

1.0 Meaning of Agricultural Cooperatives

The word "Cooperation" is often used in a general sense to mean collaboration between any group of persons for almost any purpose. It involves working together voluntarily on the basis of equality for the promotion of common economic interest.

"Cooperative" is a form of economic enterprise the structure and objective of which lie those of a private business and a public undertaking

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO) , a **"Cooperative"** is an association of persons , usually of limited means , who have voluntarily joined together to achieve a common economic end through the formation of a democratically controlled business Organisation, making equitable contribution to the capital required and accepting a fair share of the risks and benefits of the undertaking in which members participate.

A **"Cooperative"** is a social organisation based on the principles of equity, economy, democracy and liberty.

A **"Cooperative"** is a legal institutionalized device through which people come together on voluntary basis of equity for the promotion of their economic well being.

A **"Cooperative"** is a voluntary organisation of persons with common interest, formed and operated along democratic lines for the purpose of supplying services at cost to its members who contribute both capital and business.