

# Decent Work:

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**Yes, cooperatives do  
make a difference !**



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# Common Values

## Decent Work

Freedom  
Equality  
Security  
Human Dignity



## Cooperatives

Self-help  
Equality  
Democracy  
Equity  
Solidarity

Genuine cooperatives can promote decent work

# Coops in Developing Countries

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**Past performance of  
coops in developing  
countries**

**Government intervention**

**"a kiss of death"**

**Coops were used, misused, abused, blamed and discredited by many governments of developing countries.**

**Cooperative success depends on good governance**

# Democratization

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**Impact of  
Structural  
Adjustment**

**Liberalization of economies**

**Democratization of society**

**Growth of civil society including  
cooperatives**

**Civil society voices concern over high  
levels of unemployment massive  
poverty in the developing countries**

# Progress = Economic & Social Development

**Cooperatives** = associations of persons who voluntarily join together to meet their economic and social needs through jointly-owned & democratically controlled enterprise

Capacity to work is the capital of the poor and freedom to organize this capital through coops will be a key part of the solution to the problem of poverty.

**Coops have the opportunity to make a real difference**

# Decent Work & Coops

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Coops create  
jobs in rural agricultural sector

Coops provide for equitable distribution  
of wealth

Coops are schools for democracy

Coops have the opportunity to make a real difference

# Liberalization

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**"Business may provide jobs, but this is not its primary purpose. The purpose is to make money..."**

**Unemployment not only hits poor, but increasingly the middle class – young and older**

**Unemployment reaches 50% in many developing countries**

**Coops have the opportunity to make a real difference**

# **Income Generation**

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**First step out of poverty & social exclusion**

**Cooperatives promote self-employment &  
can guarantee decent work**

**Coops have the opportunity to make a real difference**



# Globalization & the Internet

Can cooperatives survive?

Farmers will stay with their cooperatives –  
pooling resources to be competitive

Coops have the opportunity to make a real difference

# **No alternatives to coops**

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**Self-help cooperatives can create jobs,  
but they must have:**

**Professional management**

**Committed, enlightened, & honest leadership**

**Institutional capacity building for cooperatives**

**General membership education & training**

**Constructive support from government**

**Can coops make a difference? Yes, they can!**