

Tool 5

Discussion on the external environment

Guiding question: bearing in mind the problems, how can these be explained, at least in part, by any gaps in the external environment in our country? More specifically, refer to each of the following levels:

LEVEL	GAP AT THE LEVEL OF THE EXTERNAL ENVIRONNEMENT
Policy and legal framework	<p>Is there a specific development strategy of the cooperative containing both a vision and action: implementation of coordination structures, innovations, gender and youth, monitoring and evaluation, etc.?</p> <p>Is the country's legislation for cooperatives consistent with other laws that affect their operation, such as taxation/agricultural/employment laws etc.?</p> <p>How do cooperatives in the country preserve their independence with respect to the state and other organizations with whom they work?</p>
Opportunities for dialogue	<p>Are cooperatives considered to be equal partners and are their contributions taken into account in the development and implementation of relevant policies and laws?</p>
Economic incentives	<p>Does the economic policy of the state help cooperatives to gain access to markets, training, credit and to acquire the technologies they need?</p>
Information and communication	<p>Does the government facilitate the dissemination of information and the development of alliances and partnerships? Are the means of communication adequate and accessible: federations/unions/grassroots organizations; men, women, young people?</p>