

# A comparison of cooperative ecosystems: what institutions can bring transformation?

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# LIQUID

## <https://liquidprogram.net>

Local and  
International business collaboration for  
productivity and  
**Q**uality  
Improvement in  
**D**airy chains in Southeast Asia and East Africa



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# ***Cooperatives as Social Organizations***

Self-  
help

Democracy

Solidarity

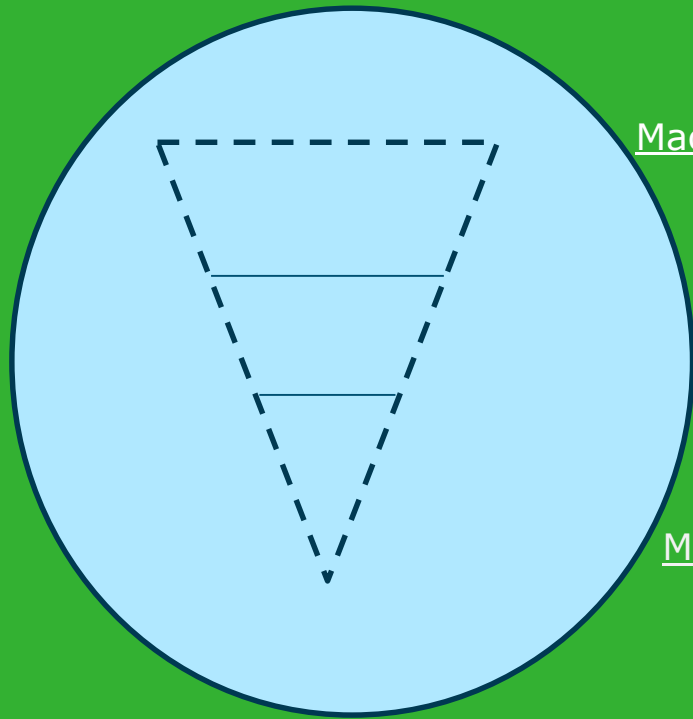
Self-  
responsibility

Equality



# *Social Business Ecosystem*

## Institutional analysis



Macro (Policies and legislations)

Meso (Cooperatives, Producer Organizations, Farmer groups)

Micro (Households, Communities, Marginalized groups)



# CENTRAL QUESTION

An exploration which institutions may be considered critical in the social business ecosystems facilitating agricultural cooperatives.

# *Dimension 1.*

Emancipatory  
Organization?



Microcosm of  
society?



# Findings

Example of gender inclusion and women empowerment:  
India and Indonesia

Inclusiveness is not a natural dynamic in cooperatives  
given the tendency towards efficiency and benefit maximization.

Multistakeholder cooperatives?



## *Dimension 2.*

Market-driven?



Community-driven?



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# Findings

Example of centralization in Thailand and the Dutch 'ecosystem'

Fragmentation, Politicization, Lack of intermediate organization

Elite capture.

The cooperative advantage, Public sector, Community mobilization

Self interest, interactive strategizing, local politics as framework

# Objective

In which ways can the commons be instrumental in the transformation of our current system to a social and solidarity economy?

# Conclusion

What do you think?

Paradoxically, for the creation of a social and solidarity economy, governments seem to play a central role.