

7 COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

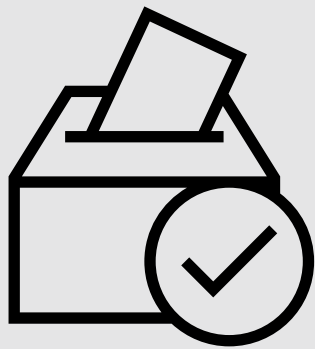
Member owned. Member driven.



1

OPEN MEMBERSHIP

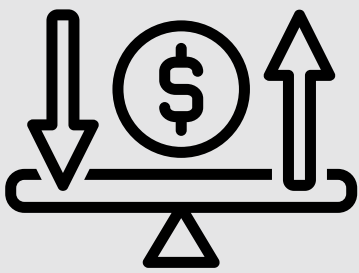
Membership in a cooperative is open to all persons who can reasonably use its services and stand willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, regardless of race, religion, gender, or economic circumstances.



2

DEMOCRATIC CONTROL

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Trustees are accountable to the membership.



3

ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative.



4

AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

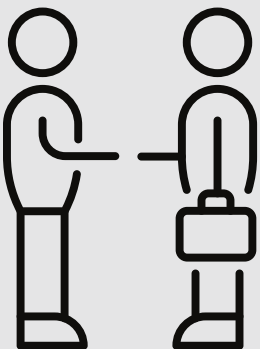
Cooperatives are autonomous, self-governed and controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control as well as their unique identity.



5

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

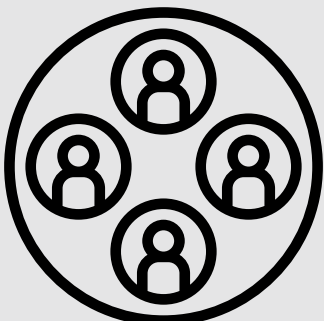
Education and training for members, trustees, and employees help effectively contribute to the development of the cooperative. Communications about cooperatives, with the public and opinion leaders, helps boost cooperative understanding.



6

COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

By working together through local, national, regional, and international structures, cooperatives improve services, bolster local economies, and deal more effectively with social and community needs.



7

CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies supported by the membership.