

AAACO Webinar

TOPIC: Identified agricultural best practices to sustain livelihoods through Agricultural Cooperatives in Africa: Cases and lessons learnt during the Covid-19

BACKGROUND

Cooperatives are an important vehicle of delivering social and economic Cooperatives consider themselves as being one actor among others in development, and are therefore seeing complementarities which will positively affect the work of all development actors and provide synergies inside and outside the cooperative reality.

The International Cooperative Alliance-Africa, through its agriculture sectoral organization known as the Alliance Africa Agriculture Cooperative Organization ‘AAACO’ aims at improving the lives of farmers and promoting the success of Agricultural Cooperatives in Africa. With the mission to promote innovations in sustainable agriculture, value addition, capacity development, knowledge sharing, access to finance, market access, data for decision making, training and information services as well a coop to coop trade; and vision of an Africa where livelihoods of agricultural cooperative members are improved through sustainable innovative agricultural practices and cooperation, AAACO gathers Agricoops to think and act towards their sustainability.

AGRICULTURE IN AFRICA

During the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) expert meeting on ‘How to feed the world in 2050’ it was stated that¹ neither population growth nor climate change will present insurmountable challenges to agricultural development in Africa, if Africa seizes the opportunities it now has. And both provide opportunities.¹

With over 60% of its population involved in Agriculture and though African Agriculture is said to present a number of opportunities, the African Development Review of 2017 presents numerous challenges to Agricultural development among which technological innovation, land reforms, irrigation, climate change, trade, value chains and gender gap in resources access. These² are key issues as they shape agricultural productivity as well as the inclusiveness and sustainability of Africa's agricultural transformation. One of the major challenges of Agriculture in Africa is the use of rudimentary agriculture practices.

¹ <http://www.fao.org/3/ak542e/ak542e16.pdf>

² <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/>

AAACO's contribution

Education, Training and Information being the 5th Cooperative principle, it gives room to knowledge sharing in order to increase and leverage betterment of cooperatives' productivity.

In the view of the above, AAACO has organized for a webinar to engage with its members, different actors around Agriculture cooperatives, farmers, agriculture experts, inputs suppliers, technology suppliers and agricultural policy makers to discuss on the current identified practices and potential practices to look into in the future with the main purpose of sharing knowledge and leveraging a positive change on Africa's agriculture.

This Webinar is therefore organized by AAACO in order to gather different actors around Agriculture cooperatives, farmers, agriculture experts, inputs suppliers, technology suppliers and agricultural policy makers to discuss on the current identified practices and potential practices to look into in the future with the main purpose of sharing knowledge and leveraging a positive change on Africa's agriculture.

Questions:

- What constraints have agricultural cooperatives encountered during this period?
- How are the Agric coops coping with the pandemic?
- Are there any innovations identified or promoted to keep agriculture business ongoing?
- What are the strategies put in place to continue to post Covid-19

Specific Objectives:

- To share best field practices and current promising agricultural practices
- To enable Cooperatives to share knowledge, experiences and expertise
- To leverage agricultural cooperatives networking and partnerships

Outcomes:

- Best field practices and current promising agricultural practices are shared
- Cooperatives share knowledge experience and expertise
- Agricultural cooperatives networking and partnerships are encouraged

Tentative Webinar Programme (Proposed dates are: 31st July 2020)

| Time | Sessions | Speaker | Facilitator |
|-------------|---|--|-------------------|
| 14H00-14H15 | Opening remarks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr Sifa Chiyoge CEO ICA Africa - Dr Katarwa Augustin AAACO Chairman - Mr Japhet Magomere ICA Africa Chairman | - Dr Sifa Chiyoge |
| 14H15-14H30 | Production practices | - FAO & EAGC delegates | - Mr Arnauld Zozo |
| 14H30-14H45 | Export and import practices | - Mrs Lucy Murumba KCCE | - Mr Arnauld Zozo |
| 14H45-15H00 | Agriculture products marketing and value addition | - Mr Naouffel Hadad Tunisia Consumer Coop | - Mr Arnauld Zozo |
| 15H00-15H15 | Successful innovations and technologies | - IFFCO delegate | - Mr Arnauld Zozo |
| 15H15-15H30 | Partnerships during and after the Covid-19 (Agricultural commodities and possible partnerships) | - Dr Luiz Cruz AAACO Vice president | - Mr Arnauld Zozo |
| 15H30-15H45 | Conclusions and recommendations | - | - Mr Arnauld Zozo |
| 15H45-16H00 | Closing remarks | - Mr Japhet Magomere ICA Africa Chairman | - Dr Sifa Chiyoge |