



MAPIGO

THE PULSE OF COOPERATIVES IN AFRICA AND AROUND THE WORLD



Kuapa Kokoo, a prominent Ghanaian cocoa farmers' cooperative, has launched a five-year sustainability development plan aimed at enhancing farmer incomes and promoting environmental stewardship. The plan focuses on sustainable cocoa production practices that minimize environmental harm and emphasizes value addition to boost farmers' earnings. A key component of this initiative is the establishment of a cocoa processing company in partnership with the International Trade Union, enabling the cooperative to process cocoa locally and increase value for its members.

The cooperative is committed to protecting the environment and ensuring the longevity of cocoa farming in Ghana. Leadership has actively discouraged members from engaging in illegal mining activities, which pose significant environmental risks, and has instead promoted the benefits of sustainable

Agri- Co-op. Development... Africa cocoa farming. Initiatives include distributing over a million cocoa seedlings to farmers and implementing projects like the 'Way To Go' and Sankofa projects, which focus on improving socio-economic conditions and establishing climate-smart agroforestry systems.

Kuapa Kokoo's leadership emphasizes the importance of value addition and diversification in improving farmer incomes. By adopting best farming practices, enhancing governance, and supporting interventions to eliminate child labor, the cooperative aims to become a leading entity in sustainable cocoa production. The recent increase in cocoa prices has been welcomed, as it reduces smuggling and benefits farmers. However, challenges such as illegal mining continue to threaten cocoa production, prompting calls for comprehensive solutions to safeguard the industry and the environment.

Ghana's Kuapa Kokoo farmer cooperative unveils a strategic plan for cocoa's future Ghana Cocoa

Cooperative News from Africa, The diaspora, and around the world...

Co-op Development

- Kheda DCCB registers remarkable growth trajectory

Co-op Governance:

- Cooperative Vision for a Sustainable and Competitive Europe:

Co-op Development:

- ILO signs deal to provide training and data support to Jordan's co-ops

Co-op Development:

- Ghana's Kuapa Kokoo farmer cooperative unveils a strategic plan for cocoa's future Ghana Cocoa

Co-op Impact:

- How Brazil Recycling Co-ops Are Helping Turn Plastic Waste Into Shoes

Source: www.intracen.org



**CO-OP SAPPORO
BEGINS SUPPLYING
LOCALLY PRODUCED
RENEWABLE ENERGY
THROUGH SOLAR
POWER GENERATION**

Consumer Co-op Development...Global

Co-op Sapporo is advancing sustainable energy in Hokkaido by constructing up to 200 off-site solar power plants, with 33 currently operational. These facilities, including the first Mizuho Power Plant, supply 19 GWh annually to stores, covering 14.13% of their energy needs and reducing CO2 emissions by approximately 5,900 tons yearly. By repurposing unused land, this initiative minimizes environmental impact while enhancing local energy self-sufficiency.

The project emphasizes the importance of renewable energy in reducing reliance on international energy markets and promoting a stable, sustainable supply. Solar energy generated within Hokkaido supports cleaner energy solutions and secures long-term environmental benefits.



Source: <https://jccu.coop/>



**COOPERATIVE VISION
FOR A SUSTAINABLE
AND COMPETITIVE
EUROPE:**

Co-op Governance...Global

The European Association of Cooperative Banks (EACB) has announced its vision for the 2024-2029 EU legislative term, advocating for a balanced regulatory approach that supports sustainable development and innovation. Key priorities include fostering fair competition, enhancing access to finance for SMEs and households, and advancing the green and digital transitions essential for economic resilience.

The European Association of. The EACB highlights the role of cooperative banks as crucial actors in building an inclusive, people-centered financial ecosystem that aligns with the EU's strategic goals for sustainable growth.

Source: www.eacb.coop

With plans to reach full implementation by September 2025, Co-op Sapporo aims to expand its contribution to renewable energy adoption, ensuring significant environmental and regional economic advantages for the future.



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ETHIOPIAN COFFEE FARMERS TAKE DIGITAL LEAP WITH NEW PLANNING SYSTEM



Ethiopian coffee farmers have introduced a digital planning system that revolutionizes how they manage production and operations. Developed with the support of the International Trade Centre, the system allows cooperatives and farmers to collect and analyze data, predict production volumes, and better align with market demand. This step ensures transparency and efficiency in their supply chains, helping them address traditional challenges in the industry.

The system provides tools to forecast yields, optimize logistics, and enhance collaboration between stakeholders in Ethiopia's coffee sector.

Farmers are now better equipped to meet international market standards, improve their earnings, and sustain the country's reputation as a premier coffee exporter. The adoption of this technology marks a critical shift toward modernized agricultural practices and sustainable growth in coffee production.

This initiative also aligns with Ethiopia's broader development goals of empowering smallholder farmers and strengthening the coffee industry's competitiveness globally. By leveraging digital solutions, farmers are not only enhancing productivity but also fostering resilience against market volatility and environmental changes.

Source: www.intracen.org

ILO SIGNS DEAL TO PROVIDE TRAINING AND DATA SUPPORT TO JORDAN'S CO-OPS



Co-op Development... Global

The International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Jordanian Cooperative Corporation (JCC) have entered a three-year agreement to enhance the cooperative sector in Jordan. Backed by Jordan's government, the initiative includes training programs, digital tools, and updated governance structures aimed at strengthening cooperatives, particularly in agriculture. These efforts build on prior achievements, such as the Cooperative Development Fund and updated legislation, to foster sustainable development.

Under the agreement, the ILO will provide free training resources tailored to Jordan's needs, enabling cooperatives to create job opportunities and promote decent work. Key goals include improving governance, combating child labor, and enhancing occupational safety. Additionally, the program integrates a modernized database and e-services to streamline operations.

This partnership reflects a continued commitment to empowering cooperatives as engines for economic growth and social equity. By building cooperative capacities and aligning them with international standards, the agreement supports the vision of a resilient and inclusive future for Jordan.

Source: www.thenews.coop



KHEDA DCCB REGISTERS REMARKABLE GROWTH TRAJECTORY

Financial Co-op Development.. Global

Gujarat-based Kheda District Central Cooperative Bank (KDCC) has achieved significant progress by reducing its Non-Performing Assets (NPA) from 8.21% to 3.65%, enabling it to secure Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approval for net banking services and the opening of six new branches after a decade-long hiatus. Under the leadership of Tejasbhai Patel, the bank has introduced initiatives such as converting cooperatives into Business Correspondents equipped with Micro ATMs and supporting solar installations under the Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana, fostering sustainable development in the region.

KDCC Bank has embraced technology by implementing WhatsApp banking and becoming Gujarat's first district cooperative bank to launch a Loan Management System (LMS), streamlining loan processing by reducing delays by 90%. The bank has also decentralized operations, dividing its 84 branches into nine regions, and formed a marketing team to promote its innovative schemes. Notable initiatives include offering collateral-free loans under government schemes like CGTMSE and launching a successful One-Time Settlement (OTS) scheme to recover outstanding loans. By integrating modern financial services and expanding access to credit, KDCC Bank empowers youth and local institutions while promoting financial independence. Its forward-thinking approach, combined with strategic leadership, demonstrates its commitment to fostering cooperative growth, supporting small enterprises, and improving customer experiences, making it a key player in Gujarat's cooperative sector.

Source: www.indiancooperative.com



COOPERATIVES PUSH FOR BETTER POLICY AND MARKET ACCESS

Worker Co-op. Development... Africa

Worker cooperatives were in the spotlight at the 2nd Cooperative Movement Stakeholders' Annual Conference and the 2024 Platform Cooperativism Consortium Conference. Unlike traditional SACCOs, worker cooperatives emphasize democratic management and member participation, often providing critical support for informal workers. However, they continue to face obstacles such as bureaucratic hurdles, inadequate funding, and market entry challenges.

Tina Mfanga from Tanzania's UWAMAMA Women Cooperative highlighted the need for policy reforms to reduce government control over cooperatives, allowing for greater autonomy. Similarly, Andrew Nyagi of Zimbabwe discussed land access struggles and called for leadership rooted in cooperative experience. In Kenya, Esther Mutunga of the Kamaki Farmers Cooperative emphasized how value addition in honey production has improved livelihoods but noted the difficulty of navigating certification processes.

The conference concluded with calls for streamlined regulation, better financing options, and broader education on cooperative principles. These steps are essential to empowering members and expanding opportunities for informal workers across Africa.

Source: <https://co-opnews.com/>



HOW BRAZIL RECYCLING CO-OPS ARE HELPING TURN PLASTIC WASTE INTO SHOES

Worker Co-op Impact... Global



In Três Corações, Brazil, the Catadores at the ACAMTC cooperative play a crucial role in recycling plastic waste, contributing significantly to environmental conservation. In collaboration with sustainable footwear brand Veja, the Catadores supply post-consumer PET bottles that are processed into recycled polyester used in Veja’s shoe linings. This partnership provides fair wages, traceability, and recognition for the Catadores, improving their livelihoods and enhancing the sustainability of Veja’s products.

Experts caution against over-reliance on recycling plastic for textiles, noting that such materials still carry environmental challenges and may contribute to waste in a linear system. However, Veja addresses this concern by emphasizing product durability and repairability. The brand’s “Clean, Repair, and Collect” initiative, launched in 2020, extends the life of its shoes and encourages sustainable consumption, aligning with its goal to balance innovation and longevity.

Veja’s commitment to sustainability goes beyond material sourcing, focusing on transparent and ethical practices throughout its supply chain. The brand ensures its recycled polyester is locally produced, reducing emissions and waste, and supports the fair treatment of workers. Through its collaboration with Brazilian cooperatives, Veja purchased six million PET bottles in 2023, providing the Catadores with significant financial bonuses and showcasing the potential of socially responsible supply chains.

By integrating recycling, fair trade, and repair into its business model, Veja demonstrates a holistic approach to sustainable fashion. Its collaboration with the Catadores highlights the importance of valuing the workers who drive environmental progress while challenging the fashion industry to rethink overproduction and waste.

Source: <https://time.com/>

Thank you for reading!

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