

## How co-operative enterprises achieve SDG 2



A future without hunger will require an agriculture system that feeds the world in a sustainable way while building strong rural communities, as outlined in Sustainable Development Goal 2.

Co-operative enterprises, which represent 32 percent of the global market share in the agriculture sector, are a vital partner for achieving SDG 2, and are committed to ensuring a more sustainable food system.

### What co-operative enterprises contribute

The co-operative model allows individual producers to meet their economic and social needs by pooling their resources, expertise, and influence in a people-focused and values-based business. The members of the co-operative are the owners of the business. All co-operatives are founded upon principles of voluntary and open membership, democratic member control, and concern for community.

Thanks to their co-operatives, small-scale farmers and producers can overcome the many challenges they face as individuals through the power of the collective. They can benefit from group purchasing and marketing, lowering costs and giving them access to higher quality inputs. They can aggregate their supplies, allowing them to negotiate better prices, strengthen their positions in the value chain, and facilitate their access to competitive markets. They improve their access to infrastructure, transport, information about market trends, and training. They increase their capacities as leaders and decision makers through their co-operatives' democratic decision-making structure. They secure their own livelihoods and inject wealth into their communities.

## Co-ops for 2030: Putting SDG 2 in action

Co-operatives around the world have committed to achieving SDG 2 by making pledges through **Co-ops for 2030** ([www.coopsfor2030.coop](http://www.coopsfor2030.coop)), a platform for co-operatives to learn about the SDGs, make pledges to achieve them, and report their progress. This is just a sampling how co-operatives are contributing to SDG 2.

### **Maldives Fisherman Association**

We pledge to educate and certify 30% of Maldivian fishing skippers by the end of 2020 for the sustainable development of the industry.

### **Indian Farmers Fertiliser Co-operative Limited (IFFCO)**

We pledge to educate the farming community and to transfer modern, scientific farming technology to improve their quality of life.

### **Young Farmers League Co-operative Society**

We commit to increase the profit margins of smallholder farmers in Ghana to 80% by minimising the activities of middlemen along the distribution channel and linking producers to shoppers through Akuafo Market, the first-ever online farmers market.

## How co-operatives can do more

In order for co-operative enterprises to continue contributing to SDG 2, they need **an enabling legal, economic and social environment** in which to thrive.

Local institutions, national governments and international organisations can help by providing regional, national and local policies and regulations that facilitate the establishment and development of co-operative enterprises, and respect the unique values-oriented co-operative identity. They can include co-operatives in their national implementation plans for the SDGs.

## About the Alliance

The International Co-operative Alliance is an independent, non-governmental organisation established in 1895 to unite, represent, and serve co-operatives worldwide. The Alliance provides a global voice and forum for knowledge, expertise and coordinated action for and about co-operatives. The members of the Alliance are international and national co-operative organisations from all sectors of the economy. The Alliance has members from over 100 countries, representing close to one billion individuals worldwide. The Alliance also has eight sector organisations, representing co-operatives in agriculture, health, housing, retail, industry and services, insurance, banking and fisheries.

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