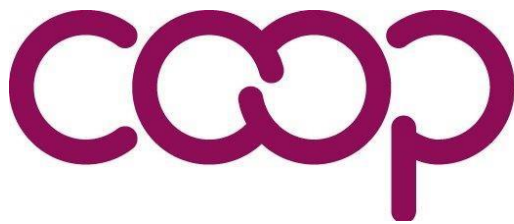


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ΙΝΣΤΙΤΟΥΤΟ ΕΥΝΕΤΑΙΡΙΑΤΙΚΩΝ ΕΡΕΥΝΩΝ

& ΜΕΛΕΤΩΝ (ΙΖΕΜ)

Cooperation Barriers and Prospects among Olive Oil Cooperatives in Crete

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Abstract : (max. 300 words)

Greek agricultural cooperatives are considered as a key player in the country's attempt to revitalize agricultural production and added value. However, agricultural cooperatives in Greece are usually small in size and characterized by low levels of processing facilities, technical skills and marketing expertise. One of the most emblematic agri-food products that these cooperatives produce is olive oil, a product of widely recognized nutritional value, health benefits and increasing global demand. About a quarter of the country's 300.000 tone production comes from the island of Crete, which has 76 agricultural cooperatives active in olive oil production. The goal of this research was to map the olive-oil producing cooperatives of Crete, examine the extent of their cooperation and the barriers they meet. Apart from being one of the key cooperative principles, cooperation can lead to operating cost reduction, better profit margins, increased bargaining power against large buyers and knowledge exchange. The results of the research have shown limited cooperation levels, but sufficient willingness to cooperate in the future.

Keywords: Agricultural Cooperatives, Greece, Crete, Olive oil, Cooperation