

AIARD Lightening Talks

When Women Lead

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How do gender, culture, and other cross-cutting concerns influence the undertaking of building resilience in food systems?

Cooperatives and women in leadership roles

What is a Cooperative?

A cooperative, in its simplest definition is an association of people engaged in an enterprise.

Member OWNED

Member CONTROLLED

Member BENEFIT

*Source: International Labor Organization
& USDA*



Cooperative values and principles

Cooperative Values:

1. Self-help
2. Self-responsibility
3. Democracy
4. Equality
5. Equity
6. Solidarity

Cooperative Principles:

1. **Voluntary and open membership**
2. Democratic member control
3. **Member economic participation**
4. Autonomy and independence
5. **Education, training and information**
6. Cooperation among cooperatives
7. **Concern for community**

Economic Impact

In 2017 the top 100 Cooperatives in the United States represented

\$207.9 billion

of the nations economy²:

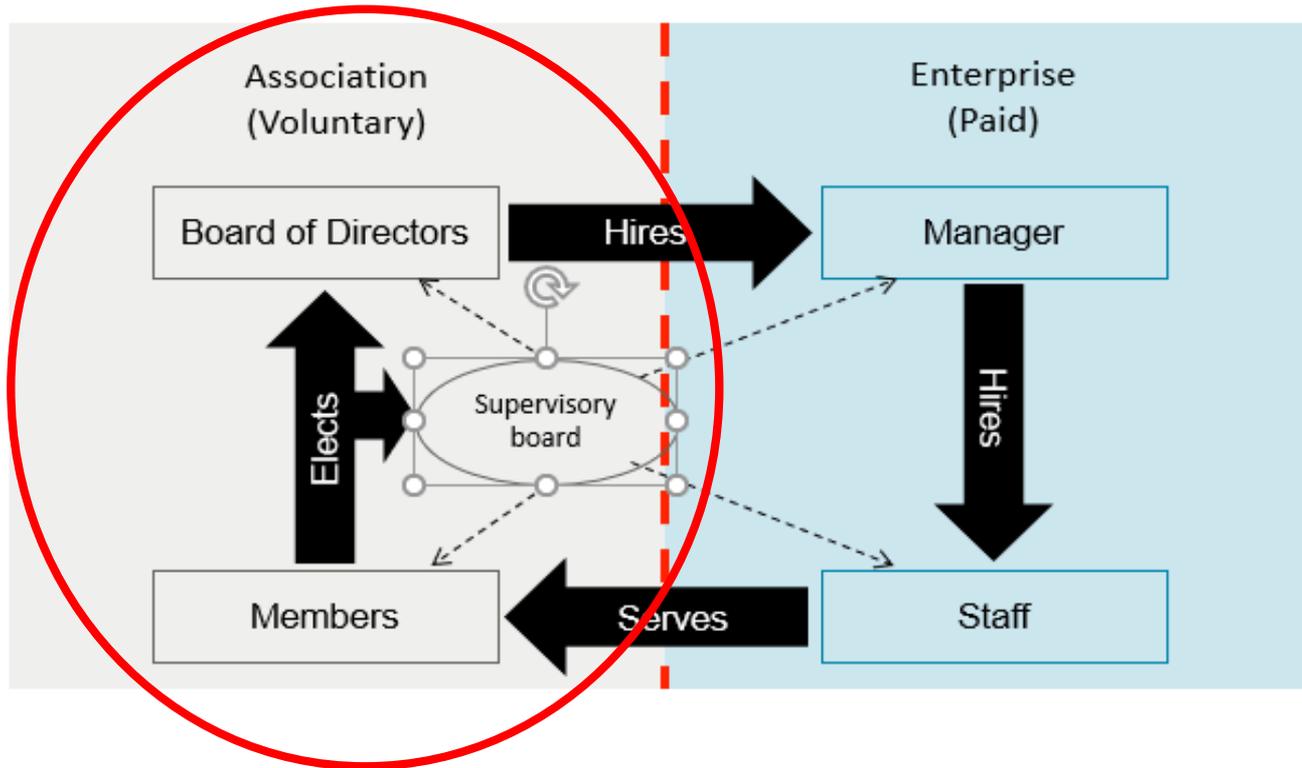
Agriculture	\$116
Grocery	\$33.6
Energy & Comm.	\$19.1
Finance	\$16.7
Hardware	\$11.8
Healthcare	\$6
Other sectors	\$4.5

(revenue measured in billions)



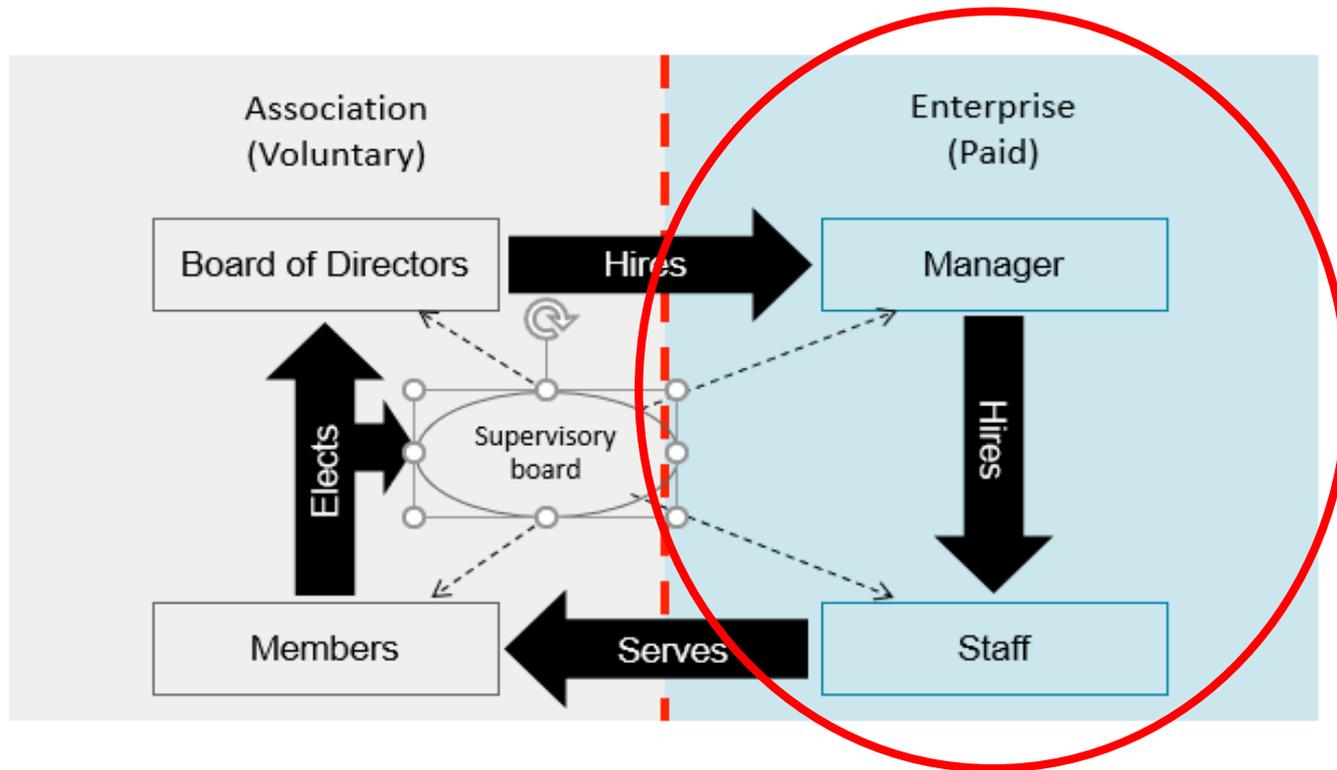
²National Cooperative Bank – 2017 Coop 100

What is a Cooperative?



*Source: International Finance Cooperation:
Agriculture Leadership Program, Cooperative Foundations curricula*

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Membership=Ownership



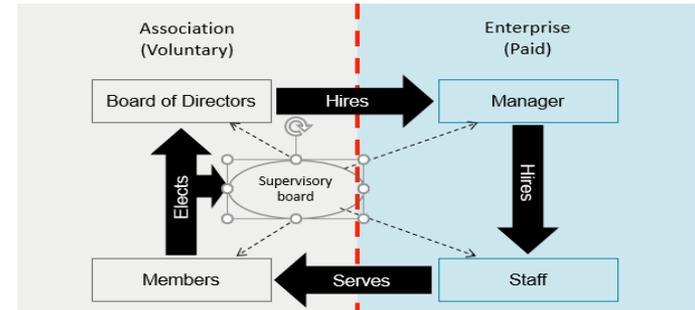
General Assembly: The boss



Board of Directors: Represents the boss



Supervisory Committee: Ensures the boss is well represented



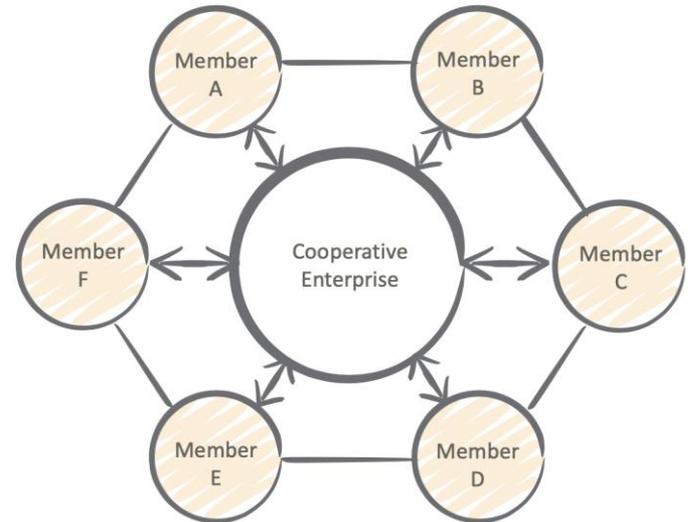
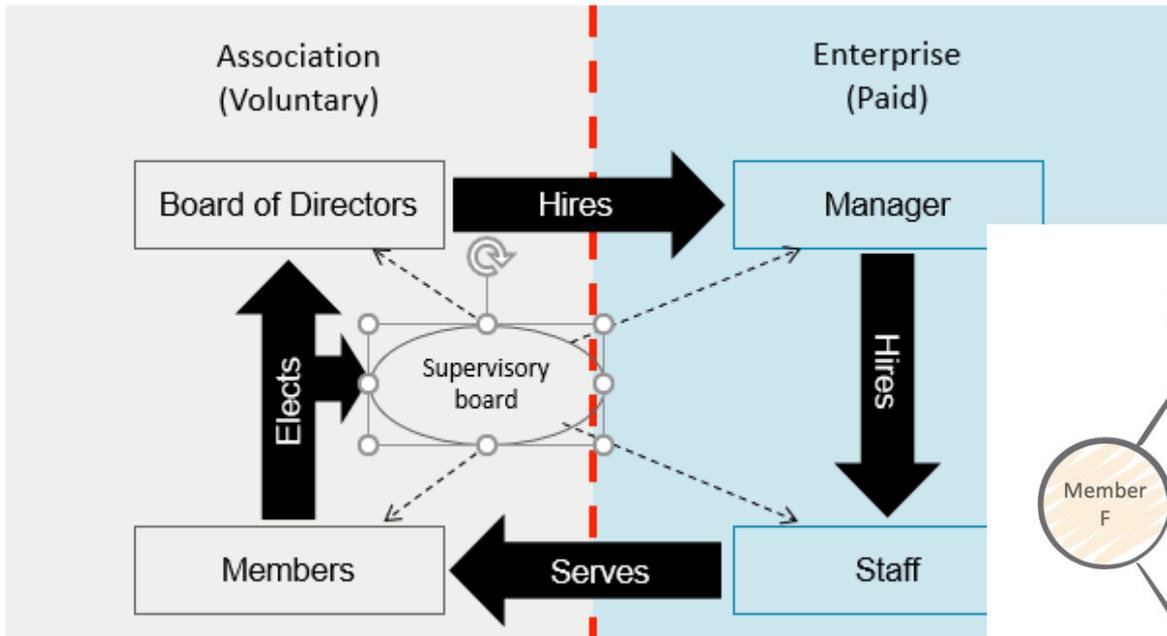
Power of Ownership



Power of Ownership



Women Owners in Leadership



Why should women lead?

- Representation in their business
- Bold new ideas
- Expanded benefits to membership
- Important perspective on community issues

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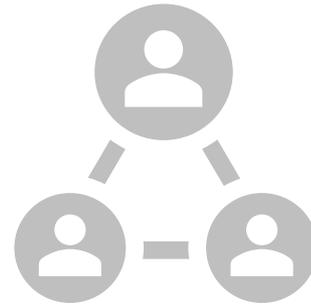
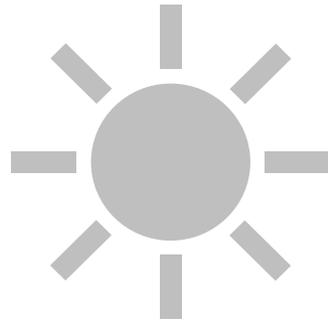
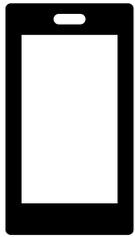
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- **Expanded benefits to membership**
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Where are the women?

- Little incentive to participate
- Too many other responsibilities
- Don't meet criteria

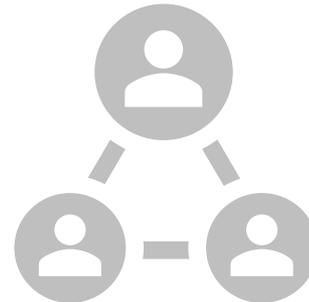
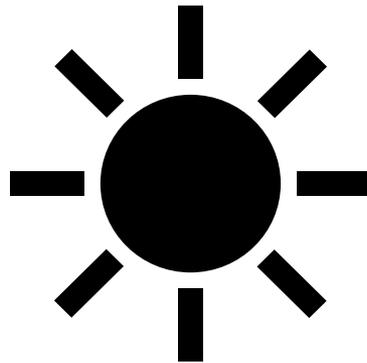
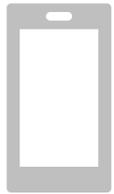
Are we moving the needle?

Technology, transparency and trust



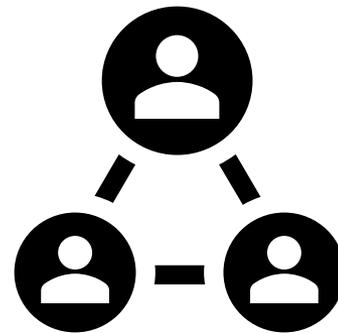
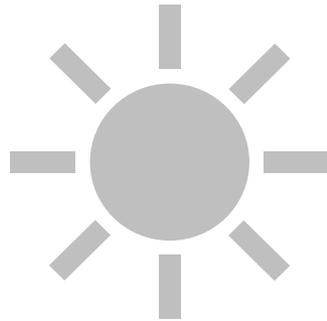
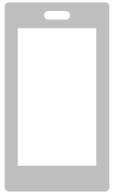
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Are we moving the needle?

65% of the board members of SACCOs (credit unions) in Tanzania were women.

(WSJ, IFC, Co-op)

Cooperatives and resilience

A feature of resilient food system are elements of society that allow for income generation with an eye toward building community.

When women lead

- Improved business outcomes
- Builds morale among members
- Focus on benefits to their community
- Builds internal and external networks

Co-ops are Cool...

When the cooperative business is functioning as intended, with women represented in leadership roles, it will be an enduring and resilient part of the community.

Thanks!

