



Co-operative Partnerships and Poverty Reduction

UN-DESA Workshop on *Co-operatives & Poverty*

17 Oct 2001, New York

Christopher Johnston,

Canadian Co-operative Association



GLOBAL POVERTY-Progress

- Life expectancy: 46 to 63 years
- Infant mortality: 150 to <60 per 1,000 births
- Access to drinking water: 41 to 70% ('75-'96)
- Adult literacy: increased by 50% ('80-2000)
- Birth rates: 6 per woman to 3.6 per woman
- Per capita GDP: \$330 to \$835 ('60s to '93)

GLOBAL POVERTY-Regress

- People in poverty: 1.2 to 1.5 billion ('87-2000)
- Rich-poor gap widening
- Private & public debt now \$200 billion
- Low/uneven investment, access to capital
- Vulnerability: natural disaster, drought, hunger, disease (HIV/AIDS), etc.

*Poverty is pronounced deprivation in well-being...
To be poor is to be hungry, to lack shelter and
clothing, to be sick and not cared for, to be
illiterate and not schooled. But for poor people,
living in poverty is more than this. Poor people are
particularly vulnerable to adverse events outside
their control. They are often treated badly by the
institutions of state and society and excluded from
voice and power in those institutions.*

-World Bank



CO-OPERATIVES, DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION

- Role and potential of co-operatives is strong
- Co-ops: economic and social institutions
- Co-operatives versus co-operative
development

DO CO-OPS REDUCE POVERTY?

- Poverty: the historical impetus for co-operatives
- Maturity of co-operatives.....detachment?
- Many current examples of innovation
- Outreach: a cost, or a necessity?

A SPACE AND TIME FOR CO-OP DEVELOPMENT

- Co-operatives in the development community: now is as good a time as any!
- A new economic, social and political space for co-operative development
- The co-op “life cycle”



THE RIGHT CO-OP FOR THE RIGHT CONDITIONS

- The co-operative development model: not universal, must be carefully adapted
 - regions, subregions
 - sectors
 - levels: primary, secondary, apex
 - non co-op settings
- A driving force: co-operative development agencies operate internationally

CO-OPERATIVE PRINCIPLES vs CO-OPERATIVE *PRACTICE*

- The importance of core values and principles (ICA)
- But...for poverty reduction, local results should be the priority
- Living up to the ideal versus “delivering the goods”

NORTH-SOUTH & SOUTH-SOUTH PARTNERSHIPS

- **There is a role for “rich” countries**
- **South-South partnerships, shared learning**
- **Partnerships to leverage development resources**
- **Building the international co-operative movement**



Canadian Co-operative Association:

- National apex assoc'n
- Multi-sectoral
- 7 million memberships
- 3,000 organizations
- Over \$15.9 billion in assets
- 39,000 jobs
- Over 25 years working in international develop't



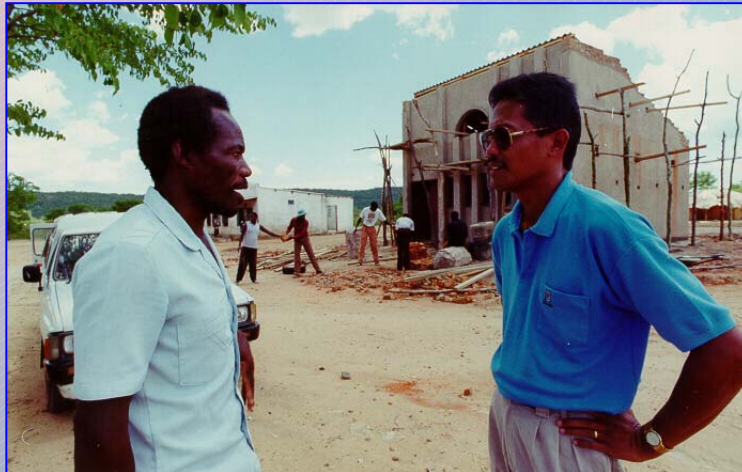
Supporting the growth and development of co-operatives in Canada & internationally



Americas



Africa



Asia



Arctic Canada



New areas: Co-ops and disaster relief





Thank You from...

The Canadian Co-operative Association

400-275 Bank St., Ottawa

Ontario, Canada K2P 2L6

Tel: (613) 238-6711

Fax: (613) 567-0658

info@coopcca.com

<http://www.coopcca.com>

