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THE PULSE OF COOPERATIVES IN AFRICA AND AROUND THE WORLD









11th Technical Committee of the Africa Ministerial Cooperative Conference

20-22 May 2025 | Essaouria, Morocco

Essaouira hosts the 11th Technical Committee of the African Ministerial Conference on Cooperation (TCAMCCO)

Co-op. Development... Morocco, Africa

From May 20 to 22, 2025, the city of Essaouira hosted the 11th Technical Committee Meeting of the African Ministerial Conference on Cooperation (TCAMCCO), under the theme "Visibility of cooperatives for a better Africa." Organized by Morocco's Secretariat of State for Crafts and the Social and Solidarity Economy and the Office for the Development of Cooperation (ODCO), in partnership with the International Cooperative Alliance - Africa (ACI-Africa), the meeting convened over 300 participants and more than 30 speakers 15 countries. Held during the UN-proclaimed International Year of Cooperatives, the gathering served as a key technical milestone in preparation for the upcoming Africa Ministerial Cooperative Conference (AMCCO) in Kenya.

TCAMCCO functions as the technical backbone of AMCCO, helping shape and monitor continental cooperative policy. In her remarks, Ms. Aicha Errifaai, Director General of ODCO, emphasized Morocco's rapidly growing cooperative sector now counting nearly 61,000 cooperatives and over 764,000 members—as a model for inclusive development. She described the Essaouira meeting as a strategic opportunity to bolster South-South cooperation and harmonize Africa's collective vision for the cooperative movement. The outcomes of this technical session will inform ministerial decisions later this year, reinforcing the role of cooperatives as drivers of social equity and sustainable development across the continent.

Source: https://www.odco.gov.ma

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

Co-op Development - Morocco

• Essaouira hosts the 11th Technical Committee of the African Ministerial Conference on Cooperation

Co-op Development - Senegal

• Senegal and Africa Food Systems Forum Launch 2025 Summit with Youth Focus

Co-op Impact - Ethiopia

 Co-operatives help to balance the imbalance in trade

Co-op Development - Nigeria

Stakeholders push for cooperatives to tackle affordable housing in Nigeria

Co-op Legal Environment - Kenya

 Kenyan Government Launches New SACCO Reforms, Makes Leadership Overhaul at KUSCCO

Co-op Financing & Dev. - Tanzania

• Tanzania launches national co-op bank to 'transform financial landscape'

Co-op Development: USA

• WOCCU Calls on G20 to Recognize Cooperatives as 'Essential Institutions'

Co-op Development: Chile

• FAO Champions Cooperatives for Regional Growth and Development



SENEGAL AND AFRICA FOOD SYSTEMS FORUM LAUNCH 2025 SUMMIT WITH YOUTH FOCUS

Co-op. Development...Senegal, Africa

Senegal officially launched its flagship Community Agricultural Cooperative (CAC) programme during the Africa Food Systems Forum 2025 launch event at the Grand Théâtre de Dakar, marking a significant step in community-driven vouth-led. agricultural transformation. Spearheaded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Livestock, the CAC aims to fortify local agricultural ecosystems through scalable cooperative models that prioritize food sovereignty, inclusive innovation, and sustainable growth. The launch was co-chaired by H.E. Ousmane Sonko, Prime Minister of Senegal, and H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn, Chair of the Forum and former Ethiopian Prime Minister, who jointly emphasized Africa's capacity to design its own solutions for food systems resilience.

The 2025 Forum, themed "Africa's Youth: Leading Collaboration, Innovation, and Implementation of Africa's Food Systems Transformation," will take place from 29 August to 5 September in Dakar, drawing over 6,000 stakeholders. Youth featured prominently at the launch, with a young Senegalese innovator presenting the Vision 2050 agenda and moderating a high-level dialogue with ministers on agri-food investments. Dr. Mabouba Diagne, Senegal's Minister of Agriculture, affirmed that the CAC initiative reflects a broader ambition to achieve food sovereignty, underpinned by the leadership of Senegal's vibrant youth, agripreneurs, and digital pioneers.

The launch event also included a high-level panel discussion on mobilising domestic investment to accelerate food sovereignty, reinforcing Senegal's commitment to becoming a continental catalyst for agricultural reform. The Africa Food Systems Forum, now in its 15th year, has consistently driven policy shifts and unlocked major investments in African agriculture. As Dakar prepares to host the 2025 summit, the Forum's Managing Director, Mr. Amath Pathe Sene, called on all stakeholders to support the creativity and ambition of Africa's youth, who are actively shaping the continent's future food systems.

Source: https://allafrica.com





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AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN NIGERIA

Co-op. Development...Nigeria, Africa

At the 2025 Cooperative Housing Conference (CHC2025) in Abuja, stakeholders reaffirmed the cooperative society system as a critical solution to Nigeria's housing deficit. With the theme "Delivering Affordable Housing Cooperatives" and a sub-theme focused on the "Digitalisation of Cooperative Housing Finance", underscored the transformative event potential of cooperatives in mobilizing resources, promoting entrepreneurship, and improving livelihoods. Senator Aliyu Abdullahi, Minister of for Agriculture and Food emphasized that the Federal Ministry, through its Cooperative Department, is committed to creating enabling environment for cooperative development, especially in housing. He urged stakeholders to work collaboratively toward practical solutions that scale affordable housing through cooperatives.

Other voices echoed this vision, including Bola Ajomale of the Securities Exchange Commission stressed importance who the transparency, urging cooperatives to align with capital market structures to enhance investor confidence and public trust. Akintoye Adeoye of the Real Estate Developers Association of Nigeria and Dr. Saheed Adelakun of the Nigeria Integrated Social Housing Cooperative highlighted the cooperative model as the most affordable pathway homeownership and broader economic development. Adelakun called for the creation of digital platforms and a Cooperative Housing Fund (CHF) to streamline savings, loans, and payments, positioning cooperatives as powerful vehicles for delivering decent housing and fostering national development.

Source: https://newsdiaryonline.com



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

On May 21, 2025, Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Cooperatives and MSMEs Development, Wycliffe Oparanya, announced the formation of a new transition board for the Kenya Union of Savings Credit Cooperatives (KUSSCO) inaugurated a five-member Committee of Experts to review the SACCO Societies Act of 2008. The committee will examine the Act and current SACCO regulations, aiming to align them with modern cooperative needs and Cabinet-approved policies. These reforms include the proposed establishment of a Central Liquidity Facility and a Deposit Guarantee Fund—measures designed to enhance financial stability and protect members' savings. In the interim, registration of new SACCOs has been suspended for three months while the committee undertakes its work.

The newly constituted KUSSCO board, serving a two-year term, is tasked with restructuring the improve to governance, mismanaged assets, and facilitate its transition into a National Cooperative Federation. These developments come on the heels of serious concerns raised by the Ministry of Cooperatives, which recently uncovered mismanagement within SACCOs, including inflated dividend declarations. Commissioner David K. K. Obonyo emphasized that reforms will enforce greater accountability and ensure SACCOs focus on their core mandates—mobilizing savings and providing loans. Oparanya praised the new teams, expressing confidence in their leadership to implement sweeping reforms to safeguard and strengthen Kenya's cooperative movement

Source: https://www.kenyans.co.ke



TRADE Co-op. Impact... Ethiopia, Africa Ethiopia's highland tropical climate and volcanic soils create the perfect conditions for coffee cultivation. Smallholder farmers, who typically grow coffee on just a few hectares of intercropped land, benefit from the country's natural diversity, which gives rise to distinct coffee flavour profiles. Many of these farmers are members of cooperatives like the Oromia Coffee Farmers' Cooperative Union (OCFCU) and the Yirgacheffe Coffee Farmers' Cooperative Union (YCFCU). Cooperative membership is critical in helping them navigate market demands, secure fair prices, and access tools and training to improve production and sustainability.

receive the Fairtrade These cooperatives also Premium—additional funds paid on top of market prices—which supports both business community development. In 2023 alone, Fairtradecertified cooperatives in Ethiopia earned over €1.6 million in Premium, which was used to fund projects like classroom construction, water improvement, and training in sustainable farming methods. For example, the Choche Guda cooperative, under OCFCU, implemented multiple community projects with its Premium income. Similarly, the YCFCU focused on improving quality and productivity through organic practices and better waste management.

As 2025 marks the International Year of Cooperatives, the theme "Co-operatives Build a Better World" highlights the growing importance of the cooperative model. With the support of Fairtrade and the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), cooperatives are seen as key to addressing global challenges like trade inequality, climate impacts, and rural poverty. They foster collective entrepreneurship, provide access to finance, and help members comply with international standards. More importantly, they ensure that smallholder farmers have a voice and a fair stake in the global economy.

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



TANZANIA LAUNCHES NATIONAL CO-OP BANK TO 'TRANSFORM FINANCIAL LANDSCAPE'

Co-op. Financing & Development... Tanzania, Africa

Tanzania has officially launched the Cooperative Bank of Tanzania (Coop Bank Tanzania), marking a major step toward enhancing financial inclusion and supporting the country's agricultural sector. President Samia Suluhu Hassan led the inauguration, emphasizing her administration's commitment to addressing the financial needs of farmers and underserved populations. The bank, which began operations in October after receiving its transitional licence in July, starts with four branches in Dodoma, Mtwara, Kilimanjaro, and Tabora.

With a starting capital of TZS 55 billion, Coop Bank Tanzania is the first in the country to be majority-owned (51%) by cooperatives and their members, reinforcing its community-first mission. The bank aims to provide affordable loans, safe savings options, and financial literacy programmes. Its mission is to transform the financial landscape by prioritizing social welfare, particularly for cooperatives, entrepreneurs, and unbanked citizens. Plans for expansion include new branches in Kagera, Mbeya, Mwanza, Dar es Salaam, and Katavi.



The bank's launch coincided with a national forum aimed at strengthening Tanzania's cooperative movement. The event attracted around 3,000 stakeholders, including policymakers, private sector players, cooperative members, development partners, and investors. Together, they explored strategies to reinforce cooperative governance, improve service delivery, and unlock investment potential within the sector.

https://www.thenews.coop



WOCCU CALLS ON G20 TO RECOGNIZE COOPERATIVES AS 'ESSENTIAL INSTITUTIONS'



Co-op Development... USA, Global

This week, the World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU) issued a formal appeal to South Africa's G20 Presidency, urging the inclusion of cooperatives as central institutions in the global financial inclusion agenda. In a letter addressed to President Cyril Ramaphosa, WOCCU Vice President of International Advocacy, Paul Andrews, emphasized the need for cooperative-friendly regulatory frameworks that both protect consumers and enable credit unions to expand their outreach. Andrews provided a suggested statement for inclusion in the 2025 G20 Leaders' Declaration, calling for the G20 to recognize the role of cooperatives in building equitable and sustainable financial systems.

Andrews noted that support from the G20 particularly through the influential Leaders' Declaration—could significantly enhance international regulatory guidelines in favor of financial cooperatives. He highlighted the potential impact of such recognition during the United Nations' International Year of Cooperatives, stressing that it would not only reinforce global financial inclusion efforts but also promote the values of unity and equity. WOCCU's push follows successful advocacy during previous G20 summits: Brazil's 2024 presidency acknowledged the role of financial inclusion in reducing inequality through digital technologies, while India's 2023 summit endorsed regulatory proportionality through sustainability disclosure standards.

Source: https://www.woccu.org



FAO CHAMPIONS COOPERATIVES FOR REGIONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT



Co-op Development...Chile, Global

As part of the 2025 International Year of Cooperatives, stakeholders from Latin America and the Caribbean met to discuss how cooperatives can transform agrifood systems. Organized by FAO, Cooperatives of the Americas, and Chile's INAC, the event highlighted cooperatives' role in improving access to markets, and technology for finance, small-scale producers. Speakers emphasized gender inclusion, innovation, and stronger public policies to boost cooperative impact. FAO's Máximo Torero stressed that cooperatives can help ensure more equitable food distribution while improving competitiveness and sustainability.

Participants reaffirmed support for the Model Cooperative Law and called for better infrastructure, updated regulations, and more technical and financial assistance. They also emphasized the need to involve family farmers, women, and youth in decision-making processes. A regional mapping exercise revealed over 14,700 agrifood cooperatives with 3.6 million members, demonstrating their central role in rural development, job creation, and food security across the region.

Source: https://www.fao.org

Thank you for reading!

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