



CONCEPT NOTE

Consultation Workshop on Greening Cooperatives for Sustainable Growth

Project Rationale

Our growth path cannot be “business as usual” anymore. Our unmet basic needs continue to grow, thereby requiring a more dynamic and faster growth amid limited ecological carrying capacity, causing more serious pressures on the environment. Climate change continues to impact public health, food and water security, jobs, peace and security, and education, to name a few, which calls for an urgent action. These challenges are a clear driver for promoting green growth – the kind of growth that is efficient, clean, resilient, and inclusive. Green growth is a sustainable development strategy that promotes more sustainable sources of growth, which minimize or avoid the trade-offs between economic progress and environmental sustainability.

The global cooperative movement is in full support of green growth. With the cooperative business model being more relevant than ever, it is every cooperative’s role and responsibility to serve as vehicle for promoting green growth. As people-based organizations, cooperatives are a good entry point to influence an individual, entrepreneur, household, or community’s behavior on embracing green practices, which is a primary step to effectively operationalize green growth. Moreover, they cut across different economic sectors, thereby influencing a wider range of activities and people, given its diversified businesses, products and services.

It is against this backdrop that a pilot action research on leveraging agri-based cooperatives for green growth has been initiated by the Institute of Cooperatives and Bio-Enterprise Development (ICOPED) of the College of Economics and Management, University of the Philippines Los Baños. The project entitled, “**Leveraging Agricultural Cooperatives for Green Growth: A Pilot Study**,” is being implemented by ICOPED in collaboration with the ASEAN CSR Network, Ltd. and the CEM Alumni Foundation, Inc. The aim of the project is to enable agri-based cooperatives to capitalize on its capacity and opportunities in pursuing green growth practices by enhancing their knowledge and capabilities on greening their business.

Under the project, two pilot cooperatives will be given an awareness seminar on green growth practices, which will then be followed by a workshop on how to operationalize these practices in a cooperative. To facilitate these activities, a training module and a toolkit for greening cooperative enterprises will be developed and provided to the cooperatives.

Consultation Workshop

Prior to the above project activities, the team would like to seek inputs from stakeholders from different sectors, which include the academe, cooperative, government agencies, and private and business sector, that can help enrich the design and content of the planned seminar-workshop for pilot cooperatives.

The **Consultation Workshop on Greening Cooperatives for Sustainable Growth** aims is to stir discussion and solicit inputs from experts and practitioners across different sectors on green growth as viewed in the context of micro and small enterprises, particularly cooperatives. At the end of the consultation, the project team hopes to achieve the following outputs:

- 1) Formulate a general framework of green growth pathway for cooperatives;
- 2) Identify priority areas for high impact green growth practices; and
- 3) Elicit information, perspectives, and suggestions on strategies and assessment tools for adoption of green growth practices.

With the information gathered from the consultation, the validity, relevance, and applicability to cooperatives of the seminar-workshop and training module and toolkit can be improved.

Duration: 1 day (9:00am-3:15pm)

Target No. of Participants: 15-20 persons from different sectors

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