

# Cooperative Principles

*Adopted in 1996 by the International Cooperative Alliance*

## Open, Voluntary Membership

Membership in a cooperative is voluntary and nondiscriminatory.

## Democratic Control

Each member receives one vote. This is in contrast to other corporations where the number of shares owned determines voting power.

## Member Economic Participation

Members contribute to, and democratically control, the financial resources of their cooperative.

## Autonomy & Independence

Cooperatives are independent, self-help organizations controlled by their members.

## Continuous Education

Cooperatives provide education on the principles and practices of cooperative business so that members will be good decision makers and so the general public will better understand cooperatives.

## Cooperation Among Cooperatives

Cooperatives work together at the local, regional, national and international levels to further economic democracy.

## Concern for Community

Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members