

# A Studies Of Farmer Collective Action For The Agriculture Cooperatives

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**Abstract-** We have to studies of a cooperative is “an independent association of women and men, united voluntarily to meet their common, social, cultural, needs and aspirations through a jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise,” use for analysing the nature of the agriculture phenomena.

**01. Introduction-**An agricultural cooperative is a formal form of farmer collective action for the marketing and processing of farm products and for the purchase the production of farmer inputs.

They aim to increase members production and incomes by helping better link them with finance, agricultural inputs, information and output markets.

Specialisation may be in production service provision, production or marketing or offer all, or some combination of support within various stages.

Collective action is the core resource of agricultural cooperatives. The limitation of these theoretical agriculture proportions to analyse the individual agriculture phenomenon emanate from the assumptions which from the basis of these proportion.

Cooperatives creates social relations that enable individuals to achieve goals that they may not otherwise be able to achieve by themselves. For example cooperatives can help farmers benefits from economies of scale to lower their costs of acquiring input or hiring services such as storage and transport.

Agricultural cooperatives also enables farmers to improve product and service quality and reduce risks. They may also empower their members economically and socially by involving them in decision-making processes that create additional rural employment opportunities, or enable them to become more resilient to economic and environmental shocks.

**02. Contribution to Sustainable Intensification-** Farming and joining cooperatives can help small holder farmer increase their access and improve their negotiating power with respect to acquiring a wide range of service including; knowledge and extension services; productive assets such as seeds and tools; and marketing information and skills to capture greater value from the skill of their products.

They can also improve empowerment facilitating small holder participating decision-making processes, support them in securing land - use rights and negotiate better terms for engagement in value chains or contract farming. The challenge remains to scale up successful projects. It may be necessary for farmers to develop alternative institutional and management structure and learn from the experience of successful smallholder farmer organisations. This may ensure that the benefits of cooperation materialise on the wide scale.

### **03. Benefits and limitation—**

There are five types of benefits and limitation:

- (i) Mixed Performance
- (ii) Yields and Incomes
- (iii) The Benefits of Participation
- (iv) Inclusiveness
- (v) Sustainability

**(i) Mixed Performance-** The ability of agricultural cooperatives to improve the welfare of small holder farmers in Africa is mixed and contextual. Some cooperatives have not performed well as the result of poor governance structures, multiple and competing goals, but also problems that arise from insufficient trust between members. In some cases, top- down approaches where cooperatives have been established by external agents, rather than farmers themselves, have produced unfavourable results. Elements for successful agriculture cooperatives include: appropriate legal frameworks and governance aligned with national policies; support for business development, business skills and governance capacity; access to markets and trading links, especially for competing in international markets, and the need for improved understanding of the dual nature of cooperatives as business and civil society.

**(ii) Yields and Incomes-** Farmers who are effectively organized can form a collective voice to advocate for their needs and access services at more affordable prices that can help them increase their Yields, sales and profits. Producer organization can achieve competitiveness for small-

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holder farmers. For example, Farmers in Ethiopia who are members of cooperatives tend to achieve higher Yields and staple crops that are marketed through cooperatives attain a price premium 7-8%. The Zano Ranambo cooperative in the Manico Province of Mozambique reported doubling the value of their sales compared to previous attempts at individual-sales.

**(iii) The Benefits of Participation-** Farmers in cooperatives have more bargaining power, lower transaction costs in getting loans, and better access to information. Farmers have more individual power and control over production, including inputs and land use, than they do through contract farming and therefore may be more food secure within a cooperative. Since cooperatives are based on values of democracy, equality and equity, they can play a particularly strong role in empowering women, especially in developing countries. Cooperatives also provide farmers with training on production and post-harvest handling, as well as education in literacy, business or marketing that can build their human capital.

**(iv) Inclusiveness-** Whilst cooperatives are meant to be inclusive, they may at times be exclusionary; in particular women can be excluded and lost out on opportunities to access credit or benefits from training and extension services. Other marginal groups such as widows, HIV-AIDS affected householders or ethnic minorities are also under represented in cooperatives. For example, In Nigeria widows constitute just 6.7% of cooperative members.

**(v) Sustainability-** Cooperatives may face problems if they are created by external actors as part of a public investment strategy or a rural development programme, rather than by farmers themselves. A top-down approach may limit the formation of social capital reducing the various potential benefits and threatening sustainability.

**04.** Corruption is also a common problem and threatens sustainability. Corruption includes bribery (the act of giving money or goods in exchange for favour) and embezzlement (stealing assets) in many countries, corrupt public administrations can be a heavy burden on small organizations. Corruption in the justice system means that ways to seek and equal footing can be closed off. Embracing transparency will help cooperatives maintain trust within their communities and will help them avoid corruption.

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