



MAPIGO



International Year
of Cooperatives
Cooperatives Build a Better World

THE PULSE OF COOPERATIVES IN AFRICA AND AROUND THE WORLD



How Kenya's New Cooperative Bill will Shape the Sector

Co-op. Legal Environment... Kenya, Africa

The **Co-op Bill 2024**, currently under review by the Senate, aims to strengthen Kenya's co-operative sector by improving governance, financial security, and regulatory clarity. It proposes a compensation fund to protect members from losses caused by collapsed SACCOs and aligns co-operative liquidation with the Insolvency Act. Additionally, the Bill clarifies the roles of the National and County Governments in overseeing co-operatives, ensuring a structured regulatory framework that enhances leadership, innovation, and competitiveness within the sector.

A key financial reform in the Bill is the introduction of an inter-cooperative lending facility, allowing co-operatives to borrow from and lend to one another, reducing reliance on costly bank loans. However, strict borrowing limits and approval requirements will be put in place to prevent financial mismanagement. The Bill also addresses regulatory gaps created by devolution by establishing uniform guidelines for County Governments to supervise SACCOs. By modernizing the legal framework, the Bill aims to promote financial stability, strengthen governance, and support the co-operative sector's role in Kenya's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda.

• *Source: <https://co-opnews.com>*

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

Co-op Legal Environment - Kenya

- *How Kenya's New Cooperative Bill will Shape the Sector*

Co-op Development - Rwanda

- *Rwanda Explores Integrating Community Health Workers into Muganga SACCO for Financial Stability*

Co-op Development - Nigeria

- *Central Bank of Nigeria and EDC Partner to Empower Cooperative Societies as Drivers of Economic Development*

Co-op Development - Kenya

- *Innovation, Excellent Services Drive Hazina Sacco's Remarkable Growth*

Co-op Development - Morocco

- *Morocco launches the International Year of Cooperatives 2025*

Co-op Development - Tanzania

- *Cooperative unions offering handsome prices to farmers*

Co-op Financing: New Mexico, USA

- *Northern NM Utility Gets \$231M for Green Hydrogen*

Co-op Development: UK

- *Co-op Group delivers space for women in logistics*



RWANDA EXPLORES INTEGRATING COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS INTO MUGANGA SACCO FOR FINANCIAL STABILITY

Co-ops Development...Rwanda, Africa

The **Rwandan government** is considering integrating 58,567 community health workers (CHWs) into Muganga SACCO to enhance financial security, access to savings, and low-interest loans. Health Minister Dr. Sabin Nsanzimana emphasized that while CHW cooperatives have played a crucial role, they face financial mismanagement concerns, and transitioning into a formal SACCO structure would introduce stronger governance, financial expertise, and early intervention for defaulters. Though not mandatory, those who opt out may miss government support opportunities. Community health workers, like Aloysia Uwimana from Rwamagana District, welcome the move, citing concerns over fund mismanagement in their cooperatives and hoping for greater transparency and professionalism.

Beyond financial management, the initiative aims to strengthen Muganga SACCO by expanding its membership, which currently consists of over 13,000 health professionals, increasing financial transactions and ensuring long-term sustainability. Minister Nsanzimana also stressed the importance of keeping CHWs motivated, given their crucial role in managing diseases such as hypertension and diabetes. Access to low-interest loans for medical expenses, home renovations, and education would significantly improve CHWs' welfare, supporting their financial independence and better living standards while aligning with the government's broader efforts to enhance their role in Rwanda's healthcare system.

Source: <https://www.newtimes.co.rw>

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CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA AND EDC PARTNER TO EMPOWER COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES AS DRIVERS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Co-op Development... Nigeria, Africa

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Staff Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society Limited has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Enterprise Development Centre (EDC) of Pan-Atlantic University and Pro-Serve Integrated Services Limited. The partnership aims to strengthen cooperatives as an economic tool for national development. The MoU, signed at the EDC office in Ajah, Lagos, was witnessed by notable figures including Dr. Olawale Anifowose

Managing Director of GEN Nigeria; Nkechinyere Ofili, President of the CBN Staff Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society Limited; Kenekwukwu Nwankwo, Founder of Pro-Serve Integrated Services Limited; Dr. Nneka Okekearu, Director of EDC; and Pius Obianyor, General Manager of CBN Staff Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society Limited.

The partnership, facilitated by Pro-Serve Integrated Services, aims to demonstrate the potential of cooperatives for national development, with the CBN Cooperative as a pilot. With 12,000 members, the collaboration with EDC will enhance governance, project management, and strategic development. Kenekwukwu Nwankwo highlighted that it would transform the cooperative into a long-term, transparent institution. Dr. Nneka Okekearu emphasized EDC's role in strengthening sustainability and structure, while Nkechinyere Ofili noted that the partnership would help the cooperative adapt for future success through discounted training and leadership development

<https://www.thisdaylive.com>



INNOVATION, EXCELLENT SERVICES DRIVE HAZINA SACCO'S REMARKABLE GROWTH

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

Hazina DT Sacco posted impressive results for 2024, with a 14.8% increase in assets to Ksh 16.87 billion and gross income exceeding Ksh 2 billion. The Sacco diversified investments, generating Ksh 472.6 million, and provided competitive returns to members, including a 17% dividend and 10.85% interest rebate. Membership grew to over 32,000, supported by new offices and digital banking. Hazina also expanded its CSR efforts with donations and infrastructure projects. Focused on innovation and sustainability, the Sacco is on a strong growth trajectory, guided by its 2023-2027 strategic plan.



MOROCCO LAUNCHES THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF COOPERATIVES 2025

Co-op Development... Morocco, Africa

Morocco launched the International Year of Cooperatives 2025 (IYC2025) on February 27 in Rabat, highlighting cooperatives' role in economic resilience, job creation, and inclusive growth. Organized by SEASESS and ODCO, the event gathered 200 participants to discuss strengthening cooperative enterprises and fostering innovation. With over 60,000 cooperatives and 760,000 members, the sector empowers women and youth. Lahcen ESSAADY, Secretary of State in Charge of Handicrafts and the Social and Solidarity Economy, called for greater commitment to cooperative development, while cooperatives issued a Call to Action outlining strategies for sustainable growth and international collaboration.


[Source: https://gazettengr.com](https://gazettengr.com)

[Source: https://thecooperator.news](https://thecooperator.news)



COOPERATIVE UNIONS OFFERING HANDSOME PRICES TO FARMERS

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

 **Cooperative unions** continue to play a pivotal role in improving the livelihoods of farmers by facilitating access to reliable markets where they can sell their produce at favorable prices. In early 2025, the Central Zone Agricultural and Marketing Cooperative Union Limited (CEAMCU LTD) successfully auctioned 128.7 tons of cashews at a price of 3,167/- per kilogram through an organized auction system using the Tanzania Mercantile Exchange Plc (TMX). The event, which took place on January 30, 2025, in Manyoni district, was praised for its digital transformation, which allowed farmers to sell their cashews through AMCOS and benefit from transparent, competitive pricing. Local leaders, including Singida's Assistant Registrar of Cooperatives, Nuria Gulamali, and Itigi District Commissioner Dr. Vincent Mashinji, encouraged farmers to produce high-quality cashews to meet market standards and secure profitable sales.


In addition to the success in cashew sales, the Kanyovu Coffee Curing Cooperative Joint Enterprise Limited (KCCCJE LTD) in Kigoma region also made strides by distributing a second payment to coffee farmers. Worth 144.2 million/- in total, the payment of 250/- per kilogram was made to farmers who participated in the cooperative's joint project. The ceremony, held in Matyazo Village, marked another milestone in supporting local farmers, while also providing essential donations, including food and other supplies, to a daycare center in need. This effort demonstrates the positive impact of cooperative initiatives, which not only improve farmers' financial well-being but also contribute to community welfare.

Source: <https://www.ippmedia.com>



NORTHERN NM UTILITY GETS \$231M FOR GREEN HYDROGEN

Supplier Co-op Financing...USA, Global

 **Kit Carson Electric Cooperative (KCEC)**, the only utility in New Mexico fully powered by solar energy on sunny days, has received a significant \$231 million award from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to advance its green hydrogen projects. This funding will help KCEC generate 104 megawatts of energy, enough to power approximately 25,000 homes. The cooperative, which serves 30,000 households and already operates 42 megawatts of distributed solar resources and 16 megawatts of battery storage, views this as one of the most significant milestones in its history. KCEC plans to power its hydrogen facilities using solar energy, with these facilities located near closed mine wastewater treatment plants, utilizing repurposed wastewater for the project.

This green hydrogen initiative also includes long-duration energy storage, allowing up to 16 hours of storage, ensuring a reliable power supply during challenging conditions. The funding comes from the USDA's Empowering Rural America program through the Rural Utilities Service. Co-op CEO Luis Reyes Jr. highlighted the project's potential to improve power reliability, particularly during emergencies like wildfires or extreme natural disasters, providing lifesaving power to first responders and the community.

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



CO-OP GROUP DELIVERS SPACE FOR WOMEN IN LOGISTICS

Consumer Co-op Development ... UK, Global



The UK's Co-op Group is working to increase opportunities for women in logistics through its Women in Leadership Programme. Traditionally, the logistics sector has been male-dominated, with men making up the majority of the workforce, particularly in depot roles. However, the Group is determined to address this gender gap by developing and advancing female talent in the industry. The programme, which currently includes 17 women from across the country, is led by Clare Wilson, the Group's head of logistics, who has spent her entire career in retail and is passionate about encouraging women to take on leadership roles.

The Women in Leadership Programme is designed to target women already working within logistics, many of whom are team managers or work in the support center for logistics. It is a 17-month Level 3 apprenticeship developed in partnership with Merseyside-based Learning and Development company Raise the Bar. The course involves six hours of training each week, including virtual workshops, webinars, and podcasts. It focuses on three core areas: self-insight, team evolution, and transformative leadership. The programme aims to build on participants' existing skills while addressing challenges like imposter syndrome and confidence issues.

Clare Wilson believes the programme will help female colleagues break through gender stereotypes and develop the confidence and skills needed to lead teams effectively. The response to the programme has been positive, with a high number of applicants and many participants already showing significant progress. Each woman involved is paired with a mentor to further develop workplace skills and behaviours. The programme is set to finish in June 2026, with plans for a graduation ceremony and hopes to extend the programme to more women in the future.

By empowering women and providing tailored support, the Co-op Group aims to increase female representation in leadership positions within logistics. The initiative reflects the Group's commitment to diversity and inclusivity, striving to ensure that women have the same opportunities to succeed as men. As the logistics sector evolves, the Co-op hopes to not only bridge the gender gap but also benefit from the diverse perspectives that women bring to the table.

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

Thank you for reading!

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