

Cooperative Colleges

Cooperative colleges are institutions to build capacity of the national cooperative movement in all sectors. They are based in the centre of the movement and are therefore perfectly placed to improve the coordinating network of cooperatives. Together with the UK Cooperative College Coop^{AFRICA} provides expertise in curriculum development and active learning educational methodology in collaboration with African cooperative colleges. The UK Cooperative College also provides short-term, high-level training for the academic personnel of these colleges.

An Action Programme Summary Outline (APSO) has been developed with the UK Cooperative College (UKCC) to contribute to and increase the capacity of cooperative colleges in the target countries. The APSO, lasting 12 months, will help colleges to:

- Analyse their respective situation, including external and internal challenges;
- Improve management and outreach;
- Develop active methodological learning approaches; and
- Update co-operative related knowledge

Products are being developed in order to ensure that specific goals will be met with development of concrete outputs that can be measured and if successful replicated by different institutions.

This approach grew out of findings reported in the Programme document that:

“cooperative members and leaders often lack management and business skills, as well as access to professional business support services (including financial services) (...) and : the curricula, training methods and training tools of cooperative training institutions are not always up-to-date and/or adequate with regard to the needs of the respective target groups (cooperative leaders and managers, is cooperative promoters, government officials etc.)”.