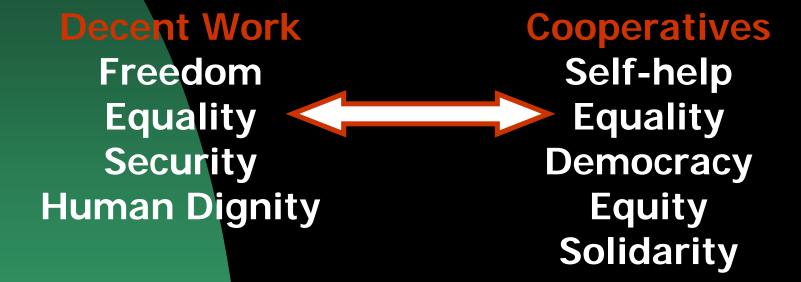
Decent Work:

Yes, cooperatives do make a difference!



Charles Kabuga, Acting Head, Developing Country Activities, International Federation of Agricultural Producers IFAP

Common Values



Genuine cooperatives can promote decent work

Coops in Developing Countries

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

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.

Decent Work & Coops

Coops create jobs in rural agricultural sector

Coops provide for equitable distribution of wealth

Coops are schools for democracy

Liberalization

"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

Income Generation

First step out of poverty & social exclusion

Cooperatives promote self-employment & can guarantee decent work

Globalization & the Internet

Can cooperatives survive?

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

No alternatives to coops

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!