



# Co-operative Women's Challenge in Kenya

*Strategies for encouraging women's participation on co-operative boards*

**15 November 2011 - 08:00 – 14:00**

**Co-operative College of Kenya – Nordic Hall**

In the coming months, Kenyan co-operatives will see big changes in their boardrooms. Under the new national constitution, women must occupy at least one third of representation in all elective bodies. Given there are over 10,000 co-operatives in Kenya, at a conservative estimate around 15,000 women will take up positions of leadership on co-operative boards.

The Co-operative College of Kenya and Co-operative College UK are undertaking a project to identify the barriers to participation and training needs of co-operative women board members with the aim of developing leadership training programmes.

To achieve this aim, we kindly invite you to a participatory workshop here at the College to discuss strategies for encouraging women's participation on co-operative boards. The workshop will provide a forum for existing women leaders as well as male and female staff who are responsible for education and board development training across a range of co-operatives.

The discussion will focus on:

- The need and capacity of existing co-operative organizations.
- Impending changes for women in leadership, their impact and the support needed.
- Successes and challenges relating to existing training programmes and if/how such training could be scaled up.

# Programme

**08:00 – 08:30**

Arrival

Welcome Remarks and Introductions

**08:30 – 09:30**

Presentation and Discussion: Impending changes for women's leadership – what does this mean for co-operatives?

**09:30 – 10.30**

Empowering women in the board room: challenge or opportunity? Group activities to identify:

- Women's skills and contributions
- Barriers to women's participation
- Training needs

**10.30-11.00 Tea Break (CRCC)****11.00-12:00**

Meeting training needs:

- Existing training programmes
- Sharing knowledge of good practice
- What resources are available?

**12:00 – 13:00**

Next steps

**13:00 – 14:00**

Lunch

The workshop will be facilitated by:

Dr. E.N. Gicheru (Mrs.), HSC  
Director  
Cooperative College of Kenya

Dr. Linda Shaw  
Vice Principal  
Co-operative College UK

Wanjohi Migwi  
Co-operative College of Kenya

Rebecca Forecast  
Co-operative College UK

**Please confirm your attendance by 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2011.**

We also welcome delegates to join us for lunch following the workshop.

Delegates can claim for reasonable travel expenses up to the value of 1,000ksh (on presentation of tickets/receipts).