

# ApexFinCoop

Advance Policy & Effectiveness for Financial Cooperative Apexes

## What is ApexFinCoop?

- **ApexFinCoop** is a training and strategic planning programme that aims to empower **financial cooperative apex organizations** and support institutions to advance the **scale and effectiveness** of financial cooperatives in a specific country or region. Financial cooperative apex organizations are dedicated, member-owned representative bodies that provide a unified voice for the financial cooperative movement, both at national and international level. Their key mandate is to protect and expand the financial cooperative movement and to support financial cooperatives in providing optimal services to members.
- **ApexFinCoop** is designed to support financial cooperative apex organizations in developing and implementing an effective strategic planning, with the objective of fulfilling their functions over the long term in a cost-effective way, to the satisfaction of their members.
- **ApexFinCoop** is built on a **partnership** between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Training Centre of the ILO (ITC-ILO).

## For whom is ApexFinCoop?

- ApexFinCoop is designed for financial cooperative apex organizations at different stages of development. It targets in particular:
  - Board members and managers of financial cooperative apex organizations; and
  - Officials of relevant supporting institutions apart from apex organizations, including policymaking and regulatory bodies such as Ministries and Central Banks.

## What are the components of the training package?

- The ApexFinCoop training package comprises the following themes:

Basics of financial cooperative apex organizations	Development and delivery of products & services	Sustainability & risk management	Enabling environment for apexes & advocacy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defining financial cooperative apexes</li> <li>• Visioning – Participatory approach</li> <li>• Management, governance &amp; leadership</li> <li>• Lifecycle &amp; functions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business models</li> <li>• Products, services &amp; shared services – Design &amp; development</li> <li>• Capacity development function of apexes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Triple bottom line</li> <li>• Financial sustainability</li> <li>• Risk management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy, legislation &amp; regulation</li> <li>• Advocacy for apexes</li> </ul>

- The ApexFinCoop training package includes:
  - a trainer’s manual; and
  - a workbook for participants

## How was it developed?

- In 2015, an ILO assessment highlighted that, while there were several training packages designed for primary financial cooperatives already available, there was still a significant demand for a tailored learning product that targeted financial cooperative apex organizations.
- FAO, ILO and ITC-ILO hence set out to develop a comprehensive training package and strategic planning programme that moved beyond targeting grassroots institutions to specifically focus on cooperative apex organizations and other support institutions. A number of relevant key organizations active in the financial cooperative domain were consulted in the development process.
- The ApexFinCoop training was first piloted with the Ghana Credit Unions Association (CUA) in December 2017. The success of the workshop confirmed the high relevance that this training programme could have for apex organizations worldwide.

## How is it delivered?

- ApexFinCoop is delivered in the form of a 5-day workshop. Adjustments can be made based on specific needs of the apex organization.
- The programme is conducted using a participatory approach, employing training techniques such as roleplay, case studies, brainstorming, and small group discussions.

## Which languages are available?

- ApexFinCoop is currently available in English.
- Versions in other languages will be produced in the future, on a demand basis.



## Contacts

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