



African Cooperative Researchers' Meeting

14 October, 2019, Kigali Convention Center AD12, Kigali, Rwanda

Research is a powerful tool for improving people's lives which, in turn, is a source for inspiring further research. This interconnected relationship is particularly important for cooperatives which have inspired research on different ways of human development but have also been nurtured and stimulated by the research outcomes.

The Committee on Cooperative Research of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA CCR) has been playing a critical role in connecting the researchers' community with the cooperative movement at the global level. ICA CCR and its regional networks have encouraged research on cooperatives, organized regional and global research conferences and provided advice and expertise to the cooperative movement worldwide. In Africa, although there has been increasing interest in cooperatives and cooperative research, the cooperative researchers' networks have not been sufficiently active. Funding for research has been low as most of the African institutions do not provide sufficient budgets for research due to their own inadequate resources. Identification of partners for the development of proposals has been limited due to lower numbers of researchers trained in grant writing.

On the occasion of the ICA Global Conference 2019 in Kigali, Rwanda, ICA CCR proposes a one-day meeting of cooperative researchers, on 14th October 2019 at Kigali Convention Center.

The main agenda of the meeting will be to re-energize the CCR Africa network. During the meeting, researchers and cooperative movement leaders, mainly from African countries but also other continents, international donors and other stakeholders will discuss the current situation of cooperative research in Africa. A second goal of the meeting will be to identify a future agenda for developing research and collaboration between the research community and the cooperative movement in the Africa region.

Practical information

- On 14th October, when you will arrive at the Kigali Convention center, you will find volunteers who will guide you to the meeting room AD 12.
- If you are registered participants for the ICA Global conference, you can take your badge at the registration desk of the ICA from 14th October.

Programme

Welcome speech (9:00 – 9:15)

- Japheth Anavila Magomere (President, ICA Africa)
- Dr. Lou Hammond Ketilson (ICA CCR, University of Saskatchewan, Canada)

Young Scholars Workshop on Cooperatives and Cooperation (9:15 – 11:00 / 11:30 - 12:30)

Young Scholars Workshop will be organized by CCR Young Scholars Program and the Young Scholars Initiative Working Group on Cooperatives and Cooperation from the Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET). The objective of the workshop is to give young and emerging scholars from different disciplines the opportunity to develop further knowledge and skills on current issues related to Cooperatives and Cooperation as well as to give space for networking and exchange.

The workshop will be animated by Santosh Kumar, Legislation Coordinator of the ICA and three senior researchers will share their experiences as cooperative researchers.

- Esther Gicheru, The Co-operative University of Kenya, Kenya
- Lou Hammond Ketilson, University of Saskatchewan, Canada
- Hagen Henri, University of Helsinki, Finland

All other participants (senior researchers, cooperative movement representatives) registered for the meeting will be invited to join, observe and encourage young scholars.

Lunch (12:30 – 14:00)

An overview of research in cooperatives (14:00 – 16:00)

This session will give an overview of cooperative research in different parts of Africa as well as its global trends. ICA CCR members and African researchers will present general trends of cooperative research in their regions. A discussion with all participants will be followed.

- Global and North America – Dr. Lou Hammond Ketilson (University of Saskatchewan, Canada)
- South America – Dr. Claudia Sanchez Bajo (University of Buenos Aires, Argentina)
- Cooperative law – Prof. Hagen Henry (Chair, ICA Cooperative Law Committee, University of Helsinki, Finland)
- Africa - Prof. Esther Gicheru (The Co-operative University of Kenya, Kenya)
- Eastern Africa – Prof. Esther Towo (Moshi Co-operative University, Tanzania)
- Horn of Africa – Prof. Mohamed Maie (the Malaq Maye Cooperative Institute, Somalia)
- Western Africa – Mr. Willy Tadjudje (NCBA CLUSA Consultant in Africa, Cameroon)

Participants from other sub-regions of Africa will be invited to present shortly about themselves.

Coffee break (16:00 – 16:30)

Roundtable for the future of cooperative research in Africa (16:30 – 18:00)

In this session, leaders of the African cooperative movement and representatives from international institutions and donor organisations will propose pressing research issues in the region. In addition, researchers in the room may propose research issues that are urgent but have been difficult to fund. To address the propositions, African researchers from different sub-regions and different fields will be encouraged to make proposals for a plan forward. Various ideas, such as fundraising, partnership, seed research funds etc. will be discussed.

Simultaneous interpretation for English and French will be provided.