

# ICAO

## General Meeting

Virtual

22 OCTOBER 2020

19:00 (GMT+9)



**International Co-operative  
Agricultural Organisation (ICAO)**  
A Sector of the International  
Co-operative Alliance

# 1. Agenda

Item		For
1	Approval of Agenda	Approval
2	Country Reports	Information
3	Secretary-General Report	Information
4	Approval of the New President	Approval
5	Proposed Amendments to ICAO Rules	Approval
6	Any Other Matters	Discussion
7	Upcoming Events	Information

## 2. Country Reports

- Country Reports are submitted by the EXCOM members.
- The reports will **not be presented** during this GM.

### **By Mr. Takuo Ichiya, JA-Zenchu (Japan)**

In Asia (especially in Monsoon Asia), there are many natural disasters such as floods, typhoons and earthquakes that cause serious damages to agriculture and rural community. We also have had heavy rains and several typhoons in 2020.

Besides those natural disasters, farmers and authority have been tackling with COVID-19, although the number of cases has been decreasing.

Japan is facing with decrease in population and super-aging. Area of farmland in production has been decreased while fallow (set-aside) field is expanding.

For sustainable development of agriculture, agricultural cooperatives in Japan are conducting the following activities as top priority:

- Increasing direct marketing of farm products to retailers.
- Involvement in value chains, increasing value-added products.
- Strengthen joint-purchasing of farm inputs to minimize farming costs.
- “Eat local” campaign to increase domestic food consumption.

## **By Mr. Unal Ornek, OR-KOOP (Turkey)**

The first case of the Covid 19 outbreak in Turkey was identified on 10 March 2020.

As of 7 September a total of 6.730 people infected with Covid 19 had died in Turkey, while the total number of cases was 281.464 of the current cases, 1.703 people are being treated in intensive care. Of these patients, 252.152 patients have recovered and been discharged.

While 116 countries have requested assistance from Turkey, medical supplies have been provided to 44 countries most affected by the outbreak.

The process of normalization in Turkey began on 1 June. Protection measures against covid 19 have been introduced in agriculture sector across the country. Within the framework of these warnings, cooperatives took precautions in offices and work areas. Cooperatives continue to produce and distribute protective masks, disinfectants, and other materials for their partners and for the public in matters needed in the country.

### **Agriculture Cooperatives in the Pandemic Process in Turkey**

The co-operative movement, which puts the environment and human at its centre, once again demonstrated how important the power of cooperative movement and solidarity was during the Covid 19 pandemic. During this outbreak, Agriculture cooperatives did not hesitate to carry out their duties in all areas where they were active, in the regions and countries where they were present. Once again, they reminded us that services should focus on human welfare and the healthy environment, taking into account sharing and solidarity with the whole community, particularly partners, rather than the idea of generating priority income. During the Covid 19 pandemic era, agriculture cooperatives, like all over the world, sought to fulfill their services and support the work of the state.

The Covid 19 struggle in Turkey was carried out under the administration and planning of the state. Cooperatives have supported the work carried out by the Ministry of Health and its partners in the centre and in regions throughout the country within the framework of the Covid 19 epidemic fighting programme of the state. Co-operatives have supported their partners and public awareness efforts. Cooperatives have met the mask, glove, soap and disinfectant needs of their partners. Cooperatives have taken care to take protection measures both in their workplaces and in the field of services they provide.

The co-operatives provided and delayed the repayment of the loans they gave to their partners. Cooperatives have provided the market balance against the problems of excessive price and quality in the goods used for the Covid 19 challenge. Cooperatives have provided a safe and reliable environment in the market in food production and food marketing. Co-operatives have created employment opportunities to counter the unemployment problem caused by the Covid 19 outbreak. Co-operatives have contributed to joint projects with municipalities and government organizations in the regions they serve. Co-operatives have become the most trusted institutions in food safety and health security. Co-operatives have served under the necessary protection measures in public transport, which is the most sensitive issue in the Covid 19 struggle.

### **Difficulties Experienced by Agriculture Cooperatives During the Pandemic**

Covid 19 Office and field work was briefly decommissioned in the days when the outbreak began. Therefore, studies in many areas were disrupted. Agriculture Cooperatives and partners were hurt in the process. Initially, Agriculture cooperatives experienced short-term planning and a shortage of protection materials. Bans and quarantine measures throughout the country in the agriculture production, evaluation and marketing stages have hampered the work. Agriculture Co-operatives were caught unprepared for this process. Cooperatives waited for the state to produce permits and policies related to the work. The electoral processes of the co-operatives were hampered by obligations due to protection measures related to the outbreak. Cooperative election postponed until the end of November.

### **Conclusion**

The Covid 19 pandemic process revealed to us the importance of agriculture cooperatives, cooperation, and solidarity. The contribution of people and organizations from all walks of life to the struggle is important. The 21st century will be a century in which we will need a great deal of agriculture cooperatives and collaborations. The focus of cooperation and solidarity for the future of the world and its humanity will be the agriculture cooperatives. Cooperatives -related organizations will play key roles in solving Global problems and achieving UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The outlook for the economy and social life in agriculture has to change after Covid 19 pandemic. All segments of the cooperative movement will be unifying spaces for the future of humanity and the world.

## By Dato Kamarudin Ismail, ANGKASA (Malaysia)

### ANGKASA supports Malaysian Palm Oil Industry – Volume 6 – ICAO Virtual GM

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected its value chain throughout the world and Malaysia is not an exception in this matter. Worst still is that the Malaysian palm oil industry loses its grip on its second largest export market which is the European Union (EU) market.

As we know that European Unions (EU) resolutions to reduce and further restrict the use of palm oil in the production of biofuels by 2021. And on June 2019, the EU Parliament passed the Delegated Act to restrict and ban palm oil biofuel altogether by 2030. The direct impact of this resolution would be on the oil palm growers in Malaysia in which 40% or 650,000 of the oil palm growers are smallholders. In the long term, the EU ban can be damaging to the Malaysian palm oil industry. Since most of the palm oil produced are exported thus any negative influence on the export of palm oil could have a negative impact to the nation economy.

Nevertheless, there are also several positive implication which may do good to the industry in the long run. Malaysia increasingly subscribes to Certified Sustainable Palm Oil and has voluntarily adopted international accredited sustainability standard. In addition, Malaysia has mandated certification of all of its palm oil supply chain by December 2019 through Malaysia Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO) standard. These certification system already demand and extract a 'no deforestation' principle which is now increasingly adhered to by palm oil producers.

### Sustainable Palm Oil – a Snapshot in Numbers



References: 1. RSPO, <https://rspo.org/impact> 2. MPOCC, <https://mspotrace.org.my/>



The possibility of losing EU market has forced us to look for new market which previously not has been a priority. Australia, New Zealand, China and Turkey are among others potential new market for palm oil. There are always two sides of a coin and if we handled tactfully, it could be full of advantages yet to be discovered (The Implication of EU resolution on Palm; MPOC).

Thank You.

MSP0: Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil Certificate

- Note : 1. Total planted palm oil : 5.9 million hectares  
Total production : 18.469 million tons
2. MSP0: Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil Certificate  
Total palm oil areas: 5.9 hectares  
Total palm oil areas certified (as of 08 September 2020)  
5,147,869.41 hectares  
Percentage palm oil areas certified: 87.25%



## **By Mr. Ola Hestain, NAC (Norway)**

### **Cooperation among cooperatives**

Corona hit Norway with closing of schools, kindergarden and offices on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March. The agricultural cooperatives were about to start general assembly season, and quickly had to find new ways to arrange meetings on digital platforms. This happened in spite of restrictions in the Cooperative Act, where physical meetings were required. However, through exchange of experience, cooperation and coordination, the agricultural cooperatives managed to communicate the need for a temporary opening in the law, to allow for digital meetings. This way, all the cooperatives managed to arrange their general assemblies in a successful way.

### **The BOND project – Stronger farmers through higher levels of cooperation**

The 3-year BOND project financed by EU Horizon 2020 is going towards the end. The title of the project is “Bringing Organisations and Network Development to higher levels in the farming sector in Europe” (BOND). Participants in the project are 3 European Universities, FAO and 13 organisations from 11 countries, amongst them Norwegian Agricultural Cooperatives NAC).

NAC has throughout the project shared experience on how the agricultural cooperatives have managed to be competitive and strong for over 100 years. During the last year, the main focus in Norway has been to promote the opinions of young cooperative farmers, on what is needed to maintain strong cooperatives also in the future. Young farmers are highlighting the need to see the whole farmer, not just the food producer. They are ambitious when it comes to sustainable food production, and want to combine family life and working at the farm, taking care of the nature and land, promote high standards of animal welfare and invest in the future of the farm. The cooperatives are important in this sense. It has also become more evident throughout the project that there is a constant need to highlight the benefits of collaboration among farmers.

## 3. SG Report

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**I Past Activities**

## I. Past Activities

### ICAO & CCW Parallel Session

Oct 2019, Kigali

- **Co-hosted with Consumer Co-operatives Worldwide (CCW)** as part of the ICA Conference held in Kigali, Rwanda.
- **Theme:** *Contributing to food security, sustainable production and consumption*
- **Featured speakers from 7 countries**
  - ICAO was represented by Joao (OCB) and [Tarun](#) (IFFCO).



## I. Past Activities

### 2. ICAO & NACF ODA Training

January 2020, Korea

- **Two-week course** conducted for foreign gov't officials taking a master's degree in Korea.
- **Training included:**
  - lectures on co-operative history
  - field visits to NACF subsidiaries
  - a session on developing action plans
- **23 participants from 14 countries**  
Cambodia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Laos, Nepal, Nigeria, Philippine, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Vietnam.



## I. Past Activities

### 3. Launching ICAO Europe office

In progress

- **ICAO is working to launch operations in Europe.**
- **Purpose:**
  - improve communication with other int'l agricultural organizations (WFO, FAO, etc.)
  - better promote agricultural co-ops and agricultural policy
- **Immediate goal is to find office space and obtain the necessary permits.**



## I. Past Activities

### 4. ICA & ICAO Survey on SDGs

February – March 2020

- **This work began at ICA's request.**
  - ICA is planning to receive survey responses from all sectors and regions and present the findings at the next Congress
- We first surveyed EXCOM members, then sent the questionnaire to ICA-Africa for more responses
- Secretariat had a meeting with the ICA-hired consultant.
- **The responses were sent to the consultant, and the work was finalized.**
  - The final draft will soon be uploaded on ica.coop.



## I. Past Activities

### 5.1 EXCOM Meeting (virtual)

28 May 2020

- **Executive Committee meeting postponed due to Covid-19**
  - Meeting was initially scheduled to take place in Brazil in April
- **Meeting was instead held virtually and covered the following:**
  - Updates on the Covid-19 situation in committee members' respective countries.
  - Responses made to support their member farmers.
  - General Meeting to be held in Brazil on condition that pandemic is brought under control.



## I. Past Activities

### 5.2 EXCOM Meeting (virtual)

1 July 2020

- EXCOM meeting was held following President Kim's resignation (5 June).
- His successor at NACF, Mr. Sung-[hee](#) Lee was named acting president.
- EXCOM agreed to hold a GM soon and have a formal presidential election.
- ICA's Governance Committee (in late July) also recommended the same.



## I. Past Activities

### 6. ICAO Webinar

1 September 2020

- **ICAO's first-ever webinar**
- **Theme:** *the Role of Nat'l Agricultural Co-ops in the Post Covid-19 Era*
- **Speakers included:**
  - Brady [Giulherme](#) (FAO)
  - Dr. Roberto Rodrigues, FMR. Brazil Minister of Agriculture
  - Prof. [Gulcubuk](#) of Ankara University
  - [Tarun Bhargava](#) (IFFCO)
  - Albert [Akwasi Boakye](#) (GCC)
- **Recording and materials available**  
on [icao.coop](http://icao.coop)



## II Finances

## II. Finances

### Financial Statement (Sep 1, 2019 – Sep 30, 2020)

(Unit: EURO)

Description	ICA Redistribution			NACF Special Contribution		
	Debit	Credit	Balance	Debit	Credit	Balance
Balance Carried Forward			0			111,506
Redistribution from ICA		65,900				
Seoul General Meeting (additional exp.)	30,000					
ODA Training Course				10,000		
Launching Europe Office				10,000		
ICAO EXCOM & Webinar	7,000					
ICAO Website Renewal	5,000			35,000		
Administration & Other	2,394					
<b>Total</b>	<b>44,394</b>	<b>65,900</b>	<b>21,506</b>	<b>55,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>56,506</b>

## II. Finances

### Redistributions & Contributions (2015 – 2020)

(Unit: EURO)

Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
ICA Redistributions*		263,554	0
NACF Special Contributions		806,566	
ICAO activities	992,107		
<b>Total</b>	<b>992,107</b>	<b>1,070,119</b>	<b>78,012</b>

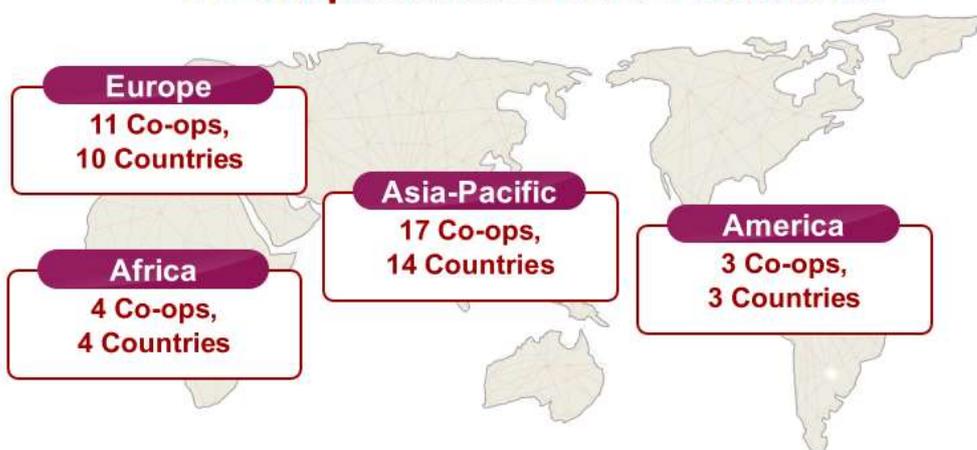
#### ICA Redistributions

- 2015 – 2018 : about 40,000 euro/year
- 2019 – 2020 : about 60,000 euro/year

### III Membership

## III. Membership

**35 cooperatives from 31 countries**



**Three co-ops have expressed interest in joining us**

- AFA SCL (Argentina) has already submitted their application.
- AMPCM (Mozambique) and SANACO (South Africa) are expected to submit their soon.
- Their applications will be approved by the Executive Committee pursuant to the ICAO Rules.

## III. Membership

### Member List

<b>AFRICA (4)</b>	UDHIS (Somalia), GCC (Ghana), UCA (Uganda), TFC (Tanzania)
<b>AMERICAS (3)</b>	CONCOPAR (Paraguay), OCB (Brazil), UNICARGRIH (Haiti)
<b>ASIA-PACIFIC (17)</b>	CCS (Myanmar), VICTO National (Philippines), ACFSMC (China), IFFCO (India), NAFED (India), NAFSCOB (India), CORC (Iran), JA-Zenchi (Japan), NACF (Korea), NFCF (Korea), ANGKASA (Malaysia), NAMAC (Mongolia), NACCFL (Nepal), NCC (Sri Lanka), CLT (Thailand), VCA (Vietnam), FPSDC (Philippines)
<b>EUROPE (11)</b>	CCU (Bulgaria), CCB (Cyprus), Pellervo (Finland), MOSZ (Hungary), ACI (Italy), Koperattive Malta (Malta), NAC (Norway), NCC (Poland), DUSR (Slovak Republic), OR-KOOP (Turkey), ACC (Turkey)

## IV 2021 Activity Plans

## IV. 2021 Activity Plans

<b>Project 1</b>	ICAO Europe office
<b>Type/theme</b>	Advocacy and collaboration
<b>Location</b>	Rome, Italy
<b>Date</b>	In progress

- **Secretariat is working on opening a Europe office in Rome.**
- **Purpose:**
  - facilitate communication with other agricultural organizations
  - promote agricultural policy more actively.
- Rome Office will collaborate with int'l organizations such as WFO and FAO.

## IV. 2021 Activity Plans

<b>Project 2</b>	ICAO & NACF ODA <u>Programme</u>
<b>Type/theme</b>	Capacity building
<b>Location</b>	Seoul or online
<b>Date</b>	TBD

- **A two-week ODA program for gov't officials** studying a Master's degree in Korea.
- The course will include:
  - lectures on cooperative history
  - visits to NACF business premises, and
  - a session on establishing action plans, etc.
- Participants will learn the importance of agricoops to their national economies.
- More information will be made available next year.

## IV. 2021 Activity Plans

<b>Project 3</b>	International Seminar
<b>Type/theme</b>	Agricultural Cooperatives and SDGs
<b>Location</b>	Seoul, Korea
<b>Date</b>	December

- ICAO has explored agricultural co-ops' contribution to the SDGs.
- Next year, the work will be expanded to demonstrate the contribution of more co-ops.
- Seminar will be held during the Congress week to share the findings with members and other cooperators, and comments will be heard.

## IV. 2021 Activity Plans

<b>Project 4</b>	Executive Committee Meeting
<b>Type/theme</b>	Statutory meeting
<b>Location</b>	Brazil or Europe
<b>Date</b>	TBD

- The ICAO Rules provide that the EXCOM meet at least once a year
- EXCOM is the ICAO's decision-making body.
- If the Covid-19 pandemic is contained next year, a physical meeting will be held.



## IV. 2021 Activity Plans

**Project 5** General Meeting

**Type/theme** Statutory

**Location** Seoul, Korea

**Date** December

- ICA will be hosting its 2021 General Assembly in Seoul
- **The next ICAO General Meeting will be held during the same week**
- Your participation will be greatly appreciated.



# THANK YOU

## 4. Approval of the New President

- Following Mr. Byeong-won Kim resignation as ICAO president in June, Mr Sung-hee Lee was named acting president in July.
- **If approved, Mr. Lee will take office as president until the next elections** where the ICAO will be electing a new Executive Committee.



**SUNG-HEE LEE**  
CHAIRMAN, NACF (2020-2024)

- **EDUCATION**

- majored in tax accounting, Jangan Univ.
- completed Advanced Auditing Program, Seoul Nat'l Univ.
- completed High-Level Policy on Natural Resources Program, Korea Univ.

- **CAREER**

- Joined Nakseng Agricultural Cooperative (1971)
- Elected President of Nakseng (1998-2008)
- Sat on the NACF Board of Directors (2003-2010)
- Chaired the NACF Audit Committee (2008-2015)



## 5. Proposed Amendments

- The Secretariat invited Membership to propose amendments to the Rules from 27 August to 3 September.
- A total of seven amendment proposals were made, but two (Rome relocation and rotating presidency) will be not be put to the vote in this GM.
  - **The two proposals will be discussed in more detail in future EXCOM meetings,** where the committee members are expected to draft long-term, carefully-laid plans.
- Any amendment approved at the upcoming General Meeting needs to be approved by the ICA Global Board and will take effect afterwards in accordance with **Article 34(a.) of the ICA By-laws** as provided below.

“The Sectoral Organisations as structures of the global ICA will:  
a. draw up their Rules for approval by the ICA Board;”

<b>Amendment Proposed by</b>	Secretariat	
<b>Existing Provision</b>	<b>Amended Provision</b>	
<p><b>6. The Executive Committee</b> a. The Executive Committee shall be convened at least once a year.</p>	<p><b>6. The Executive Committee</b> a. The Executive Committee shall be convened at least once a year. <u>Meetings can be held via communication means that allow for a collective deliberation, such as phone or video conference; as well as via written procedure, such as an email exchange.</u></p>	
<b>Secretariat's comment/recommendation</b>	<p>This amendment is to establish a statutory basis for future virtual meetings, our Executive Committee meetings and General Meetings, and has been borrowed from CCW Rules. Refer to <a href="https://www.ccw.coop/about-us/rules.html">https://www.ccw.coop/about-us/rules.html</a>).</p>	
<b>Member Approval Required</b>		

<p><b>Amendment Proposed by</b></p>	<p>Dr. Onofre (OCB), Mr. Ichiya (JA-Zenchu)</p>	
<p><b>Existing Provision</b></p>	<p><b>Amended Provision</b></p>	
<p><b>6. The Executive Committee</b> b. Members of the Executive Committee: vi. If any of the Executive Committee members are not able to complete the four-year term. The off-year election to fill the vacancy shall be held at the General Meeting which falls closest to date when the vacancy takes place. Those who are elected to fill the vacancy shall have service terms to fill the vacancy period plus the ordinary four-year term consecutively.</p>	<p><b>6. The Executive Committee</b> b. Members of the Executive Committee: vi. If any of the Executive Committee members are not able to complete the four-year term. The off-year election to fill the vacancy shall be held at the General Meeting which falls closest to date when the vacancy takes place. <u>Those who are elected to fill the vacancy shall serve a four-year term.</u></p>	
<p><b>Secretariat's comment/recommendation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some of you have commented that the current provision is somewhat excessive, and we respect your comments.</li> <li>• We want to stress that especially in the case of presidency, because it is related to smooth running of the Secretariat, a four-year term must be guaranteed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- but if a permanent Secretariat is created, this provision had better be reamended so that the electee serves only the remaining term of their predecessor.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Member Approval Required</b></p>		

<p><b>Amendment Proposed by</b></p>	<p>Dr. Onofre (OCB), Ms. Cavazzutti (CONCOPAR)</p>	
<p><b>Existing Provision</b></p>		<p><b>Amended Provision</b></p>
<p><b>6. The Executive Committee</b>  b. Members of the Executive Committee:  i. The President, Vice-Presidents and Executive members shall be members of the Executive Committee.</p>		<p><b>6. The Executive Committee</b>  b. Members of the Executive Committee:  i. The President, Vice-Presidents and Executive members shall be members of the Executive Committee. <u>The Committee shall include at least one female representative to ensure gender equality.</u></p>
<p><b>Secretariat's comment/recommendation</b></p>	<p>We fully support this proposal. When we have our elections November next year, we ask all of you to nominate female cooperators.</p>	
<p><b>Member Approval Required</b></p>		

Amendment Proposed by	Secretariat	
<b>Existing Provision</b>	<b>Amended Provision</b>	
	<p>Add the following provision to <b>11. Finance</b></p> <p>c. The Executive Committee will appoint one of its members to be the auditor, who will launch an audit of the Organisation's budget before the General Meeting. And the findings will be presented at the General Meeting.</p>	
<b>Secretariat's comment/recommendation</b>	We expect this provision will improve the financial transparency of the Secretariat.	
<b>Member Approval Required</b>		

Amendment Proposed by	Secretariat	
Existing Provision	Amended Provision	
	<p>Add the following provision to the end of the Rules:</p> <p><b>17. Other matters</b> For all other matters not covered by the Rules, the Organisation shall refer to the ICA's Articles of Association and By-laws.</p>	
Secretariat's comment/recommendation	Our Rules can sometimes lack clarity, so we should refer to the ICA's statutes for issues that are not explicitly covered our Rules.	
<b>Member Approval Required</b>		

## 6. Any Other Matters

## 7. Upcoming Events

- **ICA World Congress**

Date	Venue
TBD	Seoul, Korea

- **ICAO General Meeting**

Date	Venue
Congress Week	Seoul, Korea

- **Regional Webinars on SDGs**

Date	Venue
TBD	Virtual

- **ICAO International Seminar**

Date	Venue
Congress Week	Seoul, Korea