

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



International Co-operative
Alliance – Africa
A Region of the International
Co-operative Alliance

THE YEAR IN BRIEF

2024 was a pivotal year for ICA-Africa, marked by renewed advocacy, strategic partnerships, and vibrant youth engagement that set a strong foundation for the 2025 International Year of Cooperatives. The year's main highlight was the Midterm Review of the 13th Africa Ministerial Cooperative Conference, held virtually under the theme "Leveraging Cooperatives for Transitioning African Economies: A Holistic Approach to Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, Peace and Security, and Economic Stability."

Governance and membership saw significant growth as ICA-Africa welcomed new organizations, including Union des Mutuelles Financières de Développement (MUFID UNION) from Cameroon, Fédération Nationale des Unions Régionales des Sociétés Coopératives des Producteurs de la Filière Anacarde (COOP-CA) from Côte d'Ivoire, Amigos Savings & Credit Cooperative (Amigos SACCO) from Ethiopia, and Uganda Health Partners Cooperative Limited (UPHC) from Uganda. With these additions, ICA-Africa's membership now stands at 44 organizations across 23 countries, representing 37% of the continent. During the 17th ICA-Africa Regional Assembly, held at the ICA Global Conference in New Delhi, India, Mr. Macloud Malonza was unanimously elected Vice President of the ICA-Africa Regional Board.

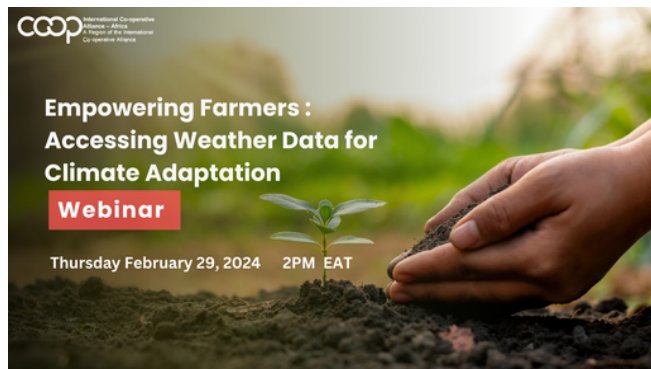
Policy and legal affairs advanced significantly with the adoption of the Model Law on Cooperatives by the Pan-African Parliament, a key advocacy tool for cooperative legislation across Africa. ICA-Africa also collaborated with the African Union Commission, Pan-African Parliament, ILO, and ICA to launch the African Cooperatives Centre, which promotes the Social Solidarity Economy, enhances social protection, and creates decent jobs. The organization represented the African cooperative movement in key global forums, including the UN Civil Society Conference in Nairobi, contributing to preparations for the UN Summit of the Future and the Africa Regional Policy Forum on Development, where ICA-Africa moderated a session and supported member participation from Mozambique and DRC to advocate for inclusive EU-Africa cooperation, and the European Economic and Social Committee's plenary debate on democracy in Africa.

In terms of visibility and outreach, ICA-Africa partnered with TomorrowNow to host a webinar that sensitized agricultural cooperatives on the importance of weather intelligence, digital climate advisory, and capacity development. The ICA-Africa Gender Equality Committee organized a capacity-building forum that led to the development of the ICA Gender Equality Committee Action Plan 2025. Additionally, the Alliance Africa Agricultural Cooperative Organisation (AAACO) hosted a peer-to-peer learning webinar on December 5, bringing together 19 alumni of the ICA-MAFF training programme and AAACO members from 11 African countries to advance agricultural initiatives through knowledge sharing and collaboration. Youth engagement remained a strong pillar as the ICA-Africa Youth Network actively participated in high-level events. The Youth President and the Youth Executive Member-at-Large represented Africa at the International Forum of Consumer Cooperation in Russia, while a Youth Side Event at the Midterm Review of the 13th Africa Ministerial Cooperative Conference in Lesotho fostered leadership development among young cooperators.

ICA-Africa's achievements in 2024 reflect a year of robust advocacy, strengthened partnerships, and expanded youth and gender engagement. With 2025 declared the International Year of Cooperatives we're excited to build on this year's progress by continuing to support our members, advocating for cooperatives at every level, and building a more inclusive and sustainable cooperative movement in Africa.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

HELPING SMALLHOLDER FARMERS AND COOPERATIVES TO ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE BY LEVERAGING WEATHER INTELLIGENCE



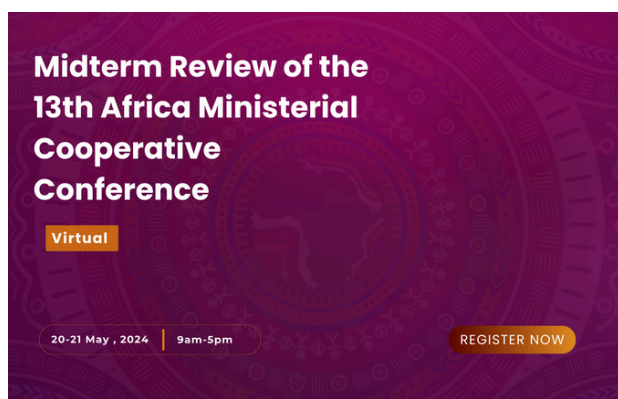
ICA-Africa in collaboration with TomorrowNow held a webinar on 29th February 2024, to sensitize agricultural cooperatives in Africa, on the pivotal role weather intelligence, digital climate advisory and capacity development services have in helping farmer cooperatives to adapt and thrive.

ICA-AFRICA - REGIONAL BOARD MEETING



The International Cooperative Alliance-Africa convened its 47th Regional Board Meeting, hosted by Awach SACCOs as a representative of the Ethiopian Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies, marking the first gathering of its kind in Ethiopia. This meeting follows a series of gatherings across Africa, including Kenya, Nigeria, Botswana, and others. During the visit, board members had the opportunity to tour Awach SACCOs' headquarters and engage in discussions with the organization's leadership.

LEVERAGING COOPERATIVES FOR TRANSITIONING AFRICAN ECONOMIES



The Midterm Review of the 13th Africa Ministerial Cooperative Conference was held virtually on May 20th and 21st, 2024. The conference addressed the theme "Leveraging Cooperatives for Transitioning African Economies: A Holistic Approach to Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, Peace and Security, and Economic Stability." Over the two days, participants from across the continent discussed strategies for utilizing the cooperative model to address critical issues facing African economies such as climate change, peace and security and economic stability. Cooperative experts and delegates shared insights and innovative approaches, emphasizing the importance of the cooperative model in fostering sustainable development in Africa.

EMPOWERING AFRICAN YOUTH THROUGH THE COOPERATIVE BUSINESS MODEL



The International Cooperative Alliance-Africa hosted a Youth Side Event at the Midterm Review of the 13th Africa Ministerial Cooperative Conference on 19th May, 2024, in Maseru, Lesotho. The event, themed "Empowering African Youth through the Cooperative Business Model: Leadership and Entrepreneurship Development Workshop," aimed to foster and cultivate leadership among young cooperators. Participants delved into youth entrepreneurship by exploring best practices, including how to start cooperatives that address the needs of young people and other enterprise activities.

COOPSTAR: EMPOWERING THE AFRICAN COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT AS A KEY PLAYER IN THE TRANSITION TOWARDS A CIRCULAR, GREEN, AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY



The International Cooperative Alliance-Africa in collaboration with The Ministry of Tourism, Handicrafts, and Social and Solidarity Economy and the Office of Cooperation Development (ODCO), successfully held the second CoopStar (Cooperatives for a Sustainable Transformation in Africa) Workshop in Rabat from May 26 to 28, 2024. Following the preliminary workshop held in Nairobi, Kenya, in December 2023, which brought together experts to lay the foundation for the book project on the role of cooperatives in transitioning to a circular, green, and sustainable economy, this event focused on finalizing the book chapters.

AFRICAN UNION LAUNCHES AFRICAN COOPERATIVES CENTRE TO PROMOTE SOCIAL SOLIDARITY ECONOMY



The African Union has officially launched the African Cooperatives Centre (ACC), a key initiative aimed at advancing the Social Solidarity Economy (SSE) across Africa. Officially unveiled on September 27 at the Pan-African Parliament in Midrand, South Africa, the ACC will act as a hub for knowledge exchange, capacity building, training, and advocacy, enabling cooperatives and other SSE entities to collaboratively tackle social protection challenges across the continent. Watch the launch event [here](#).

FAO AND ICA STRENGTHEN STRATEGIC DIALOGUE WITH COOPERATIVES TO ADVANCE AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION IN THE NENA REGION



On October 28th, the FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa (NENA), in partnership with ICA-Africa and ICA-Asia and Pacific, hosted a virtual roundtable aimed at fostering strategic dialogue between governmental bodies and cooperatives to advance rural and agrifood systems transformation in the NENA region. The discussions are part of ongoing efforts to include cooperatives in national development plans leading up to an in-person regional high-level policy dialogue scheduled for January 2025 which will further engage ministers, cooperative leaders, FAO representatives and other stakeholders in advancing cooperative development. [Read more.](#)

UN OFFICIALLY LAUNCHES THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF COOPERATIVES 2025



The United Nations officially launched the 2025 International Year of Cooperatives (IYC) at the ICA Global Cooperative Conference and General Assembly held in New Delhi, India. This historic event brought together over 3,000 participants, including cooperative leaders, UN representatives, and policymakers from more than 100 countries, to explore how cooperatives build prosperity for all. The discussions led to the adoption of the New Delhi Action Agenda, a call to action for cooperatives, governments, civil society, and global institutions to work together for a just society and a safer planet. Read the [New Delhi Action Agenda](#) and visit [the official IYC website](#) for more information on the upcoming events and how cooperatives build a better world.

17TH REGIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ICA-AFRICA



ICA-Africa held its 17th Regional Assembly and Board Meeting during the ICA Global Cooperative Conference in New Delhi, bringing together key leaders and representatives from across the continent. One of the highlights of the meeting was the by-election for the Vice President position on the ICA-Africa Regional Board. The assembly also provided an opportunity for delegates to discuss key regional challenges and opportunities, reaffirming ICA-Africa's commitment to advancing the cooperative agenda for sustainable development and prosperity across Africa.

COOPATHON AND THE YOUTH LEADERSHIP EXCHANGE PROGRAM (YLEP) 2024



In November and December 2024, India hosted two major youth events under the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)—the Coopathon and the Youth Leadership Exchange Program (YLEP)—bringing together young cooperators from around the world to promote innovation, collaboration, and leadership. The ICA-Africa Youth Network represented the region at both events, contributing to global discussions on advancing youth engagement in the cooperative movement and showcasing Africa’s commitment to nurturing young cooperative leaders. [Read the report.](#)

ICA YOUTH NETWORK CHAMPIONS INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AT RUSSIAN FORUM



The ICA Youth Network was proudly represented by Mr. Labaran Abubakar and Mr. Mabruk Mpangule at the International Forum of Consumer Cooperation in Russia. The event served as a critical platform for youth leaders in cooperatives to explore international cooperation, address global challenges, and create new business opportunities. A significant outcome of the forum was the establishment of a Cooperative Business Working Group, aimed at strengthening trade relations between African cooperatives and the Central Union of Consumer Cooperatives of Russia, marking a pivotal step towards enhancing Africa-Russia cooperative trade.

Model Law on Cooperatives for Africa

DRIVING COOPERATIVE GROWTH THROUGH LEGAL REFORM: DRAFTING A MODEL LAW FOR COOPERATIVES IN AFRICA



The Pan-African Parliament (PAP) and the International Cooperative Alliance-Africa (ICA-Africa) held a Technical Working Group Meeting in Maseru, Lesotho, from the 15th to 18th May 2024. The meeting aimed to finalize the draft Model Law on Cooperative Societies for Africa by incorporating stakeholder inputs to ensure it reflects the needs and aspirations of the African people. The refined draft is set to be presented to the PAP Committee on Finance and Monetary Affairs.

THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT ADOPTS THE MODEL LAW ON COOPERATIVES

Pan-African Parliament
3rd Session of the 6th Parliament



MODEL LAW ON COOPERATIVES FOR AFRICA

The Pan-African Parliament successfully adopted the Model Law on Cooperatives during its 3rd Ordinary Session in Midrand, South Africa. This Model Law serves as a framework to guide the development and review of cooperative legislation across the continent. Developed through collaboration between the Committee on Monetary and Financial Affairs, the International Cooperative Alliance-Africa and other key stakeholders, the Model Law aims to harmonize cooperative practices and serve as a benchmark for incorporating best practices in cooperative laws. [Find out more.](#)

Alliance Africa Agricultural Cooperative organisation (AAACO)

LAUNCH OF AAACO SUB-REGIONAL OFFICE IN MOZAMBIQUE



ICA-Africa launched the Alliance Africa Agricultural Cooperative Organisation (AAACO) sub-regional office in Mozambique. AAACO, a sectoral organization of ICA-Africa, is committed to improving the livelihoods of agricultural cooperative members through sustainable and innovative practices. It fosters a good understanding and economic collaboration between agricultural cooperatives and other cooperative sectors, including consumer, fisheries, insurance, and housing, both globally and locally. The establishment of the sub-regional office in Mozambique marks a significant step towards strengthening agricultural cooperatives and contributing to the development of the region.

CAPACITY BUILDING OF FARMERS TO RESPOND TO CHALLENGES THROUGH DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES



The ICA-MAFF training course on "Capacity Building of Farmers to Respond to Challenges through the Development of Agricultural Cooperatives" was held in Japan, organized by ICA-Asia and Pacific in partnership with the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia (IDACA). This training aims to equip African farmers with the essential skills and strategies needed to strengthen their agricultural cooperatives and respond to the challenges facing the agricultural sector today. Participants had the opportunity to visit a range of agricultural cooperatives and farms, where they gained valuable knowledge on cooperative development and sustainable farming techniques.

SHARING LEARNINGS AND SYNERGIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES IN AFRICA



The Alliance Africa Agricultural Cooperative Organisation (AAACO) hosted a webinar titled "Sharing Learnings and Synergies for the Advancement of Agricultural Cooperatives in Africa." The session provided a platform for trainees of the ICA-MAFF Japan training course to share key takeaways from their experience, present action plans for agricultural development, and foster collaboration among AAACO members. The webinar highlighted best practices and collective strategies aimed at strengthening agricultural cooperatives and promoting sustainable agricultural growth across Africa.

ICA-Africa Gender Equality Committee

ACCELERATING GENDER INCLUSIVITY IN COOPERATIVES FOR A SUSTAINABLE AFRICA



ICA-Africa organized a regional capacity-building forum under the theme “Accelerating Gender Inclusivity in Cooperatives for a Sustainable Africa.” The forum convened cooperative practitioners, government representatives, partners, and stakeholders to explore practical strategies for advancing gender inclusivity through the cooperative model while promoting sustainable development across the continent. A key outcome of the event was the development of the ICA Gender Equality Committee Action Plan 2025, a comprehensive framework aimed at accelerating progress toward gender equality within Africa's cooperative movement. [Read the report.](#)

ICA-Africa International Development Partnerships

LAUNCH OF THE SECOND ICA-EU PARTNERSHIP ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT #coops4dev



ICA and its regional teams convened in Brussels for a kick-off week marking the launch of the second phase of the ICA-EU Partnership on International Cooperative Development. Spanning four and a half years (April 2024 to September 2028), this programme aims to strengthen the global cooperative movement's contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). During the kick-off meeting, colleagues received training, identified opportunities to collaborate, and developed a common action plan for the partnership. The partnership will involve a range of activities, including capacity building, research and education, advocacy and partnerships, visibility and communications, and project management.

REGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT (REGCOOP PROJECT)



The Regional Programme for Cooperative Development (REGCOOP Project), a five-year initiative (2024–2028) under the Growing Resilience Programme, aims to enhance food security in Tanzania and Mozambique through the development of sustainable local value chains, with a strong emphasis on empowering women and strengthening the cooperative movement through research, advocacy, and capacity building. Funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) through Norges Vel, the project is implemented in collaboration with the International Cooperative Alliance–Africa (ICA-Africa), the Tanzania Federation of Cooperatives (TFC), the Mozambican Association for the Promotion of Modern Cooperatives (AMPCM), Moshi Co-operative University (MoCU), and the Catholic University of Mozambique.

New Members

AMIGOS SAVINGS & CREDIT COOPERATIVE (AMIGOS SACCO)- ETHIOPIA



Amigos Savings & Credit Cooperative (Amigos SACCO) joined the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) as a Full Member. Amigos SACCO is a primary cooperative that offers both financial and non-financial services utilizing modern technology. Its key services include savings, loans, and insurance products designed to meet the diverse needs of its members. In addition to financial services, the cooperative provides education and training, supports members to engage in profitable business ventures, and fosters leadership, management skills, and a spirit of cooperation and mutual care among members.

UGANDA HEALTH PARTNERS COOPERATIVE LIMITED (UHPC)



Uganda Health Partners Cooperative (UHPC) joined the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) as a Full Member following its transition from HealthPartners Uganda, a development organization, to a workers' cooperative. With over 20 years of experience in cooperative health insurance in partnership with HealthPartners in the United States, UHPC promotes affordable and quality healthcare through the health cooperative model in Uganda.

UNION DES MUTUELLES FINANCIERES DE DEVELOPPEMENT (MUFID UNION)- CAMEROON



The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) welcomed MUFID Union from Cameroon as an Associate Member. MUFID Union is the apex organization of the MUFID Network, which consists of financial mutuals for development registered as cooperative societies in Cameroon. The Union plays a key role in supporting the growth and sustainability of its member cooperatives by ensuring compliance with operational standards and providing accounting and oversight services. Through its membership in the ICA, MUFID Union strengthens its commitment to promoting sound cooperative financial practices and contributing to the advancement of the cooperative movement in Africa.

COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CDA)- LIBERIA



The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) welcomed the Cooperative Development Agency (CDA) from Liberia as its newest Associate Member. As the government's regulatory arm for cooperative activities, CDA plays a pivotal role in supporting grassroots organizations, farmer and non-farmer organizations including women and youth by forming viable cooperatives and apex organizations. It also provides technical expertise, audits financial records to promote transparency, and mediates disputes to ensure harmony among cooperatives. By joining the ICA, CDA seeks to enhance its international recognition and foster collaboration across the cooperative movement.