

AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES IN POST-WAR BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA: INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL FACTORS AFFECTING COOPERATIVE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

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Abstract

This article analyzes the first comprehensive survey of the post-war agricultural cooperative sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). Its purpose is to explore which types of cooperatives are financially successful in BiH in order to inform the development of better management practices for modern cooperatives, particularly those that are still transitioning from Socialist-era groups into business-oriented organizations. The results highlight internal and external factors that have been instrumental for cooperative successes and failures in BiH. Cooperatives with businesslike management systems tend to be more financially successful, thanks to consolidated decision-making structures and relatively closed membership policies. Government interventions in cooperative property have tended to hurt cooperative development.

Keywords: Bosnia and Herzegovina, agricultural cooperatives, agricultural development