

Cooperative—Defined

Member Control

Cooperatives are organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership in cooperatives; members have equal voting rights (one membership, one vote) and are organized in a self-governing manner.

Member's Economic Participation

Members contribute equally to, and jointly control, the capital of their cooperative.

Autonomy and Independence

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from other sources, they do so on terms that ensure self-governing control by their members and maintain their cooperative self-sufficiency.

Education, Training and Information

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so that they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives.

Concern for Community

While focusing on members needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.