



Conference Summary

International Conference on “Cooperative Enterprises: Key to Sustainable Economic and Social Progress”, November 8-10, 2012, SEARCA, UPLB

Conference Participation

Sector	Number of Organizations
Cooperatives (includes 4 National/Regional Co-op Centers)	34
State Colleges and Universities	12
Public and Private Institutions in Research, Education and Development	10
Other Countries	7
Local Government Units	6
Total	69

Number of Papers

Topic/Theme	Number
Cooperative Enterprise Development	12
Cooperatives for Community Development and Role of Women and Youth	12
Cooperative Finance	8
Sustainability Issues and Cooperatives' Role in Environmental and Natural Resources Management	7
ICT, Research and Database Development and Management	5
Cooperative Education Framework, Standards and Mainstreaming	5

Cooperative Enterprise Development

- One factor for the success of cooperatives is enterprise. Without enterprise, there is no business. There are problems in the identification of the right enterprise and how to organize, operate, manage, finance, and sustain enterprises.

 - Papers presented: 12 (6 international, 6 local)

 - Areas of concern:
 1. How to make entrepreneurs (enterprise);
 2. Measurement of performance of producers' group;
 3. Impact of cooperatives (credit unions);
 4. Strategies and support services for small cooperatives;
 5. Approach in building the capital of a cooperative;
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Coop Enterprise Development, cont.

6. Building community-based cooperative using locally available materials;
 7. Valuation in agricultural producers group and alliances
 8. Evaluation (comparison) of production arrangement (contract growing and lease back arrangement for banana);
 9. Roles of cooperatives in rural and agricultural development;
 10. Status and direction of cooperative development (Myanmar);
 11. Business models and alliances for sustaining cooperative enterprises.
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Cooperatives for Community Development and Role of Women and Youth

- The cooperative is gender-neutral. The participation of women in cooperative activities is encouraged and the youth should be developed for future development of cooperatives.
 - Papers presented: 5 (all local)
 - Areas of concern:
 1. Importance of cooperative enterprises in reforming the social values of the youth;
 2. Significance of cooperative whiz (quiz bee) in educating the youth about the uniqueness of social capital in improving the income of farmers;
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Cooperatives for Community Development and Role of Women and Youth, cont.

3. Contribution of cooperatives to farmers in improving welfare and income distribution;
 4. Importance of cooperative enterprise in lifting local communities from poverty;
 5. Significance of functionality of ARC coop in influencing ALDA rating;
 6. Competence of BOD of school cooperatives;
 7. A case in the application of 7 cooperative principles by a cooperative;
 8. Capacities of cooperatives in implementing rice post-production and marketing; and,
 9. Cooperativism and unionism in the public sector.
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Cooperative Finance

- Capital is an essential element for the successful operation of a cooperative enterprise. Capital can be generated internally (equity, savings) or externally (debt/borrowing).
- Papers presented: 8 (1 international, 7 local)
- The papers dealt with: government policies and programs in financing cooperatives in the Philippines; mobilizing small deposits of members (microsavers) for development; impacts of microfinance in the expansion of assets, capital and profit of cooperative; access of cooperative to agricultural credit; institution of sound financial management and reporting model to assess profitability and financial sustainability of cooperatives; and governance of credit and development cooperative.

Sustainability of Cooperatives and Role in Environmental and Natural Resources Management

- One cooperative principle is concern for the communities where cooperatives exist. Three percent (3%) of net surplus is mandated for allocation for the community.
 - Papers presented: 7 (2 international, 5 local)
 - The papers point out that the cooperative has a role in environmental protection and sustainability as shown by the cases of good agricultural practices in Vietnam and Indonesia, and organic farming in the Philippines.
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ICT, Research and Database Development and Management

- Data are important in planning, operating and evaluating cooperative business. ICT is a tool facilitating the conduct of such business activities.
- Papers presented: 5 (all local)
- The papers dealt with: opportunities and challenges offered by e-learning for cooperatives; importance of accounting and internal control system in ensuring the performance of a cooperative; framework for evaluating the livelihood operation of cooperatives; research agenda for evaluating the performance of cooperatives; and social capital formation and evaluation of factors influencing the social capital of a cooperative.

Cooperative Education Framework, Standards and Mainstreaming

- One cooperative principle is continuous education and training for officers, staff, members and the public.
 - Papers presented: 5 (all local)
 - Formal cooperative education is pioneered by UPLB (graduate degree – Master of Management) and PUP (undergraduate degrees – BS and Associate). There is no system of cooperative education in the Philippines (Villamin). An opportunity in cooperative education is open and distance learning. A paper did a review of economic literature on cooperatives with emphasis on theoretical constructs. Another paper dealt with the identification of core values in school-based cooperatives.
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