

COOP Champions

COOP Champions features ILO colleagues from around the world working on cooperatives. It highlights their contributions towards promotion of cooperatives, and shares highlights on their experiences, current work, and future aspirations.

Mr. Edmund Moshy has over 14 years of national and international cooperative business and development experience. He has an MSc and Post Graduate Diploma in International Trade Policy and Trade Law offered by Trade Policy Training Center in Africa (Trapca) & Lund University of Sweden in the auspices of the Eastern and Central Africa Management Institute (ESAMI). He studied Business Administration in his undergraduate level.

Prior to joining the ILO, Edmund worked for Land O'Lakes International Development Division in three different US Government funded projects, with specialization in cooperative business development and financial management.

Currently Edmund works with the United Nations Development Assistance Plan (UNDAP); as the National Programme Co-ordinator from the ILO, directing activities related to the development of sustainable enterprises, including cooperatives, and supporting national and local government as well as non-states actors to enhance skills and entrepreneurship programmes to enhance productivity and employment creation.

UNDAP is an integrated business plan for all the UN agencies and national partners. Outcome 2 (Local Government Authorities (LGAs), agriculture support organizations and small-holder farmers in increase agricultural productivity, access to markets and food security) and Outcome 3 (Relevant MDAs, LGAs and Non State Actors enhance structures and policies for promoting viable pro-poor business sectors and SMEs) are directly linked to the ILO's work on Sustainable Enterprises.

Edmund implements ILO interventions at all levels to ensure a holistic approach to addressing challenges faced by cooperatives and other enterprises. At the macro level he works with the national partners in creating enabling an environment for cooperatives to be established and grow. Towards this end, ILO's approach to cooperative development has focused on rebuilding the cooperative movement in Tanzania by: changing perceptions on the contribution of cooperatives to social and economic development ; supporting the development of policies and laws for cooperative development ; as well as providing assistance to strengthen primary cooperatives and other forms of self-help groups so that they can serve their members better, especially small-holder farmers.

Edmund works with women and men small scale farmers to increase their capacity to get out of poverty using the potential of cooperatives. The underlying theory of change is that, through cooperatives, some important policy goals can be better achieved, such as creating jobs and generating income, preventing and reducing poverty in general, providing social protection and giving people a voice in society through social dialogue. He also coordinates and implements activities to promote cooperatives in other projects like the

Millennium Goal Acceleration Framework (MAF) which supports small scale farmers and traders to organize into cooperatives to achieve economies of scale and enable them to access services and inputs along with provision of affordable and quality services to their members. Over 25 previously informal groups were assisted to formalize and establish financial cooperatives under the project. They were later on linked with



a revolving fund under the "Economic Empowerment and HIV Vulnerability Reduction along Transport Corridors Southern Africa" project. This enabled access to financial services by over 800 people (133 men and 685 women) for applying the business development and management skills they developed in the process.

Besides helping establish and strengthen existing cooperatives, ILO in collaboration with Tanzania Cooperative Development Commission and the Moshi Cooperative University is facilitating and coordinating collectivization of 20+ primary dairy coops in Kilimanjaro into a joint secondary enterprise around a common processing and packaging facility. This will bring together 3,000 farmer/producer members to jointly collect process and market their produce. It will allow access to cheaper inputs and improve their bargaining power for better prices and incomes and other services.

Edmund pioneered an activity in which ILO collaborated with Moshi Cooperatives University (MoCU) to design and deliver strategic interventions aiming at promoting cooperative development among youth. This initiative aims to provide solutions to youth employment challenges by capitalizing on the dividends that cooperative enterprises have in reduction of poverty. The strategy targets local government authorities; specifically officials responsible for cooperative, youth and community development, cooperative advisors and officers, youth officers, community development as well as youth and youth support organizations. The intervention aimed at building the capacity to promote cooperatives enterprise development among youth and build a cadre of cooperative support service providers who will provide cooperative business development services conveniently, reliably, sustainably and at relatively lower cost.

The cooperative development approach is now well recognized and appreciated in the UN System in Tanzania specifically in the context of the joint programme and delivering results together. The cooperative development activities have moved to command a sizable part of these programme in addressing the productivity and employment challenge in Tanzania.

Legal and regulatory environment remains a challenge for cooperative development especially for youth. This calls for interventions to bring about an enabling environment for youth cooperative development, including evidence based

research and data to inform policy making. Cooperative education is still lacking, calling for interventions to build awareness on the potentials of cooperative as well as mainstreaming of co-operatives in the school and college curriculums. More co-ordination and wider participation of different stakeholders

and partners is required. All these confirm that there is more work and opportunities for cooperative development. We wish to congratulate Edmund in this commitment to cooperative solutions and wish him all the best in his continued effort.

Role of cooperatives in rural development of China - An interview with China Co-op 2, July 2015

As a part of a new series of Enterprise Encounters whereby companies are invited to talk about key elements and challenges of managing a global workforce and other subjects relevant to the ILO's work and sustainable development, Mr Zhang Wangshu, Director for the International Department of China Coop presented on critical role of cooperatives play in rural development in China.

China Co-op is one of the largest cooperatives in the world with an aggregate turnover of USD 606 billion in 2014. It is a leading producer and trader of agricultural inputs, cotton, tea, grains and horticultural products and a significant retailer (8 per cent market share) in China.

In his presentation, Mr Zhang Wangshu highlighted how China CO-OP facilitates cooperative education for young generation and nurtures cooperative spirit as well as technical knowledge of farming. He stressed that currently many graduates are trained in its training centre and are becoming cooperative leaders.

>> See full interview with Mr Zhang Wangshu: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RBzhpUZTf#t=12>

>> See China Co-op website <http://www.chinacoop.coop/en/>



ILO, Alliance and CSEND Side event at the fifth Global review of aid for trade “Promoting Cooperative-to-cooperative trade for sustainable development” on 1 July, 2015

On 1st of July, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Co-operative Alliance (Alliance) and the Centre for Socio-Economic Development (CSEND) co-organized “Promoting Cooperative-to-cooperative trade for sustainable development”, a side event at the fifth global review of aid for trade.



The event brought 30 people from governments, international organizations, cooperative movement and researchers.

The panel discussion started with a theoretical presentation of the links between cooperatives and trade. In the session, the case of China on promoting cooperative-to-cooperative trade in Asia was presented by All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives (ACFSMC). Fair trade experiences were presented to showcase engagement in ethical trade practices using cooperative principles and highlighting the advantages of agricultural and consumer cooperatives working together across the value chain from a perspective of fairness and competitiveness.

>> See programme of the event https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/devel_e/a4t_e/global_review15prog_e/prog-sideevents21.pdf

>> See joint statement made by the ILO, on behalf of the CSEND-ILO-Alliance group during the Closing Plenary Session of the Fifth Global Review of Aid for Trade: “Reducing Trade Costs for Inclusive, Sustainable Growth” http://www.csend.org/images/articles/files/8_CSEND-ILO-ICA_group_statement_at_Global_Review_Closing_Plenary_WEB_Version3.pdf