



Central Organization for
Rural Cooperatives of
IRAN
Ministry of Agriculture - Jihad

ICA-AP, ANGKASA and ACFSMC joint workshop on
**“Cooperative to Cooperative Trade – Enhancing Business
Opportunities in Top 5 Cooperative Products”**

Kuala Lumpur, March 27 - 30, 2016



Ministry of Agriculture-Jahad
Central Organization for Rural Cooperatives of Iran



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A brief introduction to CORC
Mission and Vision
In connection with perspectives and expectations
of the

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1. A brief introduction to CORC

Central Organization for Rural Cooperatives (CORC) of Iran was founded in 1963 as a governmental joint stock company with unlimited liability (22.8% shares of government and 77.2 % shares of rural and agriculture cooperatives).

The Articles of Association was approved by the commissions of the then two Houses of Parliament in 1969 and met the statutory requirements, and the Cabinet of Ministers was assigned to its implementing.

According to the Articles of Association, CORC is committed to rural development in agriculture sector by means of cooperative societies.

◆◆ 1.1. Goal

Providing due facilities for progression, extension and strengthening of economic status, as well as promotion of marketing, trade and services of cooperatives in nationwide villages. To fulfill the goal, CORC adopted the following strategies by employing available facilities and man powers:

◆◆ 1.2. Extensive Network of rural and agricultural cooperatives

The existing Network comprises of 12 central unions and their 7000 coops involved in various fields including production, trade, credits and technical services, etc. with 50 years of experience dispersed over 58000 rural points in Iran. The Network and its substantive place undertakes critical role in forwarding needed assistance, inputs and know-how to target clients posing 5 million members (over 20 million population), all in favor of rural/agricultural development process.





2. Governing duties

The governing duties of the CORC across the Network of rural and agricultural cooperatives are divided into four following domains:

◆◆ 2.1. Policy-making

◆ Organizing, coordinating, qualifying and leveraging of specialized skill, financial, operational, service and managerial capabilities benefiting rural and agricultural coops.

◆◆ 2.2. Guidance

- ◆ Training the cooperative principles and administration of rural and agricultural unions and coop. societies.
- ◆ Extension of the culture of cooperation for qualitative

and quantitative development of cooperatives.

- ◆ Training and educating the human resources of CORC and cooperatives.

- ◆ Forwarding cultural services to members, staff and managers of cooperatives.

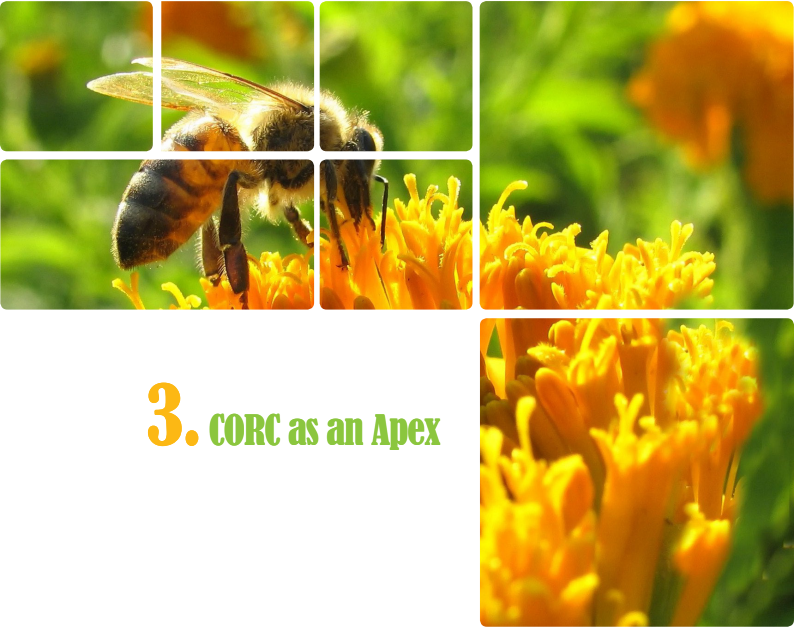
◆◆ 2.3. Supporting

- ◆ Providing legal, technical, specialized, financial, credit and marketing services for agricultural cooperatives, plus research and development beds, defending intellectual and property rights for rural and agricultural coops at national, provincial and district levels.

◆◆ 2.4. Supervision

- ◆ Continuous auditing and supervision of coops/ unions at national, provincial and district scales.





3. CORC as an Apex

However, there exist 12 Central Unions operating under the CORC as their Apex, of which the first 3 Unions namely CURACI, SCURA and CUAFI have joined to ICA while others tend to apply for membership.

Following are the titles:

1. Central Union for Rural & Agricultural Cooperatives of Iran (CURACI)
2. Supervision and Coordination Central Union of Rural and Agricultural Cooperatives of Iran (SCURA)
3. Central Union of Agricultural Animal Farmers of Iran (CUAFI)
4. National Union of Iranzamin Beekeepers (NUIB)

5. Central Union of Rural Production Cooperative Societies of Iran

6. Central Union of Agricultural Orchard Farmers of Iran

7. Central Union of Mihan Agro-Poultry Farmers of Iran

8. Central Union of Plants and Flowers Growers of Iran

9. Central Union of Agricultural Broiler Growers of Iran

10. National Union for Agricultural Cooperatives of Cotton and Oilseeds (NUACO)

11. Union of Tea Growers Cooperatives Societies

12. Union of Nomadic People's Cooperatives of Iran





4. CORC vis-à-vis C2C Trade Workshop in 5 top Coop products

Nowadays many subject matter specialists in agriculture economy believe in paving the way for productive investment in agri-business fields to empower and enhance existing capacities in rural / agricultural areas leading to sustainable / viable development of the sector.

Mobilizing trade interaction and ties amid int'l agricultural / rural coops and unions, entails viable investment in agribusiness infrastructures. If so, sustained establishment and accountability of the sector will be assured to meet national / int'l preferences. Moreover, creating such condition would leave impressive impacts on socio-economic and cultural status of rural / agricultural clientele.

To this end, new perspectives and initiatives seem

blinking now at C2C commercial levels which need due advocacy and practical realization of multi-lateral intentions as foreseen by the ICA.

Upcoming C2C plenary is believed to generate enabling platform and precious opportunity to debate on SWOT and tap the existing capacities and potentials in Kuala Lumpur, 2016.

CORC is eager to brief its role and niche both in terms of rural socio-economic enhancement as well as contribution to multi-lateral agro-markets within the C2C framework and context.

4.1. CORC's request and wish

CORC also anticipates wider windows to be explored for progressive business collaboration, joint-venture and know-how sharing on joint policy and skills amid coop partners in favor of broader exchange of commercial commodities.

CORC and its underling segment, CURACI, remark for a win-win and holistic efforts in boosting the initiative by strict observation and compliance with int'l codes and conducts e.g. HACCP, CODEX, etc, on safety elements and measures in the entire process of food and agro-crops production.

The idea shall also be extended to focus on involving other partners beyond the cooperatives premise if we are to signify and turn up to globalization trend.

CORC strictly feels commitment on sound planning and dynamic promotion of the initiative by employing all its authorities to back up its subordinate Unions and affiliated network (namely CURACI) on a fruitful commercial track. In fulfilling the Workshop concept, CURACI has the appropriate capacity and capability supported by years of production, processing and business activities at internal and int'l scales.

No doubt, in realizing the idea, CORC has to foresee tailor-made workshops and field surveys to be convened in cooperation with ICA professionals on various aspects of export-oriented farming. The intention would encompass modular curricula and practices on int'l safety codes / standards as well as GAPs in sowing, harvesting, processing and marketing of premium crops throughout the domain.

As far as measures concern, CORC has so far generated chance for agro - crops transaction via National Stock Exchange Market to facilitate and expedite virtual business. This can also be applied to C2C scopes upon multilateral consent amid respective national stakeholders and institutions. Moreover, certain on-line systems, called SITRA and SATRA, have been developed and enforced by the CORC as to monitor, inspect and analyze ongoing business transactions throughout the Network premise.

CORC is enthusiastic to get maximum benefit out of the Workshop circuits by supporting CURACI's potentials and its momentum in marketing intervention.

Very recently, CORC had the chance to meet and run useful dialogues with certain ICA dignitaries on various occasions held in Tehran, Kuala and Antalya. The mutual talks obviously confirmed urgent adoption of joint initiatives, for instance, assigning an Indian professional Dr. G. Agrawal for conducting a comprehensive "Need Assessment" mission in CORC. The task will deeply address prominent SWOT features to empower the Apex and its affiliated Network for enhanced leadership and higher productivity in production and marketing affairs.

At the end, CORC and CURACI wish fruitful and amicable debates in the Workshop leading to wider commercial interactions soon in future.

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