



**Principle Issues and Concern Identified Key
Strategies of the Cooperative League of Thailand for
Agricultural Cooperative Development**

**Thailand
Country Statement**
presented in

**ICA Regional Consultation
at
Grand Plaza Park Royal Hotel, Singapore
6-10 July 1999**

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Principle Issues and Concern Identified Key Strategies of the Cooperative League of Thailand for Agricultural Cooperative Development

Mission 1 : Sustainable Agricultural Development and Household Food Security

Population growth, poverty, deforestation, environmental degradation, climatic changes and disease affect national and global food security. And it has now become an important issues in the International community.

In Thailand, the Cooperative League of Thailand, cooperative movement and Government agencies concerned are recognized to come up with action plan to proceed with appropriate amendments to exist Laws, Policies and Regulations affecting agricultural cooperatives administration and management as following strategies;

Strategies

In case of Thailand, food security is stable food availability at household level

1. Strengthening vegetable production based chemical-free such as cabbage, potato, onions and other daily consumption fresh vegetables
2. Conducting training programs, emphasis on safe and judicious use of insecticide and pesticide
3. To jointly campaign with cooperatives in decreasing use of chemical in agricultural production

Mission 2 : Agricultural/Rural Finance and Credit in support of Agricultural Cooperative Development

Strategies

1. Cooperative financial promotion on credit for farmers through cooperative system
2. Amendments of the BAAC's Credit Legislative facilitated to farmers as cooperative systematically
3. Increasing operation cost and shares of BAAC from Government and agricultural type of cooperatives
4. Establishment of Cooperative Development Bank, the feasibility study has been conducted consequently.

Mission 3 : Agricultural Marketing/Trade related Policies Issues including WTO-new Round of Negotiations in relation to Agricultural Cooperatives

To identify potential exchanges and strategies alliance on marketing and trade and involvement, technology transfer, joint project and to commission a study on expanding trade among member cooperatives

Strategies

1. Promote cooperatives participation in marketing on basis of efficiency and quality of cooperative standard products
2. To ensure collaboration of marketing arm and marketing partnership in international level
3. Establishment of trade networking cooperation by advocating connecting of trade among cooperatives both at national and international levels in term of future trade market, tender market, whole market and retail market
4. Strengthening environmental and natural protection on agricultural production
5. Set up cooperative standard products
6. Promote cooperative Barter Trade Negotiation between cooperatives

Mission 4 : Creating and Enabling Environment for Agricultural Cooperatives Development Legislative and Institutional Reform

Strategies

The advancement of legislative and cooperative policy reform shift up from Break Out Session of ICA Sub-Regional Workshop which was conducted during 23 - 26 February 1999 at Prince Palace Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand. There are;

1. The principles of autonomy and independence and concern for community has been put in the present Cooperative Society Act and it also has been put into practice as well.
2. There is only one general law in Thailand for governing cooperative movement. That is Cooperative Society Act.
3. It is stated clearly in the present Thai Constitution that the Government have to promote, support and protect "Cooperative System" including monitoring and evaluation, through the improvement of inspection system on cooperative business and financing and it is stated in Cooperative Society Act that the Government has to assist, supervise and train for the development of cooperative in the country down from District level to Provincial and National level.
4. Membership of cooperative in role of secondary and apex organization, it is proclaimed in the promulgation of the Cooperative Society Act that all type of cooperative in the country have to be registered as membership of the Cooperative League of Thailand. And primary cooperative in each province can adhere together and request for the registration of Provincial Federation and National Federation level. The Government agencies which have to assist for the development of cooperatives are as following :
 - The Cooperative Promotion Department
 - The Cooperative Auditing Department
 - The Department of Local Administration
 - The Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural CooperativeThe regulatory tasks of those offices concerned are to provide supervision and training to the cooperatives
5. The cooperatives in Thailand are recognizes as private sector since it was established and registered as "Cooperative Ltd." Hence its functions are not official of which stated clearly in the present Cooperative Society Act

6. The affirmative action to increase women participation in leadership and decision-making, It has been stated clearly in Thai Constitution and the Cooperative Society Act that women can be membership of cooperative and if their performances were accepted, they can be voted and elected as board of director as well as to be selected as chairman of the cooperative.
7. Norms and standards to assess “cooperative basis”
It is stated in the present Cooperative Society Act. However, it depends on type of each cooperative. The norm and standards of cooperatives in Thailand are, of course, different from company limited.
8. Minimum number of members to organize a cooperative, given the different types of cooperatives.
It is stated clearly in the present Cooperative Society Act that the minimum number of members to organize a cooperative are 10 members (applied for all type of cooperative). At present, the cooperatives in Thailand are officially categorized into six types namely :
 - 1) Agricultural Cooperative
 - 2) Land Settlement Cooperative
 - 3) Fisheries Cooperative
 - 4) Consumer Cooperative
 - 5) Thrift and Credit Cooperative
 - 6) Service Cooperative
9. Taxation, double taxation, tax exemption
It is stated clearly in the present Cooperative Society Act as well as in the Revenue Act. The individual member and cooperative have to pay their income tax.
10. Cooperative access to outside capital, it is stated clearly in the present Cooperative Society Act that all cooperatives can access to outside capital. However, for the members of cooperative, the members of cooperatives can access loan from their respective cooperative. But non-members can not access to loan from the cooperative.
11. Politicization of cooperative, it is stated in the present Cooperative Society Act that cooperative can not involve in any political concern.
12. The mechanism/steps which the Cooperative League of Thailand has suggested to develop and/or maintain positive collaboration between the Government and the cooperative sector in the spirit of partnership. The appropriate mechanism/steps for Thailand case can be suggested as stated underneath :
 - Improvement of cooperatives’ capacity to be accepted by public and Government
 - Establishing close relation with the Government
 - Push and insist the Government to allow cooperatives to participate in the establishment of Constitution and present Cooperative Society Act as well as set up of the National Cooperative Development Board (NCDB).
 - Approval of NCDB, Board of Director comprised of representative from Government and cooperative movement from National Federation and the Cooperative League of Thailand
 - Establishment of the National Cooperative Development Plan (NCDP).

Mission 5 : Capacity Building of Human Resource Development and Training for Agricultural Cooperative Development

The Cooperative League of Thailand has brought in its wake new opportunities which await exploitation. We need to explore new policies option and take new initiative in the in the tasks of manpower development including training which is to provide new understanding of cooperative values and ethos and to impart and indicate new skill and knowledge to equip the staff of cooperative at all level to face new challenges by adopting aim at development of an enlightened dynamic with responsive its membership at all level of agricultural cooperatives. We recognize that the training input being more important in total strategies for growth and development.

Human resource development has been a matter of concern to agricultural cooperatives in Thailand. The Cooperative League of Thailand has deal with Government agencies concerned with this subject in various ramification for agricultural cooperatives training at various programs, seminar and workshop. The following component of HR. strategies in agricultural cooperatives come up into prominence.

Strategies

1. The Cooperative League of Thailand will responsible to train and develop cooperative employees and board members
2. Cooperative would responsible to train its members
3. Government provide subsidies supported activities of the Cooperative League of Thailand
4. Cooperate with Government and private educational institutes both short and long period
5. The Cooperative League of Thailand would responsible to develop and improve employees and board members training in cooperative to make available professional competent managerial with appropriate knowledge, skill and ability to new cooperative training system
6. Strengthening on recruitment of high competent cooperative managers
7. Promoting goodwill in cooperative amalgamation theme
8. Provide new understanding of cooperative values and ethos through educational both formal and informal system
9. Conducting training programme, emphasis on collecting of ago-processing production and agricultural production marketing