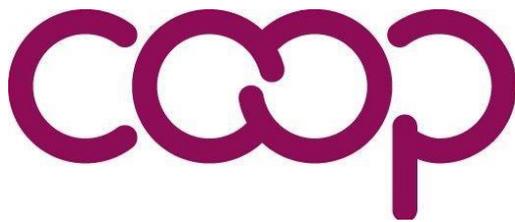


## ICA CCR EUROPEAN RESEARCH CONFERENCE 2022

*“Rethinking co-operatives: From local to global and from the past to the future”*

13-15 July 2022, Athens Greece

### Organizers:



**International  
Co-operative Alliance**  
Committee on  
Co-operative Research



ΙΝΣΤΙΤΟΥΤΟ ΕΥΝΕΤΑΙΡΙΑΤΙΚΩΝ ΕΡΕΥΝΩΝ

& ΜΕΛΕΤΩΝ (ΙΖΕΜ)

**Title of abstract:** Why do cooperatives need to be in line with UN SDGs? A framework application in the Indian context.

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### **Abstract:**

Cooperatives are autonomous associations, democratically controlled by their individuals' network and their roots lie in collective action and shared goals. The cooperative model operates on seven principles to preserve the interest of its members; keep members at the center of governance and promote the holistic development of their communities. United Nations declared 2012 as the international year of cooperatives and thereafter many thinkers have been linking cooperatives with the UNSDGs and understating the role of cooperatives in achieving the SDGs. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) agenda 2030 aims to promote social inclusion and economic growth of the communities in society. In this case, cooperatives can be an effective tool to foster economic growth through their collective action. This research paper recommends a framework proposing the parameters to measure the cooperative model's ability in empowering its members in line with UNSDGs was developed. The parameters were assessed using qualitative research carried out in Gujarat State in India. The dairy cooperatives of Gujarat state are known for their robust three-tier structure and successful dairying business through millions of dairy farmers in the country. The presented framework can become an effective tool for cooperatives to ensure sustainable development. The findings from the assessment based on the parameters discovered the ground realities, the abilities and limitations of cooperatives in generating the sustainable development of its members. The assessment also provided suggestions for strengthening the policy implementation system with active member participation, social inclusion, women empowerment, social innovation and required resource allocations for members' sustainable development.

### **Keywords**

Cooperatives, Sustainability, Social inclusion, Local development, Women empowerment

## **Conference themes**

- Cooperatives and sustainable development goals
- Cooperative resilience and sustainability