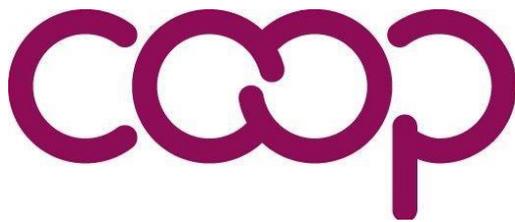


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ΙΝΣΤΙΤΟΥΤΟ ΕΥΝΕΤΑΙΡΙΑΤΙΚΩΝ ΕΡΕΥΝΩΝ

& ΜΕΛΕΤΩΝ (ΙΣΕΜ)

**Title of abstract: Score Card Approach to Measuring Sustainability and
Competitive Sustainability Strategies of selected Agricultural Cooperatives
Oromia Regional State, Ethiopia**

Prof.Dr.M.Karthikeyan Muthumariappan, Department of Cooperatives, College of Business
& Economics, Wollo University, P.O.Box:1145, Dessie, Ethiopia,
Email: mkeya2003@gmail.com

Abstract

Cooperatives are business entities, by nature socially responsible and eco-friendly enterprises. Cooperative revitalization programs in countries such as Ethiopia heavily stress sustainability. The present research paper analyzed the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of cooperatives sustainability and examined the sustainability oriented competitive strategies adopted by sample cooperatives. Since the research intends to analyze the sustainability of cooperatives, field survey method was followed. Multi-stage sampling method was adopted to select study area, cooperatives and respondents. At the first stage, among 18 districts in west shoa zone, Dendi district was selected based on the justification that there is high concentration of agricultural cooperatives. At the second stage, out of 23, six cooperatives were selected. The sample size was 100, and adopting PPS members from each cooperative were selected. The sustainability of cooperatives was analyzed by sustainability score card approach advocated by Measuring Cooperative Difference Research Network (MDCRN), Canada. Moreover, for data analysis and assessment of sustainability level for ranking of cooperatives, Morris Inequality Index was used. Agricultural Cooperatives in the study area are involved in the economic, social, and environmental dimension of cooperative sustainability. The agricultural cooperatives do have better position with economic sustainability, to some extent social sustainability, but they do not have favourable situation in environmental sustainability so that the cooperatives are located at moderate and low level of sustainability condition. With regard to comprehensive cooperative sustainability the same result is seen among sampled cooperatives. It is evident that the sustainability level and ranking are in consonance with the sustainability strategies they adopted. Cooperative Sustainability can be achieved only through practicing and adopting right sustainability strategies advocated in this paper at right time effectively whereby cooperatives may contribute more to the Ethiopian Agricultural Cooperatives Development Strategy and ILO's declaration as "Cooperatives for Sustainable Development".

Keywords: economic, environmental, score card, social, sustainability