

ROLE OF COOPERATIVES IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD SECURITY IN AFRICA

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Introduction

- ▶ Characteristics of agricultural co-operatives in 1970s and 1980s :
 - ❑ declining agricultural output per capita.
 - ❑ membership fell drastically.
- ▶ No African country has achieved a sustained and large scale increase in staple crop yields
- ▶ Agricultural cooperatives is to help farmers increase their yields and incomes by pooling their resources to support collective service provisions and economic empowerment



Cont.....

- ▶ Categories include:
 - ❖ Supply agricultural
 - ❖ Joint production agriculture
 - ❖ Agricultural marketing



▶ Agricultural cooperatives facilitate members access to:

- Natural resources such as land and water
- Information, knowledge and extension services.
- Markets, food, and productive assets such as seeds and tools.
- Policy and decision making
- Agricultural cooperatives help farmers solve a collective action problem
- Co-operatives are used by the government and NGOs to extend training and other capacity building initiatives.



Best practices

- ▶ **Agricultural co-operatives in Ethiopia**

In Ethiopia Agriculture accounts for 84 percent of Ethiopia's labor force, and because of the country's fertile land, available water resources and large labor pool, agriculture holds significant potential to improve incomes and food security, especially in rural areas. Ethiopia cannot realize its potential if it does not more fully engage women in agricultural development activities and decision making.



Cont...

- **Agriculture in Morocco**

- The IFAD programme in Morocco which targets women and youths into agriculture has created more than 20,000 jobs enabling the groups to become more integrated into the communities. Young farmers have become role models in contributing to the wealth and stability and making the place where agricultural business can thrive.

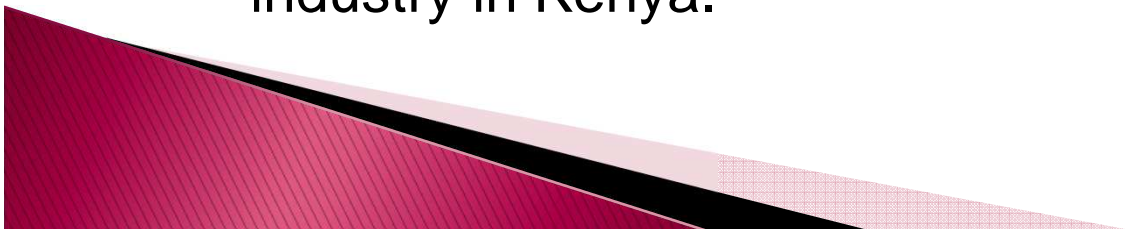
- **Catfish and vegetables transform life for vulnerable youth in Nigeria**

In the Niger Delta, an area better known best for violence than farming, IFAD targets disadvantaged youth through the Community-Based Natural Resource Management Programme. By providing financial and technical resources, the programme has helped youth turn catfish and vegetable farms into vibrant, profitable businesses. At the same time, it has enhanced community cohesion, reduced violence and increased access to nutritious food




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- ▶ **Agricultural cooperatives transform lives in Kenya**
 - Currently the cooperative has grown tremendously to 17,000 registered members, annual turnover of Ksh 3 billion and an average of 170,000 litres of milk per day. This growth has emanated from a proactive response to be successful in pursuit of significant growth in a rapidly changing economic, social and political environment. In July 2004 the society commissioned its own milk processing plant and was able to access wide market through value addition and wide range of dairy products. The investment resulted from members contributing Kshs 1 for every kg of milk sold. Today Fresha has revolutionalized the Dairy industry in Kenya.



Challenges

- ▶ poor management,
 - ▶ lack of capital resources,
 - ▶ inadequate training, extension and education programmes,
 - ▶ lack of communication and participation among members, feudalistic Characteristics of society,
 - ▶ unclear and inadequate government policies on the development of agricultural cooperatives,
 - ▶ high fragmentation of land holdings, and weak linkages among the activities of the cooperatives e.g., production, credit, marketing etc.
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THANK YOU