



ILO and Cooperatives

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Editorial

2012 is the International Year of Cooperatives and so it is not surprising that there is an increase in activities and focus on cooperatives. This issue provides a glimpse of some of the celebrations to date. ILO has been part of national planning and launches and will continue be active in implementing initiatives to promote cooperatives. We share information on a number of noteworthy activities.

The Cooperative Branch (COOP) is reaching out and working more closely with the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization in particular on the International Year of Cooperatives. However, it is also expanding its contacts with the institutions involved in cooperative development and social entrepreneurship, the academic community and other cooperative stakeholders.

We provide information on the My.COOP training package – Managing your agricultural cooperative – which is testimony to the partnership that has been put in place for International Year of Cooperatives and beyond. Distance training has started and the demand is high for further sessions.

Youth and cooperatives is another area of focus during this Year. We report on the result of initial mapping on where the teaching of cooperatives is already included in secondary school curricula and how ILO and the United

Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) are seeking to collaborate to develop tools promoting the teaching of cooperatives in schools. This is important as cooperatives are an option for young people on how to organize their businesses and, more often than not, they know little about the model of enterprise. This is the case in Tunisia where COOP was asked to provide training to young carpet makers to introduce the cooperative model, this within a youth employment programme.

Updates from COOP^{AFRICA} are also included. A stock-taking report attests to the success of the programme. We also share information on new report on how the programme has empowered women through cooperatives – a report released for International Women’s Day.

We further highlight a new ILO project in South Africa on the Social Economy. It focuses on public procurement as a stimulus for employment creation working through social economy actors including cooperatives and social enterprises.

We share too new publications on cooperatives made available by ILO and others. ILO COOP’s publication on the resilience of cooperatives in times of crisis continues to be useful and has been translated into Greek and Italian, while the guide for the preparation of cooperative projects is now available in Spanish.

We hope that the issue will be informative, but will also inspire readers to join in the celebration of International Year of Cooperatives 2012 implementing activities for the Year and beyond.

Maria Elena Chavez



COOPERATIVE ENTERPRISES BUILD A BETTER WORLD



International Year of Cooperatives – National launches and activity updates

From Australia and New Zealand to the United Kingdom, from Brazil to the Philippines, Canada to Kenya, Ecuador to Timor-Leste, Nepal to Paraguay, St Kitts and Nevis to the United States, and so many more, countries around the world have launched International Year of Cooperatives 2012. The events took a variety of different form and were of different sizes. They were held at the national, regional or local levels.

The IYC launch events in numerous countries counted with high-level government officials including heads of state, ministers and parliamentarians. The events were held to raise awareness on the cooperative model of enterprise, to celebrate success and respond the challenges in cooperative promotion and growth. All recognized the potential of cooperatives to contribute to economic and social development in their countries and made commitments to providing enabling environments.

ILO offices were invited to address and participate in a number of events in the Caribbean, Colombia, Tanzania, Timor-Leste and South Africa, to name only a few. ILO COOP also participated in a regional event organized by the third largest bank of Switzerland, Raiffeisen, a financial cooperative.



Alexio Musindo, Director, ILO Dar-es-Salaam
at IYC launch in Tanzania

ILO has also been invited to participate in national committees setup for the Year – committees that bring together government, the cooperative movement and a wide range of other organizations and entities that support cooperative promotion and development.

IYC National Committees

There are currently 41 national committees in Asia, Africa, the Americas, Europe and the Middle Est. See listing at:

<http://social.un.org/coopsyear/national-contacts.html>



Cooperative policy and legislation

The Year has led to initiatives by governments to launch to address the challenges that people face when wanting to create a cooperative or grow existing cooperatives. As a direct result of the IYC, new or revised policies and legislation is being discussed in such countries as Australia, Chile, Korea, India, Indonesia, Paraguay Portugal, United States, and United Kingdom. In other countries ensuring cooperatives have equal access to the various measures they put in place to encourage enterprise development is on the 2012 IYC agenda. For example, in South Africa, the government announced at its launch of the International Year that they will establish the Cooperative Development Agency that will ensure that financial and non-financial support is more readily available to cooperatives. The government is also putting in place a Cooperative Incentive Scheme to provide financial support for cooperative business growth.

Cooperative development

The cooperative movement is also mobilizing support both at the national and international level for cooperative development. The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) launched a Global Development Fund. In Canada the Cooperative Development Foundation (CDF) launched the "Build a Better World" campaign, which seeks to raise C\$12 million over four years to help alleviate poverty by building and strengthening cooperatives in the developing world. And in Switzerland, a group of cooperatives is working with the government to introduce cooperatives in selected technical cooperation projects.

To recognize and celebrate the IYC, a number of capacity building initiatives have also been launched. ILO COOP and its partners began the roll-out of new agricultural cooperative training package and programme in January (read more page 6). Cooperatives around the world have put together a series of capacity-building activities at the international, national and local levels. For example, Land of Lakes of the United States, the second largest cooperative in the country, launched the International Dairy Enterprise Alliance (IDEA), a learning network designed to provide dairy cooperatives in

developing countries with the information, resources and technology. It also has planned a *Cooperative-to-Cooperative Learning Series* bringing together industry thought leaders, cooperative managers and board members to share their experiences and knowledge, the first of which was held in Nairobi, Kenya. Scholarships for young people have been initiated like that in Ireland, where the financial cooperative, Rabobank Ireland, has sponsored the *Rabobank Ireland Cooperative Scholarship 2012* in association with the Centre for Cooperative Studies, University College Cork (UCC). The successful applicant will receive a scholarship of €6,000 to undertake the Master in Business Studies in Cooperative and Social Enterprise at the university.

Cooperative research and data

Research on cooperatives has also become more accessible in 2012 as witnessed by the numerous academic research conferences being held at both national and international levels. These are presenting new research findings, documenting trends in cooperative development, innovation in the sector, and continuing challenges for cooperatives. ILO COOP participated an international research conference organized by the ICA, the European Research Institute on Cooperatives and Social Enterprise (EURICSE) and the Italian cooperative movement where new studies show that worker cooperatives are more productive than other forms of enterprise. ILO COOP is also participating in a global research study initiated by the Spanish Node of The Millennium Development Project. In this study international experts from around the world are to assess how factors such as globalization, rich-poor gap, CSR, worker participation models, and new forms of finance may change the face of business in general and cooperatives in particular.

Objectives of International Year of Cooperatives

Increase awareness	Increase public awareness about cooperatives and their contributions to socio-economic development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals
Promote growth	Promote the formation and growth of cooperatives among individuals and institutions to address common economic needs and for socio-economic empowerment
Establish appropriate policies	Encourage Governments and regulatory bodies to establish policies, laws and regulation conducive to cooperative formation and growth

Data on cooperatives is being communicated at many of the launch events to raise awareness of the contribution of cooperatives. Some recent statistics quoted by officials in their respective countries include the following:

- In Canada over 9,000 cooperatives have 17 million members. The cooperative sector controls over C\$ 275 billion in assets.
- In Malta, 65 cooperatives are responsible for some €70 million in surplus each year.
- In Mexico, there are more than 11,000 cooperatives with more than 8 million members.
- In Nepal there are currently about 23,301 cooperatives in the country and mobilizing around 10 per cent of the total national capital, according to Department of Cooperative that reported the sector has 3 per cent contribution to GDP. With more than 3 million members, the sector provides jobs to more than 50,000 people.
- In Paraguay, 13 percent of the population or 1.3 million people are members of 750 cooperatives.
- In Scotland 374 cooperative contribute over £ 3.4 billion to the Scottish economy.
- In Zambia there are 15,900 cooperatives.



Finally, International Year of Cooperatives is leading to more visibility and interest of the media with local media covering the numerous activities being undertaken. The United Nations has created a news site tracking media coverage on the Year, see uncoopsnews.org.

We are only three months into the Year and we are seeing numerous activities to increase awareness, encourage growth and establish appropriate policies for the cooperative model of enterprise.

>>More information from the official UN International Year of Cooperatives web site:

<http://social.un.org/coopsyear/>



DID YOU KNOW?

COOPERATIVES SERVE MORE THAN
1 BILLION MEMBERS.

FINANCIAL COOPERATIVES ALONE SERVE
AN ETIMATED **857 MILLION**
PEOPLE AROUND THE GLOBE.

COOPERATIVES PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN
RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 50% OF GLOBAL
AGRICULTRAL OUTPUT IS MARKET-
ED THROUGH COOPERATIVES.

COOPERATIVES EMPOWER PEOPLE.
THEY EMPLOY MORE THAN 100 MILLION
PEOPLE WORLDWIDE.

“Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World”: The video

ILO's video produced for the International Year of Cooperatives (IYC) has been welcomed with enthusiasm worldwide by the cooperative movement and beyond. It has not only been shown at international, national and local IYC events around the world, but also is being viewed by a wider public via the Internet.

The three-minute video, “Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World”, introduces cooperatives and their size and scope and how they contribute to economic and social development around the world. It was first screened during the IYC launch event at United Nations headquarters last year. Since then, numerous requests have been received to enable its use.

Posted on the YouTube ILO TV Channel and on the ILO website in English, French and Spanish, recent statistics tracking views from all websites show that the video has been watched in 140 countries by over 12,000 viewers on the ILO TV Channel and worldwide by over 20,000 on youtube.com. It ranks number 8 on the ILO TV Channel scoring the highest number of “likes” of all videos posted on the site since 2007.

The video was produced by the ILO Cooperative Branch and the creative studio Bliink.



Scan this QR code with
your smartphone to watch
the IYC video

FAO says cooperatives central to reduce poverty

Cooperatives and producer organizations will be increasingly important in efforts to eliminate hunger and reduce poverty around the world, said José Graziano da Silva Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) during a meeting 2012 Thematic Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil in January 2012.

“FAO needs strong cooperatives and producer organizations as key partners in the effort to eliminate hunger for some 925 million people, and to respond to the many challenges that face our world today. FAO is committed to seeking out and sharing evidence of the impact of cooperatives and producer organizations on food security at the global level, and to strengthening its ties with such groups,” said Graziano da Silva.

The FAO chief noted that the United Nations had declared 2012 the International Year of Cooperatives, reflecting a renewed interest in, and the need for greater awareness of, the multi-faceted value of cooperatives and announced that FAO is planning to open liaison office spaces for cooperatives at the organization’s headquarters, in Rome.

ILO and FAO are currently working together to promote cooperatives through the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC) which is the Coordinating Committee for International Year of Cooperatives and have stepped up efforts to work together on capacity-building, knowledge sharing activities and technical collaboration.



>> More at www.fao-ilo.org/fao-ilo-coop/

Young people discover cooperatives at school

How can young people take advantage of the cooperative model of enterprise to form their own businesses if they do not learn about cooperatives in school?

ILO recognized the need to integrate the teaching of cooperatives at all levels of education in its 2002 Recommendation on the Promotion of Cooperatives (R.193). Ten years later, cooperative stakeholders have made progress, but continue to seek ways to ensure the teaching of cooperatives to young people. In a number of countries, the challenge has been identified as an area of work during International Year of Cooperatives. To respond to this need, the ILO Cooperative Branch has initiated discussions with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on how to best address the challenge of giving young people the opportunity to learn about cooperatives in primary and secondary schools.



To inform the discussions, COOP undertook a pilot mapping exercise to identify existing initiatives and good practice. Using internet based research, information and materials on the teaching of cooperatives was found for 16 countries - Americas: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico, Venezuela – Europe: France, Germany, Italy, Spain, United Kingdom and Asia: Malaysia and Philippines. In 13 of these countries cooperative stakeholders have already introduced teaching of cooperatives in school curricula at the national level.

The integration of cooperatives as a subject matter in school curricula was approached in a variety of ways including through government policy and legislation mandating the teaching of cooperatives, or the creation of partnerships between the cooperative movement and schools (both at the institutional and pedagogical levels), municipalities, and universities. As would be expected, there have been a diversity of approaches on how to include the teaching of cooperatives – as a specific subject, as part of a specific course, integrated in various learning streams, etc. However, in all the countries surveyed, a “learning by doing” approach to teaching cooperatives was reported, most commonly through the participation of young people in school cooperatives.

Further research will be undertaken to identify other initiatives that are not shared via the web, and investigation on possible curriculum development tools with UNESCO is planned. These will complement the on-going work of COOP of integrating cooperatives in ILO’s own learning tools.

Launch of the My.COOP agricultural training package

The My.COOP - Managing your agricultural cooperative - training package and programme was officially launched in January coinciding with the start of the 2012 International Year of Cooperatives. A number of the core My.COOP partners met to finalize the My.COOP "roll-out" strategy as well as familiarize themselves with of the My.COOP platform prior the start of a pilot distance learning programme. Partners noted that the new training package was an important tool to promoting well-managed agricultural cooperatives which can contribute to wider development issues such as food security, sustainable use of natural resources and inclusive employment creation.



The My.COOP training material was developed on the initiative of COOP^{AFRICA} and the ILO Cooperative Branch with a large group of partner organizations. It aims to assist current and future managers of agricultural cooperatives to identify and address major challenges that are specific to cooperatives in market oriented agricultural development.

Currently available in English and Spanish and shortly also in Arabic, the My.COOP training package consists of a trainer's manual, four modules, and a mobile learning toolkit. The trainer's manual contains a series of learning activities for each module and a sample training programme, while the mobile learning kit explains how trainers can engage participants before, during and following the training. The modules address a wide range of topics including the basics of agricultural cooperatives, cooperative service provision, supply of farm inputs, cooperative marketing.

An online learning environment is also available through the My.COOP web platform www.agriculture-my.coop where the training material is available at no cost. Those interested need only register on the site to have free download access to the four training modules, training manual, and mobile toolkit. Registered users will also be able to view relevant news on agricultural cooperatives, participate in discussion fora and access a wide range of other resources. Over 200 users have already registered with numbers increasingly daily.

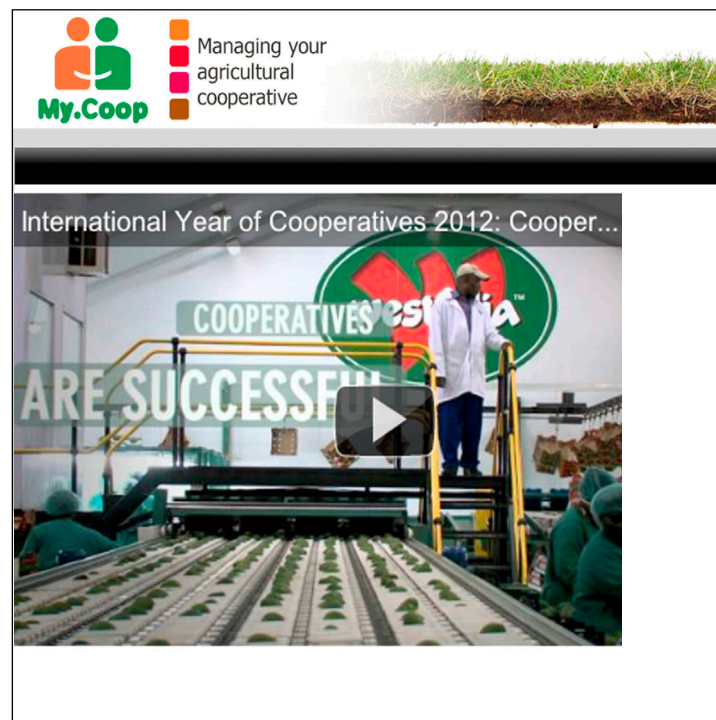
On-line and face-to-face training opportunities

The new training programme is suscitating interest from around the world as evidenced by the more than 130 applications for the pilot distance learning training of trainers programme. Forty participants from 20 countries were selected to participate in the February-March 8-week training programme. However, ILO ITC will run two additional distance training programmes to respond to the high number of applications - the first starting on 15 May and the second on 15 September. My.COOP will also feature in the Sustainable Enterprise Academy in June at the ILO ITC in Turin, Italy. ILO ITC will also organize a face-to-face training of trainers forum in Turin, Italy from 12-23 November 2012.

Expanding collaboration

My.COOP is a partner programme. With 14 organizations working together, My.COOP is a joint product of its partners which include cooperative development agencies, academic and training institutions, cooperative organizations as well as UN agencies (see list below).

New collaboration has been initiated through the ILO Subregional Office for the Andean Countries in Lima, which is working with partners in Peru and Bolivia. My.COOP will be integrated into university level courses in rural marketing and value chains targeting cooperative managers and professionals as well as cooperative extension workers. In Bolivia, My.COOP will be adapted to the national context and materials published. The materials will be used to train sugar cane cooperative leaders and well as to expand the network of cooperative trainers.



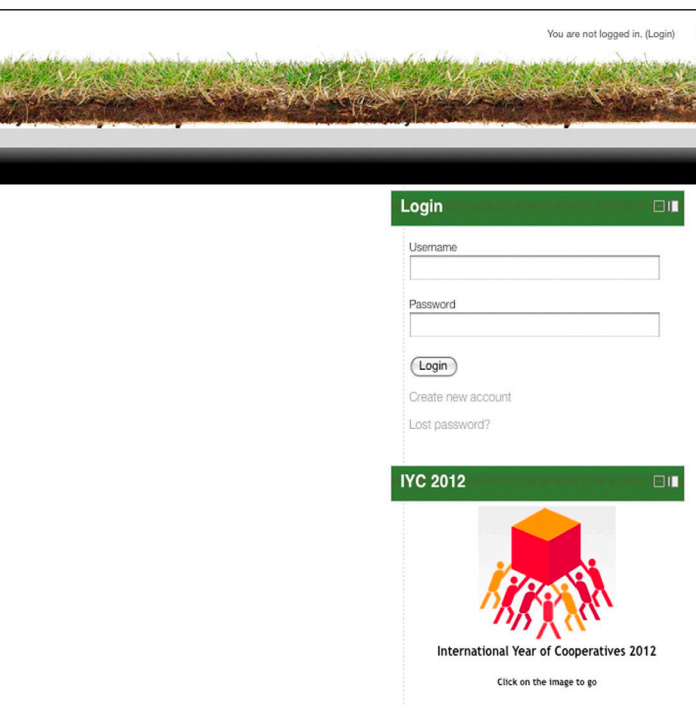
Dissemination and promotion of the new training package continues. ILO COOP has already organized a number of briefings with other ILO units and is working with UN agencies to organize briefings for colleagues working with agricultural cooperative promotion and identify events where My.COOP can be introduced.

For example, in mid-February, ILO ITC participated in the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Farmers' Forum. Cooperative development agencies and the agricultural cooperative movement are also invited to collaborate and join the partnership to improve the capacity of agricultural cooperatives and further development of the training package.

>> For more information: E-mail: vanempel@ilo.org



Key partners and supporting organizations include Agrarian University of Molina (UNALM) of Bolivia, Agriterra, the Cooperative College of Kenya, the Centre for International Development Issues Nijmegen (CIDIN), Empowering Smallholder Farmers in Markets (ESFIM), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Rural Electrification Cooperative (CRE) Foundation of Bolivia, the International Training Centre of the ILO, the Kenyan Federation of Agricultural Producers, the Moshi University College of Cooperative and Business Studies of Tanzania, the Nigerian Cooperative Development Centre, The Royal Tropical Institute of the Netherlands, the Uganda Cooperative Alliance and the Wageningen University and Research Centre of the Netherlands.



My.COOP upcoming training opportunities 2012

- | | |
|--|---|
| 15 May | Distance training |
| 15 September | Distance training |
| More information: Rashmi Fioravanti,
E-mail: r.fioravanti@itcilo.org | |
| 18-29 June | Academy on Sustainable Enterprise Development, ILO ITC, Turin, Italy (My.COOP session included) |
| 12-23 November | International Training Forum (My.COOP as an elective), ILO ITC. Turin Italy |

More information: Paola Abate,
E-mail: p.abbate@itcilo.org

www.agriculture-my.coop

Update from **COOP** AFRICA

Contribution to the revival of African cooperative enterprise



A stocktaking report on the first phase of the Cooperative Facility for Africa, COOP^{Africa}, has concluded that the programme has made a rich contribution to the on-going revival of cooperatives in Africa. Set-up as a flexible and rapid mechanism to provide advisory services, technical assistance, training, tools, and, in special cases, financial support for cooperative development in Africa, the programme's first phase ran from October 2007 until December 2011.

The report provides a detailed review of the successful programme. It notes that 14 Member States were supported towards the modernization of cooperative policies and laws; 4124 primary cooperatives received support to improve business planning, supply and marketing strategies which resulted in an increase of 26.6 percent increased turnover of these cooperatives. Capacity building was provided to 287,274 cooperative members during the programme and cooperative members increased their incomes by 56 percent. Finally, 4,080 new jobs were created.

As the first phase closes, the ILO will need to continue supporting national ownership of the cooperative movement in Africa and fostering the growing South-South and North-South partnerships that COOP^{Africa} initiated.

As a result of the programme, ILO has earned a critical place in national, regional and international efforts to foster the African cooperative movement. COOP^{Africa} successes also show that supporting cooperatives as a way of increasing employment and incomes for the poor clearly represents a central strategy in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, furthering the Decent Work Agenda and contributing to the celebration of the 2012 International Year of Cooperatives.

>>More information:www.ilo.org/coopafrica

ILO to promote access to credit for farmers

The COOP^{AFRICA} launched a 2012 call for proposals to increase access to credit for farmers' organizations from Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar. The call is organized within the framework of the United Nations Development Assistance Plan (UNDAP). The UNDAP COOP Challenge Fund facilitates and increases the provision of microfinance and related services to farmers by local providers. Organizations eligible for the Challenge Fund are member-based institutions such as savings and credit cooperatives (SACCOs) and other commercial microfinance institutions and banks. Successful applicants that propose projects that demonstrate significant job creation impact will receive grants amounting up to USD 20,000.

Some of examples of activities that will be considered for grants include the establishment of a credit line by a SACCO or bank for farmers, setting up a revolving fund by a dairy cooperative union to provide micro-credit to its members or establishing a guarantee fund by a financial institution to facilitate access to loans for farmers' groups or cooperatives.



United Nations
TANZANIA
Delivering as One

International Women's Day 2012: Cooperatives empower rural women

On this year's International Women's Day, ILO Director-General Juan Somavia indicated that "the organization in cooperatives [...] provides channels for productive activity and the delivery of services" to empower women and contribute to sustainable development. In his message, The Director-General recognized the important contribution of rural women across the world to the well being of their families and communities and in sustaining societies and economies.

This year's International Women's Day pointed to the fact that despite progress, often the traditions and social norms that govern the intricate workings of rural societies still act as a powerful constraint on women's activities. Although the reasons for persisting gender inequality are numerous and complex, they include inequalities in access to resources, education and training, unequal division of labour between women and men as well as stereotyped conceptions on their respective roles.

COOPAfrica released the results of a recent survey on status of women's participation in cooperatives and the impact of participation for International Women's Day. A leaflet, *Empower rural women - end poverty and hunger: the potential of African cooperatives* reports some of the conclusions (download from www.ilo.org/coopafrika). The survey confirms that there is solid evidence that for women, cooperative membership enhances productivity, incomes and the quality of life for both the members as well as the community at wide.

A number of rural women beneficiaries of support by COOPAfrica were interviewed about the impact of their participation. One of the women, a member of a savings and credit cooperative in Kenya explained,

"Many members have become involved in local politics and in the management of community affairs. You need income and status to get elected. Because people now know we have both, we can contest for positions – and we get elected, because people know we're cooperative members."

In Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda interviews with women members of cooperatives also confirmed that that economic changes were accompanied by social impacts:

- A sample of 101 cooperative members showed that 64% of members felt the level of their participation in community affairs had increased.
- A sample of 43 married respondents, a 9 percentage point drop was found in the incidence of the wife being primarily responsible for child care following cooperative membership.
- In the same sample, the number of decisions being made equally between spouses in the area of economic activities increased from 45% to 80%, and in the area of children's education, from 57 to 78%.





Empower rural women - end poverty and hunger: the potential of African cooperatives

This leaflet provides an overview of how cooperatives can help to bridge gender gaps for positive development and poverty-reduction outcomes, and of possible action points for unleashing the potential of cooperatives based on examples from initiatives in Eastern and Southern Africa.

Women, poverty reduction and food security

In Africa, as elsewhere, inequalities persist between women and men in terms of access to and control over social, political and economic resources and opportunities for participation. In employment, women are found more often than men in informal and precarious work, with particularly pronounced imbalances in some sectors. With regard to agriculture, women are estimated to produce up to 80% of the food in Africa. Yet, when it comes to agricultural inputs and services, the share going to women is meagre: they receive only 7% of agricultural extension services, less than 10% of the credit offered to small-scale farmers, and own only 1% of the land.¹ In this context, women are often found concentrated in subsistence agriculture and unpaid farm work, and excluded from more lucrative agricultural opportunities such as cash crop production.

The critical importance of closing such gender gaps - which are not only contrary to the full realization of women's human rights, but also a fundamental obstacle to poverty reduction - is widely recognized. The latest report on the State of Food and Agriculture of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) shows, for instance, that if women had the same access to productive resources as men, they could increase yields on their farms by 20-30%, raising total agricultural output in developing countries by 2.5 to 4%, which could in turn reduce the number of hungry people in the world by 12-17%.²



Economic empowerment, social capital and representation: the 'cooperative advantage'

A cooperative, as defined by ILO Recommendation No. 193 on the Promotion of Cooperatives (2002) is "an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise".

1

And yet, the same survey revealed that despite the advantages of the model, in the majority of African countries, women remain under-represented as both employees, members and in particular leaders of cooperatives and this regardless of the efforts undertaken by the movement to remove barriers for women's equal participation for example in cooperative by-laws. Many of the causes for the under-representation continue to be beyond the control of the movement and affect women's work in other sectors as well.

A similar conclusion has come out of ILO's work on women's cooperative promotion in the Occupied Palestinian territory.

Materials on these initiatives and women and cooperatives in general were shared with ILO GENDER and made available for a stand set up at ILO headquarters on 8 March for International Women's Day.

These initiatives are examples of the way that ILO is working with its constituents and cooperative stakeholders to implement ILO Recommendation No. 193 on the Promotion of Cooperatives (2002). The Recommendation explicitly states that "special consideration should be given to increasing women's participation in the cooperative movement at all levels, particularly at management and leadership levels".

ILO supports job creation through a new project on Social Economy

“Public procurement and social economy” is a new ILO project to promote sustainable enterprises and decent jobs especially among women, youth and persons with disabilities in South Africa. It will focus on public procurement as a stimulus for employment creation in the social economy.

In 2010, the Government of South Africa identified a potential of 260,000 new jobs in the social economy in its New Growth Path (NGP), a framework for economic policy and the driver of the country’s jobs strategy. The ILO project responds to the NGP by specifically referring to the need to “encourage state procurement from and service delivery through organizations in the social economy”. It seeks to provide assistance to create the conditions for these jobs by encouraging a conducive enabling environment for public procurement from the social economy and increasing the capacity of social economy organizations to access public procurement.

In South Africa, the government is the largest buyer of goods and services in the country. Who it chooses to acquire its goods and services has significant social and economic implications.

By linking public procurement to support for the social economy, the Government of South Africa and the ILO recognize that social and solidarity economy (SSE)

organizations can provide stable jobs and provide opportunities to those with limited or no access to employment, specific goods and services, products and knowledge.

It is therefore not surprising that there has been substantial support for parts of the social economy in South Africa in recent years in particular to the cooperative sector and to social enterprise development. This new project will in particular build on the recently completed “Social Entrepreneurship Targeting Youth in South Africa (SETYSA)” project (2009-2011) during which the ILO developed a suite of approaches and tools for creating an enabling environment for social enterprise development.

As stressed by the ILO Director General, Juan Somavia at the 12th ILO Regional Meeting for Africa in Johannesburg in 2011: “We need a new era of social justice. [...] We need utmost political will and solidarity, an integrated view of macroeconomic, employment and inclusive labour market policies and social responsibility by all parties. [...] I would like to encourage Africa and its regional organizations to pursue an ambitious continent-wide initiative to generate jobs through Small Medium Enterprises. This is in line with the ILO-African Union-African Development Bank-Economic Commission for Africa Employment for Youth joint initiative, and connects with youth entrepreneurship, cooperatives and the social economy in general.”

Tunisia: Engaging youth in cooperatives to achieve the MDGs

The ILO Cooperative Branch was invited to provide technical input and training for young entrepreneurs on the cooperative model of enterprise within the programme, Engaging Tunisian Youth to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Emmanuel Kamdem of ILO COOP briefed young carpet makers in Gafsa, Tunisia on the workers’ cooperative model of enterprise. In joint session with the United Nations Industrial Organization (UNIDO), the ILO provided information and helped participants determine if the cooperative model was appropriate as a means responding to their economic and social needs.

The programme, Engaging Tunisian Youth to Achieve the MDGs, supports Tunisia in its efforts to develop and enhance regional capacities in migration-prone areas through the sustainable creation of decent jobs and the promotion of local competencies in the pilot regions of El-Kef, Gafsa and Tunis. It is implemented by five UN agencies - the ILO, UNIDO, the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations Development Programme, and the Food and Agriculture Organization.



Noteworthy

Cooperative owners outnumber individual shareholders by 3 to 1

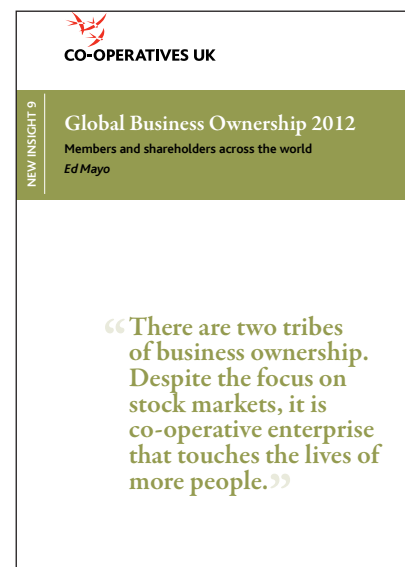
A new report published by Cooperatives UK analyzes the number of people who have an ownership stake of cooperative enterprise with those who have an ownership stake through company shares. What it found is there are three times as many member owners of cooperatives as individual shareholders worldwide. Specifically,

- 328 million people own shares as compared to 1 billion who are member owners of cooperatives.
- In the BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India and China), there are four times as many cooperative members as direct shareholders. 15% of the population in the countries are members of a cooperative, compared to only 3.8% who are shareholders.
- In Africa, there are six times as many cooperative owners as there are shareholders and one in thirteen is a member of a cooperative.

The report presents interesting figures on the levels of cooperative membership in a number of countries.

- There are three countries with over half the population in cooperative membership - Ireland (70%), Finland (60%) and Austria (59%).
- The countries with the most significant numbers of people in cooperative membership are India (242 million), China (160 million) and the USA (120 million).
- One in five people across the Americas, North, Central and South, are a member of a cooperative.

>> Source: Global Business Ownership 2012: Members and shareholders across the world www.uk.coop/2012/global



ILO Publications

Manual de elaboración de proyectos: Una herramienta paso a paso para apoyar el desarrollo de las cooperativas y otras formas de organizaciones de autoayuda

ILO's Regional Office for the Andean region has just released the Spanish version of the *ILO Project Design Manual: A Step-by-Step Tool to Support the Development of Cooperatives and Other Forms of Self-Help Organization* first published in 2010.

The manual provides cooperatives and other types of self-help organizations with practical guidance to formulate project proposals that are economically, socially, politically and environmentally viable. It covers all the steps of project design from the identification of the main problem to be addressed, to the planning of the project implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The project design approach is based on the widely accepted planning methods known as project cycle management (PCM).

>> The manual is available for download in English and Spanish at: www.ilo.org/empent/units/cooperatives/WCMS_159819/



Publications

Resilience of the cooperative business model in times of crisis

ILO's publication on the resilience of cooperatives first published in 2009 has recently been translated and published in Greek and Italian. This demonstrates the high interest in understanding why the cooperative model of enterprise has shown resilience to the financial and economic crisis. The report provides historical and empirical evidence that proves that the cooperative model of enterprise survives crisis, but more importantly that it is a sustainable form of enterprise able to withstand crisis, maintaining the livelihoods of the communities in which they operate. It further suggests ways in which the ILO can strengthen its activity in the promotion of cooperatives as a means to address the current crisis and avert future crisis.

>>The Italian version is available from Homeless Books www.homelessbook.it.

>>The Greek version is available from the Social Solidarity Network and Regional Development Network K.A.P.A.
- www.diktio-kapa.dos.gr.



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