilities/ Support Services</b>	<b>Details</b>
	<p><b><i>Eligibility</i></b>  All Mauritius registered businesses involved in manufacturing, processing, agriculture, fisheries, services or providing business development services are eligible for assistance from the MBGS.</p> <p>A business is not eligible if it is involved exclusively in trading or banking.</p> <p><b><i>Mode of Application</i></b>  The first step is to submit the Application Form Online or download it and return it to the MBGS office. The MBGS will then determine if the company and the proposed activities are eligible for grant support.  The company will be advised as to its eligibility within 10 working days from the receipt of application form in the MBGS offices. If the company is eligible, it will be immediately contacted by an MBGS team member, to discuss the project further.</p>

**Contact Details**

**MBGS Office**

Suites 214-215 2 F

St James Court,

St Denis Street,

Port Louis.

Tel. 211 0641 / 212 9818

Fax: 213 3080

Email: [mbgsmu@gmail.com](mailto:mbgsmu@gmail.com)

Website: <http://mbgs.gov.mu>



# **SECTION 10:**

**LEASING COMPANIES -  
LEASING EQUIPMENT MODERNISATION SCHEMES  
FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES  
UNDER THE ECONOMIC RESTRUCTURING  
AND COMPETITIVENESS PROGRAMME**



**Section 10: Leasing Companies - Leasing Equipment Modernisation Schemes for Small and Medium Enterprises under the Economic Restructuring and Competitiveness Programme**

Presently Government provides a line of credit to leasing companies under the Leasing for Equipment Modernisation Schemes (LEMS) so as to provide affordable finance to companies to shore up their productivity and competitiveness.

Objective of the Schemes:

- To provide assistance to SMEs and other eligible enterprises to enhance their competitiveness through the modernisation of their production processes (Under Lems I, II & III)
- To ease their cash-flows through refinancing of their existing assets (Under Lems IV & ERCP Credit Financing Scheme(ECFS))

The following instruments are being operated:

**LEMS I** – Leasing facility of a maximum of Rs5million for the purchase of new equipment by SMEs with turnover not exceeding Rs 50 million per annum.

**LEMS II** - Leasing facility not exceeding Rs15million for the purchase of new equipment by SMEs with turnover per annum up to Rs150 million.

**LEMS III** - Leasing facility of a maximum of Rs50million for the purchase of new equipment by SMEs with turnover per annum exceeding Rs150million

**LEMS IV**- Leasing facility of a maximum of Rs150million to ease cash flow of SMEs through refinancing of their existing assets by Sale & Lease Back -applicable to SMEs as recommended by the Independent FinancialAnalyst (IFA).

**ECFS** - Leasing facility of a maximum of Rs100million to ease the Cash Flow of the SMEs by allowing them to discount/factor their Sales Credit Invoices to CIM Finance Ltd- applicable to SMEs having an Annual Turnover not greater than Rs50million.

Incentives/Facilities/ Support Services	Details	
<b>LEASING EQUIPMENT MODERNISATION SCHEME I (LEMS I)</b>	Objective of Scheme	To assist SMEs and other eligible enterprises in enhancing their competitiveness through the acquisition of up-to-date production equipment for modernisation process
	Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maximum leasing facilities of Rs5 million</li> <li>- No collateral (i.e fixed charge) is required.</li> <li>- Interest Rate @ 8.5% per annum fixed</li> <li>- Ratio of financing is 90:10 (i.e 90%)</li> </ul>

<b>Incentives/Facilities/ Support Services</b>	<b>Details</b>	
	Eligibility Criteria	(a) Turnover of Enterprise per annum not exceeding Rs50 million (b) Enterprise has been operating since at least one year (c) Purely trading companies will not be eligible.
	Conditions Attached to the Scheme	(a) SMEs must be incorporated and based in the Republic of Mauritius (b) The Scheme excludes refinancing through Sale & Lease Back of existing assets (c) The Scheme excludes financing of Passenger Vehicles and Rental Cars (d) The facilities are available from Leasing Companies only – (not available from Banks) (e) VAT to be paid by SMEs client
	Mode of Application	To contact any Leasing Company for application
	Validity Period of Scheme	Corpus of the Fund is Rs500 million. First Come First Serve Basis and subject to availability of funds.
	Contact Details	Contact any duly registered Leasing Company
<b>LEASING EQUIPMENT MODERNISATION SCHEME II (LEMS II)</b>	Objective of Scheme	To assist SMEs and other eligible enterprises enhancing their competitiveness through the acquisition of up-to-date production equipment for modernisation process.
	Facilities	- Maximum leasing facilities of Rs15 million - No collateral (i.e. Fixed Charge) is required - Interest Rate @ 8.5% per annum (fixed rate) - Ratio of financing is 85:15 (i.e. 85%)
	Eligibility Criteria	(a) Turnover of Enterprise per annum up to Rs150 million (b) Enterprise has been operating since at least one year (c) Purely trading companies are not eligible

<b>Incentives/Facilities/ Support Services</b>	<b>Details</b>	
	Conditions Attached to the Scheme	(a) SMEs must be incorporated and based in the Republic of Mauritius (b) The Scheme excludes refinancing through Sale & Lease Back of existing assets (c) The Scheme excludes financing of Passenger Vehicles and Rental Cars (d) The facilities are available from Leasing Companies only – (not available from Banks) (e) VAT to be paid by SMEs client
	Mode of application	To contact any Leasing Company for application
	Validity period of scheme	Corpus of the Fund is Rs500 million. First Come First Serve Basis and subject to availability of funds.
	Contact Details	Contact any duly registered Leasing Company
<b>LEASING EQUIPMENT MODERNISATION SCHEME III (LEMS III)</b>	Objective of Scheme	To assist SMEs and other eligible enterprises enhancing their competitiveness through the acquisition of up-to-date production equipment for modernisation process.
	Facilities	- Maximum leasing facilities of Rs50 million - Clients (applicants) may be asked to provide collateral. - Interest Rate @ 8.5% per annum (fixed rate) - Ratio of financing is 80:20 (i.e. 80%)
	Eligibility Criteria	- Annual turnover of enterprise should exceed Rs150 million - Enterprise has been operating since at least one year
	Conditions attached to the Scheme	(a) SMEs must be incorporated and based in the Republic of Mauritius (b) The Scheme excludes refinancing through Sale & Lease Back of existing assets (c) The Scheme excludes financing of Passenger Vehicles and Rental Cars (d) The facilities are available from Leasing Companies only – (not available from Banks) (e) VAT to be paid by SMEs client

<b>Incentives/Facilities/ Support Services</b>	<b>Details</b>	
	Mode of Application	To contact any Leasing Company for application
	Validity Period of Scheme	Corpus of the Fund is Rs500 million. First Come First Serve Basis and subject to availability of funds.
	Contact Details	Contact any duly registered Leasing Company
<b>LEASING EQUIPMENT MODERNISATION SCHEME IV (LEMS IV)</b>	Objective of Scheme	Lems IV is to allow SMEs to ease their cash flow through refinancing of their existing assets by Sale & Lease Back
	Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Amount of financing would not exceed Rs150 million irrespective of the applicant's annual turnover amount but the facilities under this scheme is subject to the recommendation of the Independent Financial Analyst (IFA)</li> <li>- Interest Rate is 8.5% fixed</li> <li>- Ratio of financing is 80:20 (i.e 80%)</li> </ul>
	Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Subject to the recommendation of IFA</li> <li>- Purely Trading Companies are not eligible</li> </ul>
	Conditions attached to the Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a)SMEs must be incorporated &amp; based in the Republic of Mauritius</li> <li>(b)The scheme allows SMEs to have refinancing through Sale &amp; Lease Back of existing assets without providing collaterals</li> </ul>
	Mode of Application	To contact any Leasing Company for application
	Validity Period of Scheme/Incentive	Corpus of the Fund is Rs500 million. First Come First Serve Basis and subject to availability of funds
	Contact Details	Contact any duly registered Leasing Company

Incentives/Facilities/ Support Services	Details	
<p><b>ERCPC CREDIT FINANCING SCHEME (ECFS)</b>            ECFS is a partnership between the Government through ERCPC &amp; CIM FINANCE LTD in giving the possibility to SMEs to have recourse to discount/factor their Sales Credit Invoices to CIM Finance Ltd</p>	Objective of Scheme	To ease out the Cash Flow of the SMEs by allowing them to discount/factor their Sales Credit Invoices to CIM Finance Ltd
	Facilities Offered	90% of the total amount of an invoice or batch of invoices will be advanced to the SMEs within 48 hours following submission of completed dossiers. The remaining 10% balance will be refunded to the SMEs after clients would have paid fully all the amount due. This amount will be paid back to clients net of expenses and relative charges.
	Eligibility Criteria	(a) Limited to SMEs having an Annual Turnover not greater than Rs 50 million (b) Sales must be between Business to Business (B2B) (c) Enterprise must be in the manufacturing or services but excluding trading (d) Enterprise must have been incorporated in Mauritius since at least one year (e) Enterprise must have been offering Credit Terms not exceeding 90 days
	Conditions attached to the Scheme	(a) Annual Interest Rate of 7.5% fixed plus a Factoring Fee at 1.5% of the invoice value (b) Fee for opening of a client's account is Rs10,000 (c) It is a one-off fee and is payable upfront (d) Advances per client is limited to a maximum of Rs2 million (e) Funding per SME client is limited to a maximum of Rs100 million

Incentives/Facilities/ Support Services	Details	
	Mode of Application	To contact: CIM Finance Ltd, Cnr Edith Cavelle & Mère Barthelemy Street, Port Louis Tel No.: 255 4510, 254 6442, 255 4815,203 6800 Fax No.: 203 6813 E-mail: finance@cim.mu

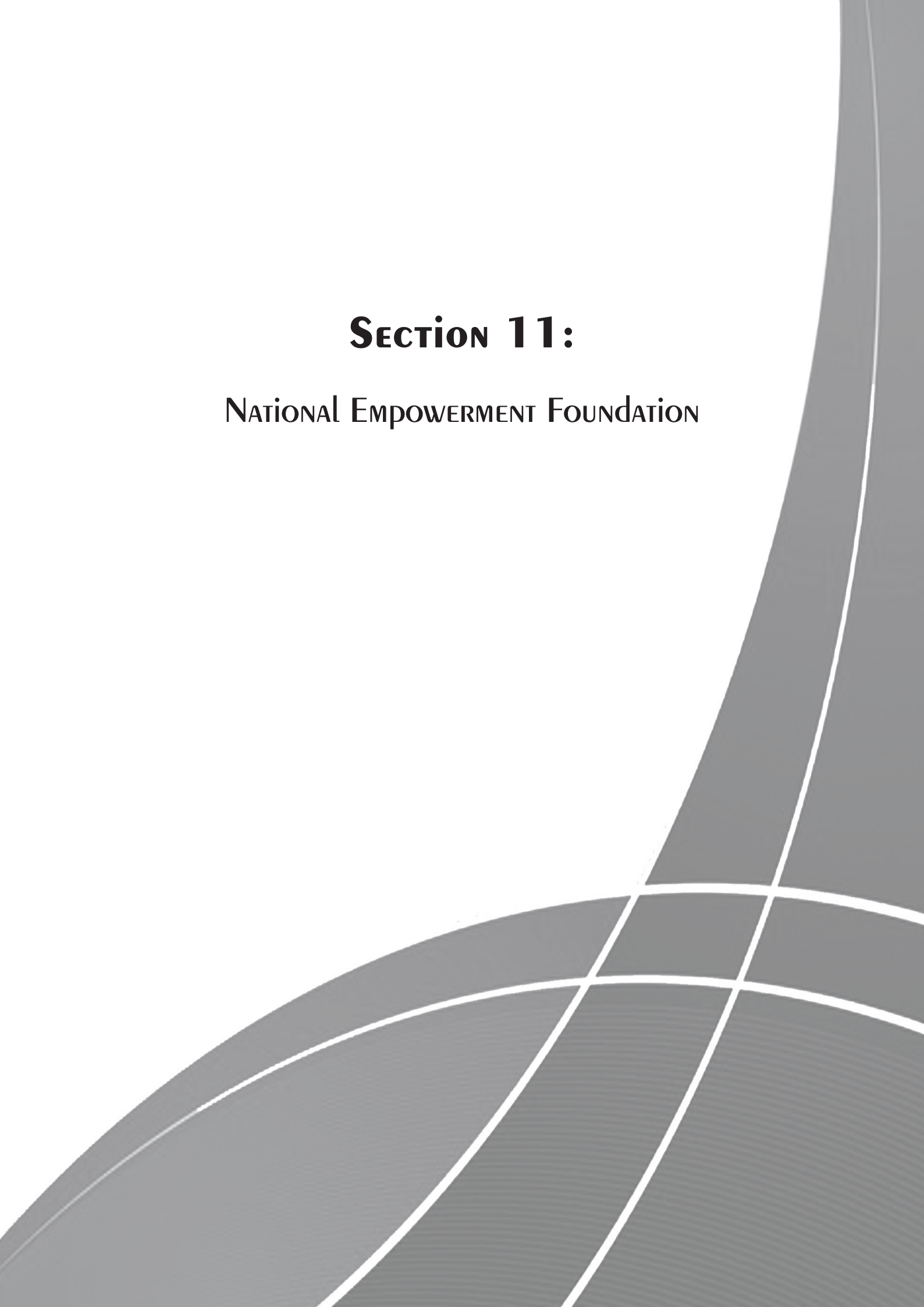
### Contact Details

For further information any of the following Leasing Companies can be contacted:

Leasing Company	Registered Office	Contact Details
1. SICOM Financial Services Ltd	SICOM Building, Sir Cécilcourt Antelme Street, Port Louis	Tel.: 208 5406 Fax: 208 7662 Email: email@sicom.intnet.mu
2. La Prudence Leasing Finance Co. Ltd	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Barkly Wharf, Le Caudan Waterfront, Port Louis	Tel.: 207 2505 / 207 2508 Fax: 208 8936 Email: leasing@laprudence.intnet.mu
3. Axys Leasing Ltd	IFC Building, 10, Dr Ferriere Street, Port Louis	Tel : 211 1713-5 Fax : 208 0134 Email : sp@axys-group.com
4. CIM Finance Ltd	14 Barracks Street, Port-Louis	Tel: 213 7676 Fax: 213 7677
5. The Mauritius Leasing Company Limited	3rd Floor, BAI Building, 25 Pope Hennessy Street, Port-Louis	Tel: 202 3700 Fax: 212 6456 email: mleasing@ml.intnet.mu website: www.mauritiusleasing.com
6. Barclays Leasing Company Limited	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Barclays House, 68-68A Cybercity, Ebene	Tel: 404 1000 Fax: 465 7457 Email: barclays.leasing@barclays.com
7. Finlease Company Limited	5 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Travel House, Corner Royal & Sir William Newton Streets, Port Louis	Tel: 202 5504 Fax: 208 9056 Email: finlease@mcb.co.mu
8. Mauritian Eagle Leasing Company Limited	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, IBL House, Caudan, Port Louis	Tel No: 203 2000, 203 2012/14, 203 2139 Fax No: 203 2049, 203 2096 E-mail: ymeyepa@iblgroupp.com
9. Dolberg Asset Finance Limited (Formerly known as Global Direct Leasing Ltd)	Ebène House, Ground Floor, 33 Cybercity, Ebène	Tel No: 467 2530 Fax No: 467 0693 Email: info@dolberg-finance.com Website: www.dolberg-finance.com
10. Expert Leasing Ltd	ABC Centre, Military Road, Port Louis	Tel No: 217 1888 Fax No: 217 1908 Email: abcprofessional@intnet.mu

# **SECTION 11:**

**NATIONAL EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION**





## **Section 11: National Empowerment Foundation (NEF)**

The National Empowerment Foundation (NEF) is responsible for the implementation of the following programmes:

- (i) Training and Placement of the Unemployed
- (ii) Entrepreneurship Support
- (iii) Child and Family Development
- (iv) Community Empowerment
- (v) Decentralized Cooperation Programme
- (vi) Corporate Social Responsibility
- (vii) NEF Rodrigues

The NEF aims at:

- alleviating poverty and social exclusion through the implementation of socio-economic development projects in poverty areas.
- reducing unemployment amongst women by offering technical and financial assistance to retrenched and unemployed women who are above 40 years.
- developing employability of unemployed persons.
- encouraging entrepreneurship and providing mentoring support to entrepreneurs.

### **INCENTIVES FACILITIES AND SUPPORT SERVICES BY NEF WHICH MAY BENEFIT CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES**

The NEF offers the following incentives, facilities and support services, which may benefit co-operative societies and their members:

<b>Incentives/Facilities/ Support Services</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Training and Placement of Unemployed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity development of the unemployed to find jobs through a full-time internship and training, part-funded by the NEF.</li> <li>• Facilitation of the employment of women over 40 years and female workers laid off from industry.</li> <li>• Free documentation and advice through its “Espace des Métiers” for career path, job search, training opportunities and entrepreneurship potential.</li> </ul>
<b>Entrepreneurship Support Programme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advice and customised support for unemployed women, vulnerable persons and the socially-excluded (poor, disabled, former prisoners, drug addicts etc.) wishing to establish their small business: product development, business plan, access to finance, capacity building and mentoring during the start-up phase.</li> <li>• Loans (via the DBM) to finance small entrepreneurs (Booster Loan Scheme) and for SMEs (Quasi-Equity Financial Scheme).</li> <li>• Micro-credit up to a maximum of Rs 50,000 for financing income-generating micro-projects.</li> </ul>

<b>Incentives/Facilities/ Support Services</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>NEF Rodrigues</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial and technical support to the unemployed and ex-lagoon fishers wishing to start small businesses.</li> <li>• Upgrading and development of typical Rodriguan crafts.</li> </ul>

### **Contact Details**

#### **National Empowerment Foundation**

8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Garden Tower,

La Poudriere Street,

Port Louis.

Tel No: 405 5100, 405 5167

Fax : 211 1350

E-mail : [rjutliah@nef.mu](mailto:rjutliah@nef.mu)

Website: <http://www.nef.mu>

