

Report on the conference held in Pretoria on the 6-9 February 2006 in Pretoria

Group 1 report

Role of Government in co-operative development

1. Policy and Legislation

- a. Formulation of policy and legislation in consultation with stakeholders
- b. Continuous review of policy and legislation
- c. Ensure/oversee the implementation of the policy and legislation

2. Promotion

- a. Registration
 - i. Simplicity for ease of understanding
 - ii. Decentralised for ease of access at grassroots
- b. Publicity in conjunction with co-operative movement
 - i. Benefits
 - ii. Different types
 - iii. Economic and social development

Use mass media to government ministries, general public, prospective co-operatives and informal groups.

- c. Education and Training
 - i. Training of trainers at grassroots and council level
 - ii. School curriculum to include coop development as vehicles for economic and social development
 - iii. Extension services

3. Operational aspects

- a. Ensure good governance and financial controls in conjunction with apex bodies
- b. Provide demand driven financial assistance with clear exit strategy
- c. Enforcement of the Law

4. Research

- a. Empirical research
- b. Action oriented research
- c. Case studies
- d. Higher education institutions

Group 2 report

Role of Donors in co-operative development

A donor is described as someone who puts up resources for capacity building/ empowerment

The role of donors should be to:

- ✚ Provide technical assistance
- ✚ Facilitate skills development
- ✚ Facilitate access

Current donor practices

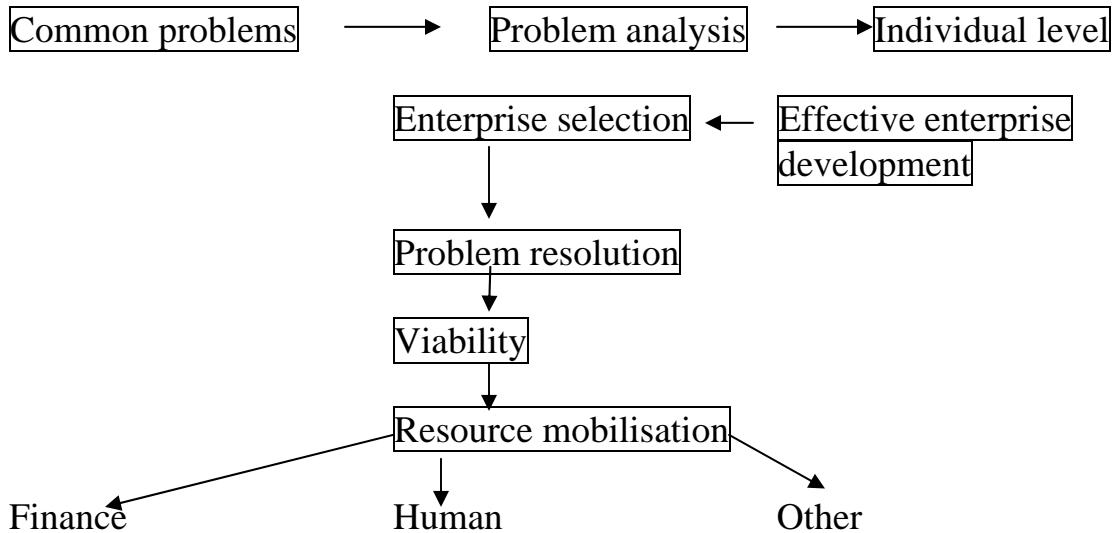
- ✚ Different and un co-ordinated approaches to supporting the Sector
- ✚ Perpetuating dependency syndrome e.g. starter packs, food aid, etc.
- ✚ Support without strict sustainability indicators
- ✚ Most support consumed in excessive administrative overheads
- ✚ Facilitate access to new technologies
- ✚ Facilitate country to country co-operation in co-operatives development initiatives
- ✚ Support and build capacity of local co-operative training institutions/universities to raise the profile of co-operatives

Comments and additions

- ✚ Lack exit strategy
- ✚ Do not stick to original contracts

Group 3 report

Role of co-operatives and co-operative movements



Common problems for primary co-operatives

- Marketing
- Bulk buying
- Auditing
- Finance
- Information
- Horizontal integration

Secondary /Union/Society

- Necessity of services
- Viability

Tertiary Co-operatives

- Political lobbying
- Advocacy
- International Alliances (ICA)

