# THE CO-OPTEX STORY



# 1935 - 1960

- ➤ The Madras Handloom Weavers Provincial Co-operative Society established in 1935.
- Initially, 43 Primary Societies having a total of 1,000 looms along with a small amount of Rs.16400/- as share capital & Govt. grant of Rs.59,000/-
- Till 1954, the MHWPCS was functioning in a rented Building at Mount Road.

# Co-optex Logo till 1986



#### The First Two Showrooms opened by Co-optex

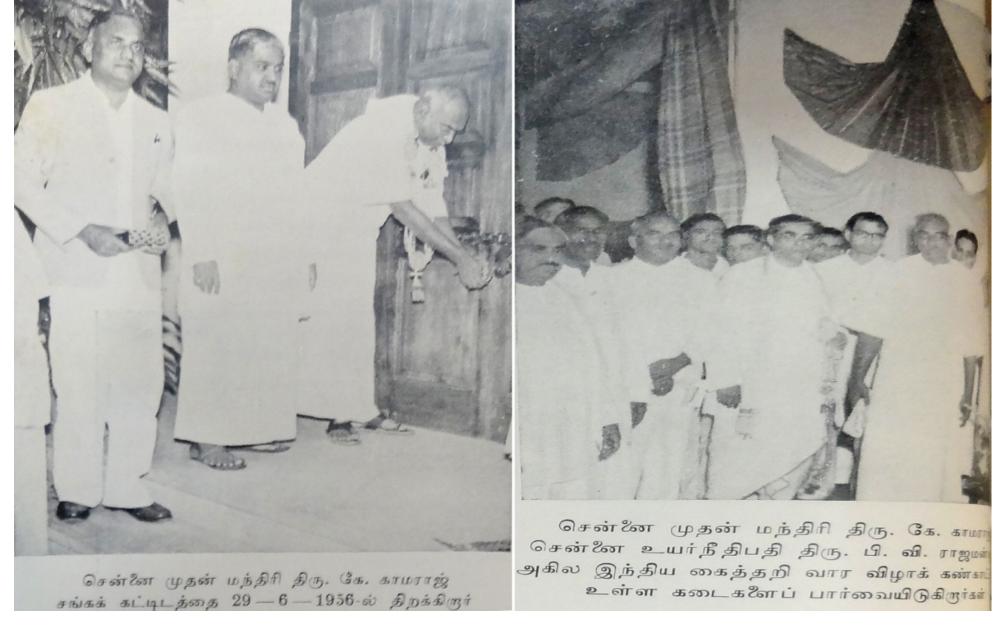




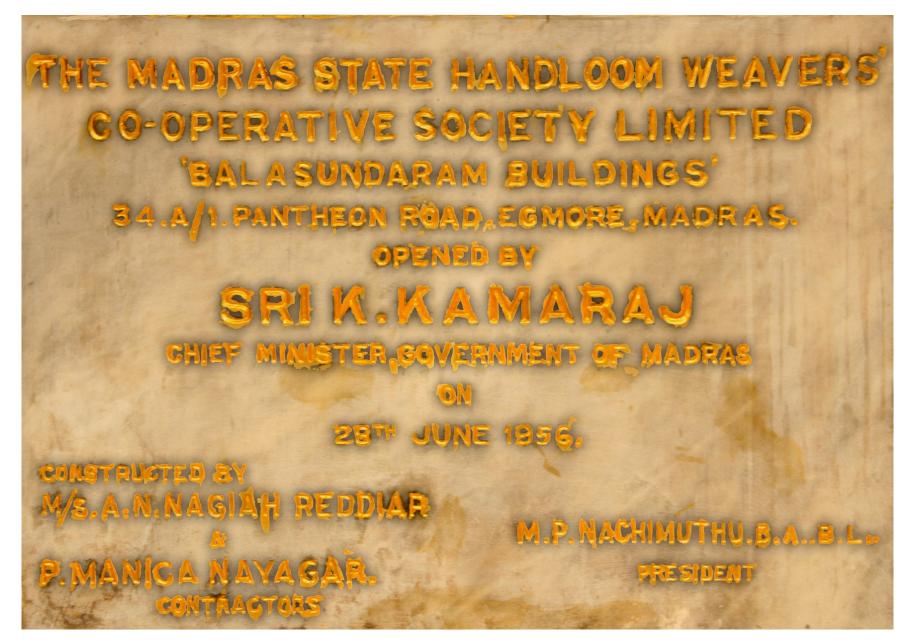
Calicut

Vellore -Long Bazaar

- ➤ In 1954, to have own Building for Co-optex, a plot was purchased at Pantheon Road, Egmore.
- ➤ Building was constructed in this place and inaugurated by then Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru.K.Kamaraj on 28.06.1956.
- Another plot adjacent to the Building was purchased for Co-optex and Exhibitions were being conducted regularly in this ground.



Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri.K.Kamaraj Inaugurated the Co-optex Head Office Building and the Exhibition



Inaugural plaque

# PRIME MINISTER JAWAHARLAL NEHRU VISITS CO-OPTEX IN 1953



# MEMORANDUM PRESENTED TO PRIME MINISTER JAWAHARLAL NEHRU ON 02.10.1953



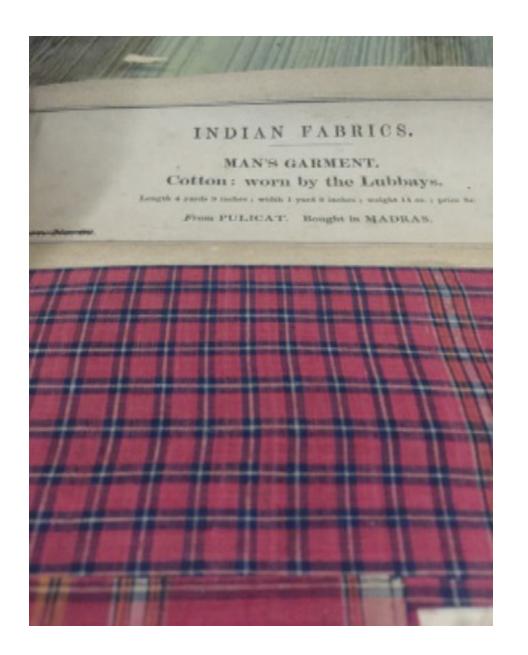
- ➤ In 1955, Co-optex was appointed as the sole Marketing Agent for Foreign Export of Handloom Cloth produced in Tamilnadu.
- ➤ During this year, Co-optex officials were appointed as Sales Executives in middle East countries, Ceylon, Malayasia and Burma.
- Co-optex also commenced Sales Depots in Aden, Colombo, Rangoon, Bangkok, Kualalumpur and Singapore.

- ➤ 'Bleeding Madras' Handloom Cloth became popular in the United States of America during 1960s
- The plaid cotton authentic 'Bleeding Madras' cloth was completely hand woven from yarn dyed with native vegetable dyes.
- ➤ No two plaids were exactly the same. When washed with mild soap in warm water, they used to bleed and blend together into distinctively muted and subdued colourings.
- Co-optex exported Bleeding Madras fabric to the tune of Rs.1.69 crore during that period.





The fabric wouldn't bleed profusely but the color mildly overlapping other colors of the plaid fabric......The resultant is, the fabric bleeds the way it has to bleed.



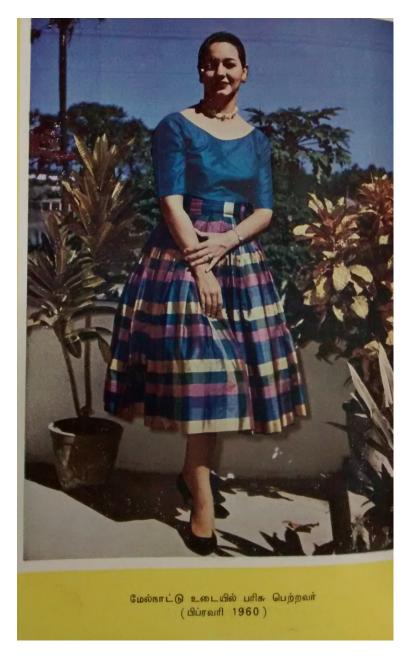




Madras Industries & Co-operation Minister Shri.R.Venkatraman admiring the 'Bleeding Madras' at Co-optex in 1960

After 25 years, in 1960, Co-optex had 985 primaries as its members and its share capital grew to Rs.9.66 lakhs.

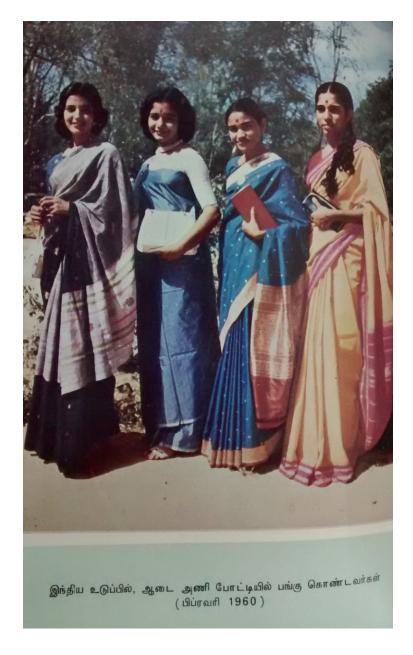
➤ The turnover was Rs.2.00 crores through its 300 Showrooms.



Co-optex Model in western dress



Co-optex Model in Silk Saree



Co-optex Models (1960)



Co-optex Model in Cotton Saree (1960)

#### Mrs. Vaijayanthimala Bali in a Co-optex Saree



➤In 1971 for the 1<sup>st</sup> time Co-optex Board of Directors was abolished and a Special Officer from the IAS was appointed to Administer Co-optex.

- ➤In the year 1972, to encourage the salesmen, the Sales Incentive scheme was introduced. The year 1972 was celebrated as 'Co-optex Salesmen Year'
- ➤ Co-optex introduced Management by Objective (MBO) for the first time a profit & loss account was prepared in 1973
- ➤In the year 1974, to administer the Showrooms in West Bengal and Bihar, a separate Regional Office was established at Calcutta.

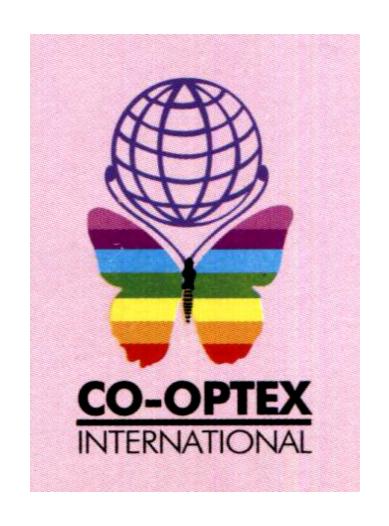
- ➤In 1976, in collaboration with Petrofils, Co-optex was the first to introduce "Handloom Polyester", and the first range of Polyester Sarees, Shirtings, Suitings and Dhothies
- ➤ Regional Office was opened at Mumbai, to administer the Showrooms of Maharashtra and Gujarat States.
- ➤In 1976, the Government of India appointed Co-optex as 'Implementing Agent' for the introduction of 'Janata Cloth' in Tamilnadu

#### Janata Cloth



## **Co-optex International**

>The Export wing of 'Co-optex' established in 1975 with the objective to export handloom products directly to foreign buyers produced by the primary weavers co-operative societies of our State.



- ➤ Bedspreads, Tablecloths, Kitchen towels, Napkins, Placemats, Runners, Aprons, Oven-gloves, Pot holders, Cushion covers, Shopping bags and Shirtings etc.,
- Chennimalai near Erode known for its exquisite home textile range was the main production centre and supplied these products for export meeting the International standards.

## Exporting Countries & Participation in Fairs

- Exporting Countries Germany, France, Belgium, Spain, Switzerland, Italy and United Kingdom.
- Co-optex Buyers are Members of European Fair Trade Association
- ➤ Co-optex International regularly participates in the **Heimtextil fair** at Frankfurt, Germany, and **India Home Furnishing fair**, Osaka, Japan to show case its products to attract new buyers.

## **Export Studio**



## **Export Kitchen Sets**



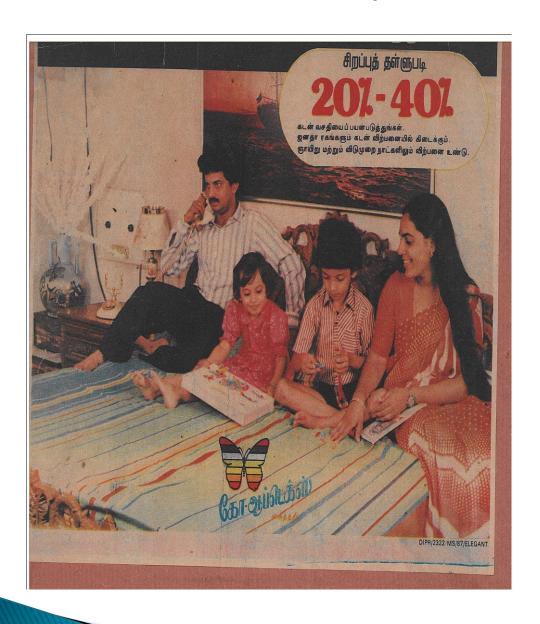


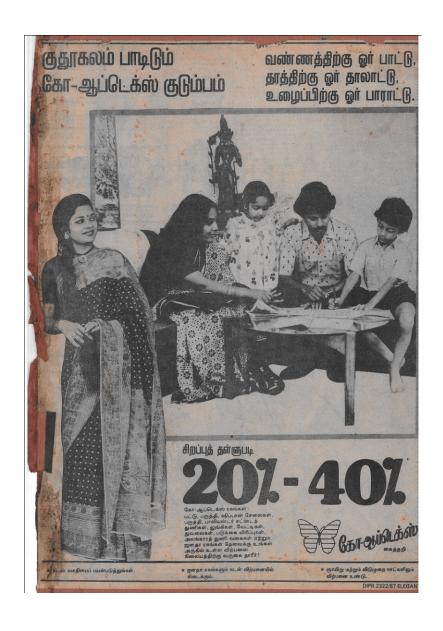
#### Raj Niketan Showroom in Matunga, Mumbai opened in 1977



- ➤In 1977, the Credit Sales Scheme was introduced to Government Departments and Public Sector Undertakings.
- ➤ During the year 1981-82, Prabhadevi Showroom at Mumbai, Bala Showroom of Khan Market, New Delhi, Jaipur, Rajasthan and Chikkadapalli Showroom at Hyderabad were acquired by outright purchase by Co-optex.

#### News Paper Advertisements during 1980s





# 1982

>The 'Thillaiaydi Valliyammai Pattu Maaligai Showroom' was constructed with sprawling 5 floors near the Head Office Building and the same was declared open by the then Chief Minister of Tamilnadu Dr.M.G.Ramachandran.





- ➤ Pudu Pavu (meaning laying a new warp on old loom) collection originated in 1982 by Shri.Gopalkrishna Gandhi, former Director of Handlooms, Government of Tamil Nadu, supported by the Director, Weavers Service Centre, Madras Museum and the Madras Arts College.
- ➤ The collection were designed for middle class price sensitive customers, and were appropriately priced handloom-range without compromising on quality.
- Pudu Pavu was an effort to reconsider tradition in the light of contemporary and attempted to simplify accordingly.

#### Pudu Paavu collection





# 1986

# Thirubhuvanam Silk Shawl presented to USSR President Leonid Brezhnev in Indian Festival at Moscow



# Co-optex Logo from 1986



7 Colors of Rainbow were incorporated into Co-optex Logo to denote the flag of International Co-operative movement

# Goa Showroom opened in 1988



# Kasi to Kancheepuram

- Silk Sarees of Varanasi are very popular like Kancheepuram. The Varansai Silk Saree motifs were very stylish lengthy paisley designs.
- These motifs were blended with the traditional motifs of Kancheepuram and woven in pallu of Kancheepuram Silk Sarees during 1990's. Since these designs were taken from Banaras Silk Sarees and thus named as "Kasi to Kancheepuram" Silk Sarees.
- The specialty of these design was the lengthy Paisley on top or middle or bottom of the Mundhi area. The Warp and Weft colour of the Sarees were in single colour ( same colour). No cross colour weaving was present in Kasi to Kancheepuram design.

# Kasi to Kancheepuram



- ➤ The Craft Education and Research Centre of Kalakshetra Foundation specilizes in the revival and production of the beautiful old patterns of south Indian sarees that had fallen into disuse.
- ➤ The Kalamkari (Kalam Pen; Kari Craft) centre of Kalakshetra Foundation was created in 1978 to revive this age old craft of printing textiles using hand carved wooden blocks and natural dyes.

- Smt.Rukmini Devi with her impeccable dress sense and innovative approach gave fresh direction to the languishing saree heritage of Tamilnadu.
- ➤ Old forgotten motifs of traditional south Indian sarees were revived and embellished with new design inputs and fresh colour combination.
- The Sarees produced in coordination with Cooptex and the Foundation were an instant success and became famous as 'Kalakshetra Sarees'.



#### Kalakshetra and Co-optex cordially invite you to

**Exhibition Cum Sale** 

#### "Homage to Rukmini Devi"

Sangeetha Kalanidhi

#### Thirumathi M.S. SUBBULAKSHMI

has kindly agreed to inaugurate on Thursday 28th Feb. 91 at 4 p.m.

at

5th Floor, Thillaiyadi Valliammai Pattu Maaligai, 350, Pantheon Road, Egmore, Madras

#### Thiru R. Kirubhakaran I.A.S.,

Secretary to Government,
Handlooms, Handicrafts, Textiles & Khadi
and

Thiru M. Raman I.A.S.,

Director of Handlooms & Textiles, Government of Tamilnadu participate

> N.P. Gupta I.A.S., Managing Director.

Reproductions of Thirumathi Rukmini Devi's exclusive Collection will be on sale.

Daily 10 a.m. -8 p.m. upto 5.3.91









# Saree Lovers Thronging our Collections



- For growth of any industry, the following factors play a crucial role.
  - Continuous growth of Customers
  - Market promotion to the new potential areas
  - Direct Market Feed Back about the products produced and sold
- ➤ The demands and challenges of the market are very well responded by Co-optex with rich tradition and well honed skills of the Handloom weavers.
- Co-optex, as premier Apex Body regularly conducts Handloom Exhibitions throughout the year.

#### Queen Elizabeth visit to Kancheepuram Silk Weavers in 1997



# 2006 onwards Multi hued Butterfly as logo

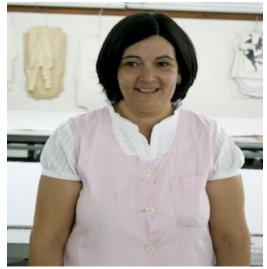


# Kurinjipaadi Lungies in Spain

- ➤ Co-optex International and Ms.Kavita Parmar, founder & creative Director, the IOU Project M/s.Maison Rassta, Spain has enrolled 223 weavers of 9 HWCSs in and around Cuddalore & Kurinjipaadi area for the production of Lungi / Madras Check fabrics.
- These Lungi fabrics were converted into Men's / Women's Garments and marketed online with each Garment labeled with a code No. which ensures traceability and genuinenity of Handloom production by the consumer.
- ➤ Each Garment is unique in terms of weaving pattern.
- The Object of the project is to pay extra wages to the weaver directly on sale of the garment and to provide sustained growth of his living standard.



Weaver



Designer



Customer







Pyjama

### GEPA label with CO-OPTEX name





# National Awards





## **Buy 2 Get 1 Free**

- From the year 2011-2012 another innovative scheme **Buy 2 Get 1 free** scheme was launched.
- ➤ Due to encouraging response, scheme is continued thereafter.

# **Online Shopping**







MY ACCOUNT

WISH LIST (0)

SHOPPING CART

CHECKOUT

M Shopping Cart

0 item(s) - Rs. 0



SWOMAN-NOTIFICATION/APPLICATION-DOWN

wnload





HOME **ABOUT US**  SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

**EXCLUSIVE SHOWROOMS** 

CONTACT US

OTHER PRODUCTS

MAIL

COOPTEX ERP

<b>≡</b> CATEGORIES	
+ Silk Sarees	(229)
M.S Collections	(6)
Organic Sarees	(24)
+ Cotton Sarees	(266)
+ Specials	(20)
Koorainadu Silk Saree	es (5)
Kurtis	(45)
+ Mens wear	(41)
Exclusive Showrooms	(0)



Exclusive Showrooms	
Coimbatore	
Cuddalore	
Chennai	
Salem	
Thanjavur	
Tirunelveli	
Vellore	
Bengaluru	
Mumbai	

## **Online Shopping**

- ➤ Co-optex launched its own online portal www.cooptex.com on 15.12.2014.
- ➤ Now customers from across the globe are ordering online.

### "By Hand From Heart"

- ➤ Hand weaving as a craft is passed on from one generation to another and requires immense patience and skill to master it.
- ➤ Co-optex is in a position to provide traceability for its production and products. Co-optex is India's first Apex handloom society to introduce Weaver Identity Card.
- Weaver Identity Card provides a connection between the buyer and the weaver.
- ➤ A weaver has to move his hands and legs 2700 times to weave one meter cloth and atleast 16000 to 20000 times per Saree.





# 1.5 lakh Handloom Weavers of Co-optex thank you for your continuous support

