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**Enhancing Consumer Movement
Means to Facilitate Development of Independent Consumer Groups**

Contribution

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Enhancing Consumer Movement - Means to Facilitate Development of Independent Consumer Groups

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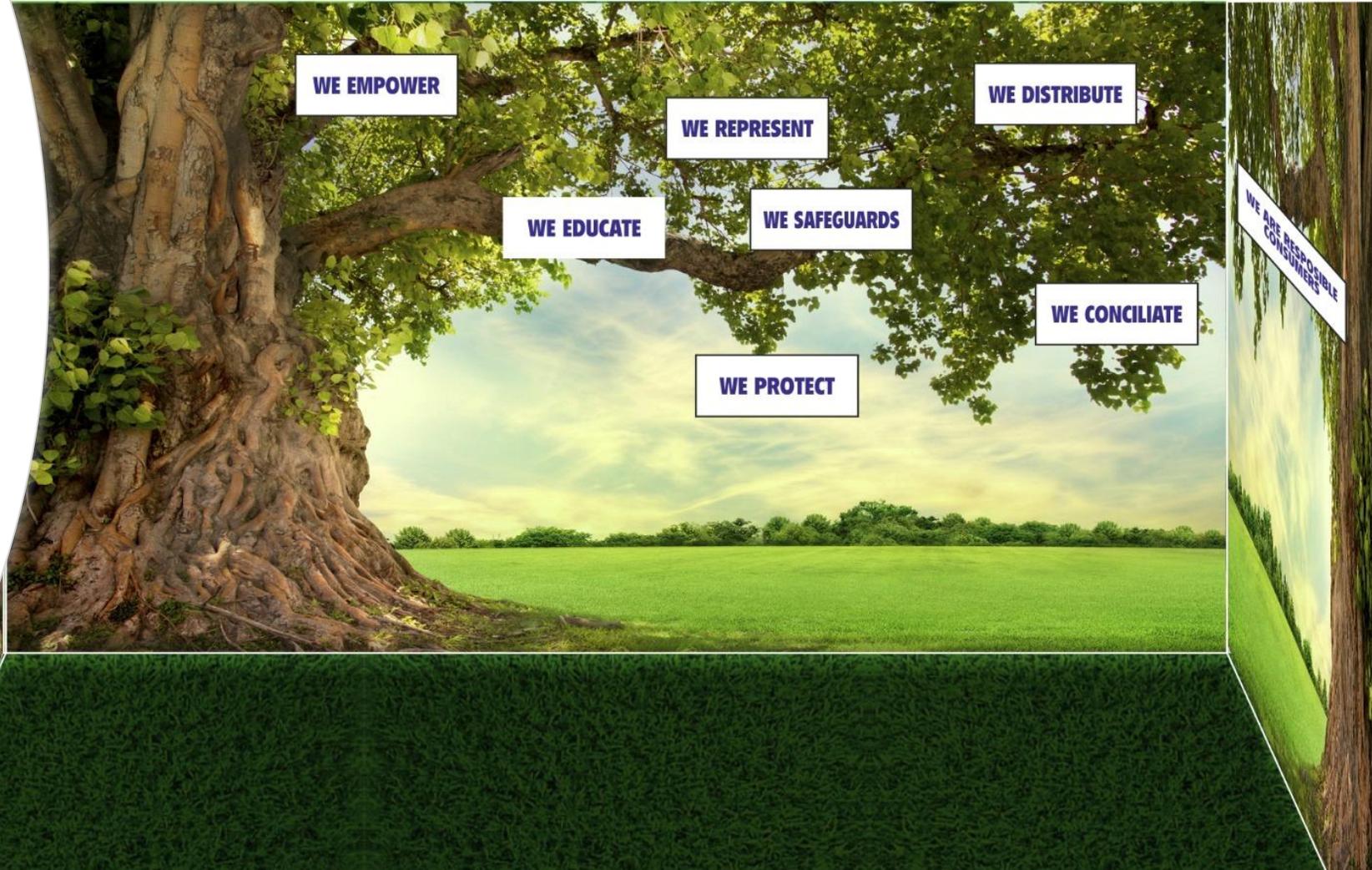


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Agenda

- Introduction
- MGP India – Role Model of Independent Consumer Association
- MGP's Annual Consumer Plaza
- Key Features of MGP's Annual Consumer Plaza
 - Operation
 - Selection Process
 - Fair Business Practices
- Benefits for Producers and Vendors
- Additional Attractions
- Recommendations and Suggestions
- Conclusion



MGP India – Role Model of Independent Consumer Association

- Independent Consumer Association
 - Financially independent and free from external influence
 - Membership-based voluntary organization
- Unique Monthly Grocery Distribution System
 - Mentioned in UNCTAD Note
 - Financially self-sufficient
- Annual Consumer Plazas
 - Consumer awareness campaigns
 - Class-action litigations
 - Complaint guidance and mediation
 - Consumer policy and law research and advocacy



MGP's Annual Consumer Plaza

- Unique platform for producers and consumers
 - Buying-selling requirements fulfilled
- 12 locations in Maharashtra, India
 - 7-10 days long



Key Features of MGP's Annual Consumer Plaza: Operation



- Unique platform for producers and consumers
 - Buying-selling requirements
- Held at 12 locations in Maharashtra, India
 - Period of 7-10 days
- Applications invited from interested producers/vendors

Key Features of MGP's Annual Consumer Plaza: Selection Process

- Decides what products will be offered for sale
 - Thoroughly examines their quality
 - Determines the fair prices
 - Determines the fair terms & conditions

Key Features of MGP's Annual Consumer Plaza: Fair Business Practices

- Fair Business Practices
 - Consumer-friendly refund/replacement policy
 - Ban on deceptive discounts/bargain sales
- Environmentally Conscious
 - Promoting environment-friendly products
 - Ban on plastic bags, encouraging use of paper or cloth bags
- Supporting Local Communities
 - Encouraging local quality products
 - Products made by organizations of tribals or physically disabled persons
- Benefits for Producers/Vendors
 - Selection at MGP's Consumer Plazas is recognition of quality and fair pricing

Benefits for Producers and Vendors

- Producers/Vendors Recognition
 - Selection by MGP is a recognition of quality and fair pricing
- Donation to MGP
 - 2% of sales turnover donated to MGP for promoting consumer movement
- Financial Independence
 - Donations help make MGP financially independent and strong
- Longevity of Activity
 - Activity has been ongoing for 45 years



Additional Attractions

- Consumer Awareness and Guidance
 - Stalls for consumer awareness and complaints guidance
 - Environment promotion
- Entertainment for Children
 - Games and contests for young children
- Consumer Protection
 - Stalls to show how to detect food adulterations and spurious products
 - Deception in weights and measures
- Consumer Advocacy
 - Stalls for launching signature campaigns on consumer issues



Recommendations and Suggestions

- Financial Independence for Consumer Groups
 - Replicable by consumer associations in developing nations
- Development of Tool Kit
 - Collaboration with UNCTAD, CI, and Dept. of Consumer Affairs of Govt. of India
 - Sharing and circulation among UNCTAD Member States and CI's memberships
- Online Webinars
 - Demonstration of MGP's Unique Grocery Distribution System and Annual Consumer Plazas
- Hands-on Training
 - For interested Consumer Associations in Mumbai
 - Financial assistance/support from CI and national governments

Annual Consumer Plaza Core Team

- Anuradha Deshpande (In charge)
- Uma Abhyankar
- Ulka Patil
- Anagha Rele
- Sucheta Patankar
- Anagha Achrekar
- Preeti Kolamkar
- Alka Mokashi
- Janhavi Nadkarni
- Rajendra Rane

Conclusion

- Initiative and support from UNCTAD, UN Member states and Consumers International
 - Promotes and encourages independent consumer associations
 - Global impact in different parts of the world



THANK YOU
