

ILO COOP

NewsUpdate



International
Labour
Organization

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EDITORIAL

This newsletter, which covers the period between April and August 2014, comes to you with a slightly new design and title: ILO COOP News Update.

The International Labour Conference (ILC) was the highlight for us at the ILO during these months. The COOP team followed the discussions of the committee on formalizing the informal economy, where the international cooperative movement was represented. You can read here about their engagement at the conference as well as interviews with membership based organizations of informal economy actors, like NASVI and SWaCH, on their work with cooperatives on this issue.

On the first Saturday of every July, the International Day of Cooperatives (IDC) is celebrated with flurry of activities. This year's IDC focused on cooperatives' contributions to sustainable development. You can read the message of ILO Director-General (DG) on the occasion of the IDC and other statements and activities here.

Almost three years have passed since the launch of the My.COOP training package, and in this issue we provide you with the latest updates, including a new initiative around My.COOP in Peru, as well as details on how to register for the online training of trainers event, taking place this fall.

We also have updates for you from cooperative activities in Sri Lanka and other countries, as undertaken by ILO staff and partner agencies.

In late July the fourth edition of the Academy on Social and Solidarity Economy was held in Brazil, and a participant's report from this event is included in this issue. ILO COOP staff participated in an event in Kyrgyzstan, and held meetings with constituents, like the Vietnam Cooperative Alliance.

At ILO COOP we are excited about the series of articles on cooperatives and the world of work. Several articles from this series, on child labour, the twelve years of work that has taken place since the adoption of the Recommendation 193, and on trade unions have already been posted online, with still more to come.

Several ILO COOP publications have been launched during this period including those on cooperatives and sustainable development. You can find a list of these as well as links for highlights of other noteworthy publications on cooperatives and social and solidarity economy in this issue. Our readers are welcome to share with us any new and interesting resources that we should highlight in the upcoming issues of this News Update.

Finally, we are happy to note that the ILO COOP team has been expanding with new staff members coming on board. The remaining part of the year is filled with a number of critical events which are showcased under the upcoming events section – our reflections on the events will follow in the next edition of the ILO COOP News update. Thank you for reading and stay tuned for more upcoming issues. For more recent updates, please visit our website at www.ilo.org/coop.

Simel Esim - Manager - ILO COOP

Cooperative movement presented at the International Labour Conference

The International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) was represented in the Committee on Transitioning from the Informal Economy at the 103rd Session of the International Labour Conference, held in Geneva from 28 May to June 12, by Bruno Roelants, the Secretary General of the International Organisation of Industrial Artisanal and Service Producers' Cooperatives (CICOPA). Other representatives of social and solidarity economy organizations were also present at the Committee sessions. The role of cooperatives and other social and solidarity economy organizations was emphasized in quite a few statements, and several sections of the Conclusions from the Committee refer to cooperatives. Based on the discussions at this year's Conference, in 2015 approval of an ILO Recommendation on the topic is foreseen.

Around 30 representatives of membership-based organizations of workers in the informal economy, including trade unions and cooperatives, met aside from the Committee sessions to discuss their needs and constraints. As a result of the discussions, the development of a joint proposal was agreed upon, under coordination by ILO, ITUC, WIEGO and CICOPA.

Sandra Polaski, ILO Deputy Director General for Policy, met with Mr Roelants and emphasised the importance of working on transition from informal to the formal economy through cooperatives. Both Ms Polaski and Mr Roelants will be participating in the round table entitled "Job Creation and Heightened Productivity" at the 2014 International Summit of Cooperatives in Quebec, Canada, on October 6-9.



- >> The Conclusions from the Committee is available at http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_246193.pdf
- >> An ILO press release on the Committee's work: http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/media-centre/press-releases/WCMS_246810/lang--en/index.htm
- >> Statement of Bruno Roelants, Secretary General of CICOPA, on behalf of the ICA at the committee: <http://www.cicopa.coop/Cooperatives-provide-their-members.html>
- >> For videos of WIEGO and other informal economy organizations at the ILC, see <http://wiego.org/wee/international-labour-conference-ilc-2014>
- >> To learn about the International Summit of Cooperatives 2014, visit http://www.intlsummit.coop/cms/en_CA/sites/somint/home.html.



Interview with Arbind Singh of the National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI)

Street vendors were among the groups of workers in the informal economy who were well represented in the ILC. ILO COOP talked to Mr. Arbind Singh, the National Coordinator of The National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI).

What are the main problems street vendors are facing in India?

Ever since 2002, the National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI) has been working to create an enabling environment in the cities for street vendors. We got a National Policy for Street Vendors in 2004, which was revised in 2009, and then the act was passed in 2014.

The main problems street vendors are facing at the moment include insecure business environment, lack of access to financial services in order to not depend on money lenders, and lack of social protection for them as well as other informal economy workers.

How do you work and engage with cooperatives?

We have been promoting financial services cooperatives among NASVI members for the last ten years. One of our cooperatives has been receiving great financial support from the Government. We are also promoting multi-purpose cooperatives across India.

Recently the act on street vendors was passed in India. How does this reflect your concerns on the issue, and what kind of role did you play in this process?

NASVI played a major role from raising the visibility of the issue on political fora and getting a court verdict, which ordered the passing of such an act. NASVI followed the legislation process at different stages, raising its voice when the process slowed down or the bureaucracy tried to dilute it. Ultimately we got an empowering act which incorporates almost 90 per cent of our demands. The act also integrates the numerous experiences

we have had in the street vendor movement in getting the 2004 and 2009 policies passed and implemented across India.

You are using innovative ways to maintain contacts with your members, for instance through mobile technologies. Could you tell a little bit about that?

NASVI is providing banking services at affordable cost to street vendors who do not have access to the banking system due to many unwanted situations. Modern mobile technologies can be useful in these situations, and rural communities make up the fastest-growing market for mobile applications. The adoption rate for mobile phones has far outstripped that of personal computers, especially in India where the mobile phone has emerged as the de facto personal computer for people who live at the base of the pyramid. In short, cell phones are transforming the way people do business at all economic levels.

NASVI is providing financial services, including savings and credit opportunities, for street vendors. NASVI is in the process of implementing a mobile technology for its cooperatives and members so that they can start addressing the gap and serving their members better.

Currently NASVI representatives go out for collections and savings which involves a great deal of human resources costs. NASVI is working with a Technology Company to develop software with mobile application to serve cooperative members and to issue smart debit cards to cooperative members. The software is in the testing phase and it should be rolled out in the near future.

>> Visit NASVI website at <http://nasvnet.org/newsite/>

>> A video on the NASVI's work: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t55x9E3nOOM>



Interview with Suman More, Solid Waste Collection and Handling (swaCH)



Please tell us about yourself and your organization?

My organization's name is Kagad Kach Patra Kash-takari Panchayat, based in Pune, India. It is a trade union bringing together waste pickers, waste buyers, waste collectors and informal recyclers. I am a waste picker and I used to collect waste, particularly plastic materials on the streets.

I am a trade union member, and in the past five years we have created a cooperative for waste collectors, SWaCH, and as a coop member I no longer work on the streets.

Now I go from house to house, door to door offering waste collection service. It is a municipality approved service and we support the municipality by providing this service. We are not paid by the municipality, but by the service users. The municipality provides a secondary collection system from the garbage containers, not a door to door collection system. So we collect the waste, take it to fixed points where it is collected by municipal cars.

After collecting, we compost organic waste and send recyclables for recycling. I consider myself an environmental worker.

You started as a trade union member, and then later became a member of a cooperative. What are the linkages between SWaCH cooperative and the KKP trade union?

The Union started SWaCH cooperative, so there is a close link between the two. Most of the cooperative members are also Union members, and the Union also runs other services for members, such as a credit cooperative, health services, and awareness on issues like child marriage.

We work against the practice of child labour, and we also have a small loan programme. We work against violence at workplace; if there are problems among workers or with clients, we take it to the Union and try to solve the issue. We also work to support women who have suffered from domestic violence, and try to prevent it by educating the communities where we live.

We promote education by offering incentives to children to stay in school, and we give higher education loans. Both the union and the cooperative are like families to us. Our children have become educated because of this and now they have options other than waste picking.

How does the cooperative promote good labour practices for waste pickers?

We used to have to put our hands in the mixed waste to take out the recyclables. SWaCH campaigns for segregation of waste at source. Now we get more and more recyclables already separated, and we do not have to go through the garbage containers. We also have a "we-collect" collection points where

clients gift us items they no longer need, for example clothes, which we can then use or sell. We have medical and accident insurance, and now we are negotiating with the municipality for 100 per cent medical assistance.

Our advocates can now visit the municipality and represent us. We speak to the municipal officers; this was not possible before forming a cooperative as they would not listen to us. Now we can talk to them directly about our needs. Also our families feel safer because they know that we are better recognized and protected as workers.

What has been the response by the municipality to the cooperative's demands?

We are now able to phone the officers directly, sit with them across the table and discuss. Before we felt hesitant to approach them but now we talk to them directly and they respond to us.

They have provided us with equipment for work such as push carts, gloves and uniforms. If we don't get their support we can engage and negotiate with them.

Has there been a change in peoples' attitudes towards waste pickers since the SWaCH cooperative was formed?

Earlier when people passed us on the streets they would cover their noses, they would not talk to us or even stand next to us. After the cooperative was established there has been a big change in peoples' attitudes. We are treated with more respect. Even when the clients are not in the house they tell us to go in and get the waste from their baskets. Before they would call us thieves, so there has been a big change in their attitudes towards us. Also now our news appear in newspapers and other media. Often residents show them to us, saying "you are in the news!"

Has there been interest towards this model of organizing waste pickers into cooperatives in coordination and partnership with trade unions in other parts of the country or beyond?

People have been coming and learning what has happened in Pune. They say they want to start something similar. We have had visitors from many parts of India, and also from South Africa who are interested in the model. There are organizations of waste collectors elsewhere, but not in the same coop model. We are pushing for that and hope that this would become the preferred model for waste pickers across India.

>> SWaCH website: <http://swachcoop.com/index.html>.

>> A video, "We, SWaCH": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bMvU5bOHpTU>

>> An article in Sakaal Times Newspaper on the Pune wastepickers, see <http://www.sakaaltimes.com/NewsDetails.aspx?NewsId=5356867264279240323&SectionId=5171561142064258099&SectionName=Pune&NewsTitle=Pune%20ragpicker%20addresses%20oil%20conference>

Message by ILO Director-General Guy Ryder: “Cooperatives for sustainable development” on the occasion of the 2014 International Day of Cooperatives

I am pleased to join the cooperative community around the world in celebrating this International Day of Cooperatives.

Cooperatives are an old idea, but one that is more relevant than ever if we look ahead at the development challenges and opportunities the world faces over the coming decades.

As the United Nations are about to agree Sustainable Development Goals which will set a global agenda, there is a real chance to make extreme poverty and deprivation history, to secure social inclusion and to reconcile economic and social objectives.

What would it take? Key measures would include:

- The creation of some 50 million jobs per year for some time ahead to absorb new entrants to the labour market and to make significant progress in absorbing the 200 million or so already unemployed;
- Overcoming the working poverty of over 800 million workers living with their families on less than US\$ 2 a day;
- Ending hunger and under-nutrition affecting over 800 million today;
- Extending basic social protection to the over 5 billion people – almost three quarters of the world’s population who lack such protection;
- Assuring financial inclusion, access to financial services and economic opportunity to the ‘bottom billion’;
- Giving access to modern forms of energy to the 1.3 billion people still living without electricity;
- Reducing the often alarming levels of inequality in rich and poor countries alike; and
- Finding viable solutions for care in developed and some emerging economies with rapidly ageing populations and often stretched public budgets and social security systems.

In tackling all of these challenges, cooperatives and mutuals can play a valuable role in turning the tide. Many of the poor and excluded are reached neither by conventional markets for goods and services nor by government. Cooperatives and other social economy enterprises have shown that they have the necessary reach.

A recent study by the ILO and the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) “Cooperatives and Sustainable Development Goals” highlights the contributions that cooperative enterprises are making to sustainable development and their potential to do much more: from creating employment and enhancing gender equality to providing clean energy and financial inclusion to ensuring food security and extending social protection. Many of the working poor, the hungry and the excluded are rural workers, often smallholder farmers. Cooperatives

have an outstanding track record in overcoming multiple forms of exclusion in rural areas, but not only there.

Cooperatives are present in all sectors of the economy and adaptable to a range of contexts. They respond to the triple bottom line of sustainable development: economic development, social justice, and environmental protection.

For all these reasons, cooperatives and mutuals are very much enterprises of the future which play an essential role in complementing conventional markets and government action. This is acknowledged explicitly in the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference ‘The future we want’. The international community should bear this in mind when setting out the strategies and the means through which the Sustainable Development Goals can be realized.

The ILO looks forward to continuing its collaboration with the cooperative movement to help ensure that cooperative enterprises find their place as enterprises of the future and motors for social inclusion and sustainable development.

>> The message is available at http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/who-we-are/ilo-director-general/statements-and-speeches/CMS_248972/lang-index.htm.



International Day of Cooperatives 2014

This year's International Day of Cooperatives was celebrated on July 5th. The UN's Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC) organized a panel discussion on 10 July at the UN in New York to mark the contributions of cooperatives toward sustainable development efforts. Among the panellists of the event were Vinicius Pinheiro, Deputy Director of the ILO Office for the United Nations, Rodrigo Gouveia, Director of Policy at the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), and the Executive Director of the International Cooperative and Mutual Insurance Federation Americas (ICMIF/Americas), Ed Potter, among others.

>> To watch a video of the full event, see: <http://webtv.un.org/watch/cooperative-enterprises-achieve-sustainable-development-for-all-special-event-on-the-occasion-of-the-international-day-of-cooperatives/3668528266001/>

>> To read an article on the event, visit ILO New York website at http://www.ilo.org/newyork/news/WCMS_249728/lang--en/index.htm.

>> UN Secretary-General's message on the International Day of Cooperatives: <http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=7843>

>> Message from the International Co-operative Alliance : <http://ica.coop/en/events/international-co-operative-day-2014>

>> Message of the FAO <http://www.fao.org/partnerships/news-article/en/c/238134/>

>> Message from CICOPA: <http://www.cicopa.coop/Achieving-sustainable-development.html>

>> UN DESA page on IDC 2014: <http://undesadspd.org/Cooperatives/InternationalDayofCooperatives/2014.aspx>

Social and Solidarity Economy Academy: Moving from Brazil to South Africa

The fourth edition of the Academy on Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) was held in Campinas, Brazil during the last week of July 2014. More than 80 participants from 21 countries attended the Academy, 45 per cent of whom were female. A delegation of 20 representatives from trade unions also took part in the event; the first time for such a large trade union contingency to participate.

This ILO and ITC-ILO training activity was co-financed by MAE (Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs), SEBRAE (Brazilian Service of Support for Micro and Small Enterprises) and FACAMP (Campinas Faculties), and organized in cooperation with CIRIEC (International Centre of Research on Social and Cooperative Economy), EESC (European Economic and Social Committee), BNDES (Brazilian Economic and Social Development Bank), SENAES (National Secretariat of Solidarity Economy in the Brazilian Ministry of Labour) UNISOL (Union of Cooperatives and Solidarity Enterprises) and FecomercioSP (Federation of Trade in Goods, Services and Tourism of the State of São Paulo).

This year's Academy involved a combination of methodologies, topics and distance learning tools with interactive face to face sessions.

The Academy had a special focus on the SSE Organizations' (SSEOs') added value in terms of inclusivity and sustainability and the role that the SSE can play in the post-2015 development agenda debate.

The elective sessions offered the opportunity to share knowledge, discuss concrete applications of SSE at national and regional levels, and draw up lessons for future research, projects and policy-making.

Dedicated sessions treated issues of particular concern to trade unions, such as job preservation and organizing workers in the informal economy through SSEOs; South-South and triangular exchanges of experiences and best practices; and the transition to formal economy through SSE. A distance-learning package was made available before the on-campus training sessions, and a Reader formulated by an international team of experts was distributed during the Academy as part of the training.



A whole day was dedicated to study visits to SSEOs in Campinas. The study visits were organized into three clusters: waste pickers and the transition to formal economy through SSEOs; SSEOs in value chains; and empresas recuperadas (worker-recuperated enterprises). During the study visits the participants experienced the original tool of the “theatre of gesture” allowing the cooperation among them and active participation.

The next edition of the SSE Academy will be organized, in cooperation with ILO Pretoria, in South Africa in 2015.

>> This article was prepared by Valentina Verze, a former COOP and ITC-Turin intern and a participant to the Academy



Did you know?

UNIMED, the world's largest system of medical cooperatives and largest healthcare network in Brazil, was the official provider of emergency services at the FIFA World Cup this summer? This was not the only cooperative involved in the event. Read more at http://www.thenews.coop/86493/news/general/world-cup-brings-signals-new-opportunities-fo/#.U8OHM_mSxVY.

>> For more recent coop news from around the world see <http://www.thenews.coop/88913/news/co-operatives/international-news-august/>.

Did you know?

Did you know two out of three of the biggest banks in the world are cooperatives?

>> For details, see <http://ica.coop/en/media/news/two-co-operative-banks-among-strongest-banks-world>

Connecting with the ILO constituents and cooperative and social and solidarity economy partners

On April 1, ILO COOP welcomed **ASTER**; a consortium among the Emilia-Romagna Regional Government, the six Universities, and the National Research Centres located in the region; the National Research Council (CNR) and the Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (ENEA); the Regional Union of Chambers of Commerce; and the regional Entrepreneurial Associations. The visit served as an opportunity for the ILO to establish the basis for knowledge sharing within the broader context of policy issues - globalisation and the challenges for SMEs and employment generation in the case of Emilia Romagna. ASTER's Manufacturing Renaissance Programme promotes new forms of inter-firm organisation including cooperatives; innovation; new funding mechanism; and the role of the social partners. Emilia Romagna is entering into a collaboration agreement with the Chicago Manufacturing Renaissance Council with the intention of linking like-minded bodies/regions into a knowledge sharing network.

On May 21, ILO Coop welcomed delegates from the **Nordic cooperative employers** from KFO of Sweden, SAMFO of Norway, SOK Corp and Kauppa of Finland and BA of Denmark. The meeting served as an opportunity for discussing and exchanging the view of objectives and challenges of cooperatives particularly in retail and commodity trade perspective as well as its social responsibility at the community level.

On June 6, a delegate from **Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA)**, an employer as well as an apex cooperative organization, visited ILO COOP. Opportunities for possible future collaboration was discussed, for instance through My.Coop agricultural cooperative management package adaptation and translation.

On June 9, Dr. Ahn Joyup of **Korea Labor Institute** visited ILO COOP. Dr Joyup presented the current challenges of the cooperative legal framework in Korea, particularly on encouraging employment for small and medium enterprises which involved emerging needs from senior citizen responding for the retirement age. In addition, there was a shared interest in statistics on cooperatives, as well as in research-related matters.

ASTER: http://www.aster.it/tiki-index.php?page=HomePage_en

KFO: <https://www.kfo.se/Om-KFO/Internationellt/>

SOK: <https://www.s-kanava.fi/web/vk/en/asiakasomistajalle>

VCA: <http://www.vca.org.vn>

Korea Labour Institute: http://www.kli.re.kr/kli_ehome/main/main.jsp



Seminar in Kyrgyzstan on informal economy



The ILO Office in Moscow invited the ILO's Cooperatives Unit to participate in the ILO Bureau for Workers' Activities (ACTRAV) sub-regional Seminar on "Informal Economy - The Role and Position of Trade Unions" and the Sub-regional Women's Network Meeting on "Promotion of Social Protection: ILO Conventions and Collective Bargaining", which took place in Cholpan Ata in Kyrgyzstan from 15 to 18 July 2014.

Just before this event in June 2014 COOP was invited by the ACTRAV to make a presentation on the ILO and Cooperatives at the workshop for Russian trade unionists from the Federation of Independent Trade Unions (FNPR).

The Seminar included the Youth summer school, the sub-regional Women's Network Meeting on "Promotion of Social Protection: ILO Conventions and collective bargaining" and the Meeting on "Informal Economy and the Role and Position of the Trade Unions". COOP participated in the latter two events.

Around 100 participants from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Ukraine participated in the event. The ILO COOP representative spoke about the potential of the cooperative sector in formalizing the informal economy and in particular on social protection offered by cooperatives. He noted the specific nature of the cooperative enterprises, the ways in which cooperatives can create employment and raise incomes, promote rights at work, extend social protection, and strengthen social dialogue.

Kyrgyz cooperatives have seen a revitalization during last decade. The Cooperative Union of Kyrgyzstan (CUK), which was established in 2007, brings together over 200 agricultural cooperatives and 12,000 individual members. CUK represents



the interests of cooperatives and deals with the state agencies developing proposals for cooperative activities to form public policies in support of the agricultural sector. In 2013 the CUK joined the ICA. In Kyrgyzstan, most of the existing cooperatives were created with the assistance of international cooperative organizations such as Raiffeisen Confederation, GTZ, Helvetas, JICA, ACTED, DGRV and others.

The seminar concluded that it could be of special interest for cooperative movement and trade union organisations in Kyrgyzstan to develop joint strategies for raising income and ensuring job security and social protection of workers in the informal economy. There could also be a specific emphasis on cooperative organisations for migrant workers, something that ILO COOP and ILO MIGRANT have been jointly working on.

>> ILO Decent Work Team and Country Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia: <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/euro/moscow/index.htm>

News from the field

SUPPORT FOR NEW COOPERATIVES PROVIDED IN EGYPT

The ILO work on cooperatives and social and solidarity economy is ongoing. Recently two cooperatives were created, one on Bedouin handicrafts and one on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants in Aswan and the Red Sea governorates. The founders and community leaders were trained on "Mainstreaming Gender Analysis in Value Chain Development", while training activities on My.Coop and Get Ahead are planned for the same group.

>> An Egypt Cooperative Road Map, developed in 2013, is available at http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/--emp_ent/---coop/documents/publication/wcms_213244.pdf

LOCAL EMPOWERMENT THROUGH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (LEED) PROJECT IN SRI LANKA

In the paddy sector, the rehabilitation and re-equipping of the Vishvamadu Rice Mill has been completed and officially opened. The total project took nine months to complete. The mill commenced operations in mid-January of this year. Under the government paddy purchasing scheme a loan was extended through the Office of The District Secretariat to the cooperative to purchase paddy. In spite of the scarcity caused by the current drought, the cooperative has purchased and milled 65 tonnes and sold 40 tonnes of rice in the last quarter. Its main market is in Jaffna. The Mill currently employs sixteen people.

My.COOP TRANSLATION TO SISWATI

Managing your agricultural cooperative – My.Coop training package is currently being translated into SiSwati language in Swaziland, in partnership between the Swaziland Cooperative College and the Deutscher Genossenschafts- und Raiffeisenverband (DGRV). This will increase the number of My.Coop languages to eleven. Many of the translations are accessible through the My.Coop platform at <http://www.agriculture-my.coop/>



My.COOP ToT

Registration for the next edition of the distance learning Training of Trainers course on [Managing your Agricultural Cooperative](#) - My.Coop - hosted by the International Training Centre of the ILO (ITC/ILO) is now open.

Course dates: 22 September 2014 - 13 December 2014

Registration deadline: 15 September 2014

Tuition fees: € 900

To register for the course online please visit:
http://intranetp.itcilo.org/MINRFFUND?coord_code=A977032&set_language=en.



This course is being offered in English, French and Spanish.

My.COOP is a training package and programme on the management of agricultural cooperatives. Proper management enables cooperatives to offer high quality, efficient and effective services to their members. Moreover, well managed agricultural cooperatives can also contribute to wider development issues such as food security, sustainable use of natural resources and inclusive employment creation.

The My.COOP training of trainers has been designed for organizations and individuals that train managers of agricultural cooperatives. These can include:

- leaders and managers of cooperative structures, such as unions, federations and confederations;
- trainers working in cooperative colleges, universities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other (including private) training providers;
- cooperative officers and extension staff of government departments and agencies.

For more information on the course, see <http://www.agriculture-my.coop/>.

My.COOP is being institutionalized in Peru

During the past three years the ILO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean in Lima has been working in collaboration with the Ministry of Production/Industry and Fisheries in Peru and USAID to introduce “My.COOP – Managing your agricultural cooperative” as a tool to support agricultural cooperative development in the country.

Already in 2012, My.COOP was mentioned in the Ministry’s policy and strategy document, and in July 2014, the Department in charge of cooperatives of the Ministry worked with the ILO to train 36 private trainers on My.COOP. The training was conducted by an expert trainer from neighbouring Colombia, where there is an active “My.COOPianos” network.

The Ministry has also opened a bid for providers to apply My.COOP in Peru in around 300 cooperatives across the country.

These recent developments demonstrate the engagement by the Government of Peru to start institutionalize the My.COOP methodology, that was first developed by the ILO and partners in 2012. Currently the package is being used in over a dozen of countries in three different continents, and has been translated into eleven languages, with more on their way.

>> ILO Office for the Andean Countries: <http://www.ilo.org/lima/lang--es/index.htm>.

Noteworthy resources

Here is a roundup of the latest publications and other resources from the ILO as well as the coop world at large.

COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT ENGAGEMENT IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE POST-2015 PROCESS: SURVEY FINDINGS



The ILO has published a brief on the results of an online survey to the cooperative movement that investigated the current and potential contributions of cooperatives to sustainable development.

This survey is part of the ILO and

ICA initiative to bring cooperative voices into the discussion around the post-2015 development agenda, and can be found at http://www.ilo.org/empent/Publications/WCMS_248497/lang--en/index.htm.

COOPERATIVES AND THE SDGS BRIEF TRANSLATED

The brief has now been translated into French and Spanish, and can be accessed at the ILO COOP website at http://www.ilo.org/empent/Publications/WCMS_240640/lang--en/index.htm.

FINDINGS OF THE ASSESSMENT OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES IN WEST BANK: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES



The findings and recommendations derive from an assessment conducted by the ILO in coordination with the Palestinian General Directorate of Cooperatives at the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Agriculture.

The study profiles 230 agricultural cooperative enterprises in the West Bank, assessing their cooperative organizational capacity, including their various cooperative functions vis-à-vis the agricultural market, managerial and financial performance, and members' level of participation. It identifies key challenges and opportunities for development, and draws particular attention to women's roles in cooperatives.

The publication is available in English and Arabic at http://www.ilo.org/beirut/information-resources/factsheets/WCMS_249766/lang--en/index.htm.

CO-OPERATIVES AND WORKERS IN THE INFORMAL ECONOMY: POSSIBILITIES AND CHALLENGES

Co-operative College and WIEGO have prepared this paper as an initial study of cooperatives and their relationship to informal workers. It provides background for the problematic around this issue, and looks at the different sectors with important informal economy and the role cooperatives play in them. The paper can be downloaded at http://wiego.org/sites/wiego.org/files/publications/files/Co-operative_College-Cooperatives_Informal_Workers_2014.pdf.

COOPERATIVES AS BUILDERS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

As part of their contribution to the Post-2015 Development Debate, CICOPA has published a report "Cooperatives as builders of sustainable development: Applied to industrial, artisanal and

service producers' cooperatives". The timely report is available at http://www.cicopa.coop/IMG/pdf/cooperatives_as_builders_of_sustainable_development_en__cicopaweb.pdf.

THE SITUATION OF WORKERS OF THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES

The ILO Director-General's annual report on the situation of workers of the occupied Arab territories, which calls for resumption of negotiations and the lifting of restrictions to improve the situation of Palestinian workers and entrepreneurs, includes a full page analysis on cooperatives (on page 39). The report can be downloaded at http://www.ilo.org/ilc/ILCSessions/103/reports/reports-to-the-conference/WCMS_242965/lang--en/index.htm.

SOCIAL CO-OPERATIVES: A DEMOCRATIC CO-PRODUCTION AGENDA FOR CARE SERVICES IN THE UK

A new report by Co-operatives UK reviews best practice in the cooperative health and social care services, and through a comparative review, draws lessons from international experience of relevance to the UK. This report can be downloaded at <http://www.walescooperative.org/index.php?cID=1001&cType=document>.

STUDY ON BY LAWS OF PRIMARY CO-OPERATIVES

International Co-operative Alliance Asia-Pacific has published a new Study on By Laws of Primary Co-operatives. This was first presented at the 1st Asia Pacific Co-operative Registrars' Conference in Kuala Lumpur in 2013, and can be accessed at http://ica-ap.coop/sites/default/files/Report_Resolution_1st_Asia_Pacific_Co-operativeRegistrars_Conference.pdf.

NEW CO-OP COLLEGE PAPER ON RESILIENCE

Co-op College has published a new study on building resilience in the Malawian cooperative movement. This timely and interesting study can be downloaded at <http://www.co-op.ac.uk/2014/05/college-paper-resilience/>.

CEARC CONFERENCE

In May the Centre of Excellence in Accounting and Reporting (CEARC) and the Measuring the Co-operative Difference Research Network organized a conference on the Tools to Measure Co-operative Performance and Impact, in Halifax, Canada. ILO's presentation was on statistical information challenges. This and all the other presentations of the event can be downloaded at <http://www.smu.ca/academic/sobey/cearc/tools-conference.html#d.en.65194>

Outcomes from this conference are further examined at the ICA Research Conference (www.ICA2014.coop) in Croatia (June 25-28, 2014) as well as a planned book publication in 2015 to document the various tools in use.

A GLOBAL STUDY OF THE DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT OF COOPERATIVES HAS BEEN LAUNCHED

This study is part of the Digital Cooperative Project, which is looking at how cooperatives are connecting with their stakeholders. A survey has been launched as part of this study, and it can be completed at <http://www.thenews.coop/digitalcoop/>.

Coops and the world of work article series



ILO COOP has started its series on cooperatives and the world of work. This series will include articles and briefs on the cooperative advantage in the world of work, and include themes such as child labour, labour compliance, and employers' organizations. The first article in the series is about

rebuilding the links between trade unions and cooperatives, and can be accessed at http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/comment-analysis/WCMS_243813/lang--en/index.htm.

Another article, "Twelve years later: What has been achieved since the ILO called on governments to promote co-operatives", published by Co-operative News, looks back on the 12 years of the ILO Recommendation on the promotion of cooperatives, 2002 (No.193). It discusses the main achievements and also some challenges related to putting the Recommendation into practice. The article is available at <http://www.thenews.coop/87386/news/producer-or-worker/twelve-years-later-what-has-been-achieved-since-the-ilo-called-on-governments-to-promote-co-operatives/>.

Cooperatives in the fight against child labour



The second article in the Cooperatives and the World of Work series is about child labour. The article discusses the potential cooperatives have in fighting child labour, and notes how cooperatives, working together with trade unions can ensure that workers have a stronger collective voice, which can help to achieve positive results. As employers, cooperatives also have a key role to ensure their engagement in proper labour relations. To read the full article, visit http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/comment-analysis/WCMS_249483/lang--en/index.htm.

Simon Steyne, the head of the Social Dialogue and Partnerships unit of the ILO's International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour – IPEC talks about the role of cooperatives in fighting child labour. Listen to his interview at <http://www.radiolabour.net/steyne-250714.htm>

New articles and briefs will be available shortly, check www.ilo.org/coop for updates. The series will build up towards the ICA-ILO Research Conference to be held in October 2015. More information will follow!

ILO COOP staff news

Ms Satoko Horiuchi joined ILO COOP as a knowledge management officer in April. She has been seconded to the ILO from Japanese Consumers' Cooperative Union (JCCU), under the public and private partnership arrangement between the two organizations.

Ms Susan Bvumbe joined the ILO COOP as an administrative assistant in June. She first joined the ILO in April 2010 and has previously worked with DIALOGUE, LABADMIN and LABADMIN/OSH departments.

Ms Jihea Khil completed her internship at the COOP Unit in May. She was working specifically on the initiative on cooperatives and the Sustainable Development Goals.



Recent events

SEPTEMBER

- 2 FES/ILO/DGRV International Symposium on Cooperatives and the Sustainable Development Goals: Focus on Africa. Berlin, Germany. For more information, see http://www.ilo.org/empent/Eventsandmeetings/WCMS_250829/lang--en/index.htm.
- 16 The Role of Cooperatives - Instruments and Indicators to Conjugate Growth and Sustainable Development, Rome, Italy. For more information, http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/comment-analysis/WCMS_304650/lang--en/index.htm
- 18 8th ICA Asia and Pacific Co-operative Forum, Bali, Indonesia.
- 25 Coop Break - Cooperatives and Sustainable Development: Challenges for the Post-2015. Brussels, Belgium. For more information, see <http://www.coopburo.be/en/kalender/140925-coop-break-cooperatives-and-sustainable-development-challenges-for-the-post-2015-brussels>.

OCTOBER

6-9 International Summit of Cooperatives, Quebec, Canada. For information and registration, visit http://www.sommetinter.coop/cms/en_CA/sites/somint/home.html. Ms Sandra Polaski, Deputy Director-General of the ILO will present in the conference, and prior to the Summit she was interviewed about the ILO's Global Employment Agenda, the reasons behind the success of cooperatives in the area of job creation and the contribution of cooperatives to the 2015 UN Sustainable Development Goals. To read the interview, visit <http://www.intlsummit.coop/cms/exclusive-interview-with-sandra-polaski-from-ilo>.



ICA-ILO Research Conference on Cooperatives and the World of Work

The International Co-operative Alliance Committee on Cooperative Research (ICA CCR) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) will host a research conference on 10-11 November 2015 in Antalya, Turkey. The conference will bring together researchers, students, practitioners, advocates, policy makers and representatives of employers' and workers' organizations working in areas of cooperative enterprises and social and solidarity economy organizations, as well as labour research and themes related to the world of work.

For more information, http://www.ilo.org/empent/Eventsandmeetings/WCMS_310424/lang--en/index.htm?lang=en.



Contributors:

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