



# MAPIGO



International Year  
of Cooperatives  
Cooperatives Build a Better World

**THE PULSE OF COOPERATIVES IN AFRICA AND AROUND THE WORLD**



## Federal Government of Nigeria Launches Training to Revamp Cooperative Societies

*Co-op. Development... Nigeria, Africa*

**The Nigerian** government has reaffirmed its commitment to revitalizing cooperative societies through comprehensive reforms and capacity-building initiatives. At a training workshop in Kaduna, Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Security, Sen. Aliyu Sabi-Abdullahi, highlighted the crucial role cooperatives play in economic development, job creation, and food security. He emphasized that the reforms would include revising the Nigerian Cooperative Act to align with global standards, strengthening regulatory frameworks, and implementing monitoring strategies to eliminate fraudulent cooperatives.

As part of this initiative, the government plans to convene the National Council on Cooperative Affairs to enhance collaboration among stakeholders. Dr. Ibrahim Auwal, Provost of the Federal Cooperative College, Kaduna, commended the effort, noting that cooperatives serve as pillars of economic empowerment and social cohesion. He encouraged participants to use the training to improve their leadership and financial management skills. The training will be extended to other cooperative colleges in Ibadan and Oji-River to further strengthen the sector's capacity.

• *Source: <https://dmarketforces.com>*

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

#### Co-op Development - Nigeria

- Federal Government of Nigeria Launches Training to Revamp Cooperative Societies

#### Co-op Development - Ghana

- *Uniting cocoa farmers' voices: Introducing the Ghana cooperative cocoa farmers & marketing association*

#### Co-op Development - Nigeria

- Federal Ministry of Agriculture keen on revitalizing Cooperative sector for Economic Advancement

#### Co-op Development - Ethiopia

- Cooperative Commission recognizes AMIGOS SACCO for supporting socio-economic development

#### Co-op Development - Uganda

- Chia seed company turns to cooperatives to meet international standards

#### Co-op Financing - Ethiopia

- *Ethiopia's Cooperatives and Unions: A Model for Africa, Says ICA Regional Director"*

#### Co-op Development: Belgium

- European co-ops welcome plan to re-set farming and agri-food sector

#### Co-op Impact: Japan

- Launch of the International Year of Cooperatives 2025 in the Asia-Pacific Region and Japan



**UNITING COCOA FARMERS' VOICES: INTRODUCING THE GHANA COOPERATIVE COCOA FARMERS & MARKETING ASSOCIATION**



*Agri- Co-ops Development...Ghana, Africa*

Smallholder cocoa farmers in Ghana now have a unified voice through the newly established Ghana Cooperative Cocoa Farmers and Marketing Association. This umbrella body, comprising 75 cooperative unions from nine cocoa-growing regions, aims to enhance farmers' representation in decision-making processes at local, national, and international levels. Facilitated by Solidaridad under the RECLAIM Sustainability! programme, the association is expected to strengthen advocacy efforts on critical issues such as stable pricing, land rights, and government interventions to improve farmers' livelihoods.

The association's formation follows years of fragmented efforts, with cocoa cooperative unions previously operating independently. Through extensive leadership and governance training, stakeholders—including the Department of Cooperatives, World Cocoa Farmers Organisation, and Agriterra—have worked to empower farmers and promote gender and social inclusion within cooperatives. The election of executives, including six women, reflects this commitment.

Moving forward, the association is engaging key stakeholders such as the World Cocoa Foundation and the Côte d'Ivoire-Ghana Cocoa Initiative to build strategic partnerships. With full legal registration and structured operations, the association represents a significant step toward a more inclusive and sustainable cocoa value chain in Ghana.

*Source: <https://citinewsroom.com>*

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## FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE KEEN ON REVITALIZING COOPERATIVE SECTOR FOR ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT

Co-op Development... Nigeria, Africa

Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS) is committed to revitalizing the cooperative sector as a key driver of economic growth, food security, and poverty reduction. At a recent technical session in Abuja, Minister of State Sen. Dr. Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi emphasized the importance of transparency and inclusivity in reform efforts.

He highlighted the need to restructure cooperative institutions, align strategies with President Tinubu's vision for a \$1 trillion economy, and foster partnerships with the private sector, civil society, and international organizations.

The reform agenda also includes strengthening cooperative education by restructuring the Federal Department of Cooperative Colleges and the National Centre for Cooperative

Development to equip Nigerian youth with modern skills. Special Assistant Hon. Victor Oyegoke underscored the importance of integrating women, youth, and people with disabilities into the cooperative movement. The initiative seeks to harness cooperatives as a catalyst for socio-economic transformation, leveraging their global economic potential, which includes a combined asset base of \$19.6 trillion and annual revenue of \$2.98 trillion.

Source: <https://championnews.com.ng/>



## COOPERATIVE COMMISSION RECOGNIZES AMIGOS SACCO FOR SUPPORTING SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Financial - Co-op Development... Ethiopia, Africa

The Ethiopian Cooperative Commission has recognized the essential role of cooperatives in socio-economic development, as highlighted by Commissioner Ambassador Shiferaw Shigutie. AMIGOS Saving and Credit Cooperative, celebrating its 12th anniversary, has grown to over 10,000 members with assets nearing 2.5 billion birr. In 2023/2024, it reported a net profit of over 101 million birr and has distributed more than 5 billion birr since inception. AMIGOS is affiliated with ACCOSCA and ICA, leveraging global best practices to enhance its operations.

Source: <https://gazettengr.com>



## CHIA SEED COMPANY TURNS TO COOPERATIVES TO MEET INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

Agri- Co-op Development... Uganda, Africa

Talia Group Limited is collaborating with cooperatives in Uganda's Acholi Subregion to meet international organic standards for chia seed exports. The company aims to ensure traceability and fair distribution of profits, moving away from brokers. Director James Muathe highlighted challenges such as farmers mixing chia with other substances to boost weight, leading to rejections.

Farmers remain hesitant to grow chia due to past market inconsistencies, with leaders calling for contract farming. Despite these hurdles, Talia Group plans to expand purchases, targeting exports to Denmark and the UAE.

Source: <https://thecooperator.news>



## ETHIOPIA'S COOPERATIVES AND UNIONS: A MODEL FOR AFRICA, SAYS ICA REGIONAL DIRECTOR"

*Co-op Development... Ethiopia, Global*

 The 11th National Cooperatives Exhibition and Bazaar in Addis Ababa showcased the capacity of Ethiopian cooperatives to produce high-value goods and contribute to economic stability. Chiyoge Sifa, Regional Director of the International Cooperative Alliance, emphasized that local cooperative products play a crucial role in reducing supply shortages, stabilizing prices, and promoting economic self-sufficiency. She highlighted the government's support through legal frameworks, market connections, and financial assistance, which have enhanced the effectiveness of cooperatives in navigating business challenges.

Sifa underscored the importance of prioritizing local consumption to achieve economic independence while reducing reliance on imports. She linked this approach to the African Union's Agenda 2063, which promotes industrialization and agricultural value chain development. To ensure long-term success, she urged cooperatives and unions to focus on product quality, branding, and timely delivery, as today's consumers demand competitive and high-value goods.

Government-backed cooperatives have made significant strides in industrial production, proving their resilience and efficiency. By leveraging local inputs, they contribute to the growth of Ethiopia's manufacturing sector while supporting job creation and financial stability. Sifa noted that these indigenous business models demonstrate increasing effectiveness, positioning Ethiopian cooperatives as key players in regional economic transformation.

*Source: <https://www.fanabc.com>*



## EUROPEAN CO-OPS WELCOME PLAN TO RE-SET FARMING AND AGRI-FOOD SECTOR

*Agri- Co-op Financing...Belgium, Global*

 The European Commission has introduced a new roadmap to reshape the EU's farming and agri-food sector, focusing on fairer trading, sustainability, and generational renewal. Key measures include strengthening protections against unfair trading practices, improving access to biopesticides, and launching a water resilience strategy. Additionally, an annual food dialogue will be established to address affordability and innovation.

Copa and Cogeca, representing European farmers and co-ops, welcomed the strategy as a "pragmatic reset," particularly praising its focus on farm income, competitiveness, and demographic challenges. They supported the Commission's stance on stricter alignment of production standards for imports and the principle of "no bans without viable alternatives" for plant protection products. However, they expressed concerns about potential budget limitations.

A major point of contention remains the future of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) budget. While the Commission promises a simplified and targeted CAP, Copa and Cogeca argue that ambitions will remain unfulfilled without adequate funding. They warn that merging funds and establishing single national budget plans could weaken necessary financial support. Their statement urges the EU to ensure a strong, inflation-adjusted CAP budget post-2027 to maintain the sector's resilience and sustainability.

*Source: <https://www.co-operative.coop>*

**IYC 2025 Launch for Asia-Pacific Region and Japan**

**LAUNCH OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF COOPERATIVES 2025 IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION AND JAPAN**

*Co-op Development ... Japan, Global*

The International Cooperative Alliance Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP) officially launched the International Year of Cooperatives (IYC) 2025 on February 19 at the United Nations University in Tokyo. Co-hosted with the IYC2025 Japan Committee and the International Labour Organization (ILO) Office for Japan, the event brought together 700 delegates, both in-person and online, to emphasize the role of cooperatives in fostering sustainable development. The launch featured addresses from key cooperative leaders, including ICA President Dr. Ariel Guarco and ICA-AP President Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav.

Dr. Guarco highlighted the importance of cross-border collaboration to strengthen the cooperative movement, emphasizing solidarity, inclusivity, and peace as essential values. Dr. Yadav urged cooperatives to work with governments and relevant ministries to establish national coordination committees for IYC-2025. He outlined key priorities, such as promoting cooperative identity, empowering women, engaging youth, and advocating for supportive policies. Both leaders underscored cooperatives' contributions to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by fostering economic inclusivity and addressing social challenges.

The event featured discussions on cooperative-driven solutions to global issues such as climate change, economic inequality, and digital transformation. Government officials, including Japan's Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Keiichiro Tachibana and Diet Members Caucus Chairperson Hiroshi Moriyama, reaffirmed Japan's commitment to cooperative growth. Experts like ILO's Simel Esim and Shinichi Takasaki stressed the need for greater collaboration between cooperatives, governments, and international organizations to maximize their impact on economic and social equity.

A highlight of the event was the presentation of IYC2025 Activity Plans from different countries, youth-led discussions, and short films showcasing successful cooperative models. The conference concluded with a Call for Action from Mr. Masahiro Higa, Secretary General of the IYC2025 Japan Committee, urging sustained efforts in cooperative development. As IYC2025 unfolds, global cooperative leaders will continue advocating for an inclusive, cooperative-driven economy that prioritizes social well-being and long-term sustainability.

*Source: <https://www.thenews.coop>*

*Thank you for reading!*

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