



“COOPERATIVAS AGRO-ALIMENTARIAS PRINCIPADO DE ASTURIAS”

Gijón, 23rd September 2019



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Who are we?

- > **Cooperativas agroalimentarias Principado de Asturias** (former UCAPA - Unión de Cooperativas Agrarias del Principado de Asturias) was created in November 1989 (public release in July 1990).
- > Agro-food cooperatives Principality of Asturias, Union of Cooperatives is the representative body of the Asturian agricultural cooperative movement. Agro-food cooperatives are also represented in the rest of the Autonomous Communities, which in turn are confederated into a state-wide organization, called Agro-food Cooperatives of Spain, which in turn is integrated at the European level (COPA-Cocega).
- > Some of the services we offer are: Information, training, advice, processing of grants, dialogue with public authorities, etc.



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Who are we?

- > Since the beginning of its activity, Cooperativas agro-alimentarias Principado de Asturias has been undergoing modifications, as a result of the adaptations to the changes produced in the sector itself, in Spain and Europe. From its own name, to successive statutory modifications, and even the member cooperatives that make up the Union.
- > In its origins the number of cooperatives in Asturias was much higher, but as a result of the different mergers and/or integrations that have taken place over the years, with the aim of believing and being able to compete in the market, maintaining the values and principles of cooperativism, of the almost 40 initial cooperatives, at present, the entity brings together **10 cooperatives (9 of first degree and 1 of second degree or higher) and more than 7,000 members**, distributed throughout the Asturian geography.



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Cooperatives that make up the Federation

> Agro-food cooperatives Principality of Asturias, currently consists of 10 cooperatives and/or Sat's:

1. SAT Central Lechera Asturiana (CLAS)
2. Campoastur Productos y Servicios Soc. Coop. Asturiana
3. Corvera Soc. Coop. Asturiana
4. Agrovaldés Soc. Coop. Asturiana Limitada
5. La Allandesa Soc. Coop. Asturiana
6. Cooperativa de Seares
7. Quesos de Peñamellera
8. Asturiana de Control Lechero S. Coop. Astur. (ASCOL)
9. Cooperativa Busmayor
10. DELAGRO (Cooperativa de 2º grado o ulterior)



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Social Economy and Cooperatives

“**Social economy**” set of economic and business activities, which in the private sphere are carried out by those entities that, in accordance with the following **principles**, pursue the general economic or social interest, or both.

- **Primacy of people and social purpose over capital**, which takes the form of autonomous and transparent, democratic and participatory management, which leads to prioritizing decision-making more on the basis of people and their contributions of work and services to the entity or on the basis of the corporate purpose, than in relation to their contributions to the share capital.
- **Application of the results obtained from the economic activity** mainly based on the work contributed and service or activity carried out by the partners or their members and, where appropriate, **to the corporate purpose of the entity**.





Social Economy and Cooperatives

- **Promotion of internal solidarity** and with society that favours a commitment to local development, equal opportunities between men and women, social cohesion, the insertion of people at risk of social exclusion, the generation of stable and quality employment, the reconciliation of personal, family and working life and sustainability.
- **Independence from public authorities**

Within the Social Economy, there are: Cooperatives, Limited Labour Companies, Mutual Funds, Special Employment Centres, Insertion Companies, etc



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Types of Cooperatives

Co-operatives can be classified in different ways, for a start they can be first or second grade.

We can distinguish the following types which are neither incompatible nor mutually exclusive, and which can be extended or regulated by the specific regulations of each autonomous community:

Work, consumer and user, housing, agricultural, community land, service, sea, transport, insurance, credit, health and education cooperatives.



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Sectors of activity of our member cooperatives

Dairy and Dairy Products Sector

Milk is one of the most important activities of the Asturian agricultural sector, and therefore, fundamental in the development of the regional countryside.

Beef Sector

Improving the vertebration of the beef sector in Asturias, advancing in the value chain by betting on the transformation and commercialization of the products.

Feed and Animal Feed Sector

The cooperatives integrated in our organization concentrate most of their turnover around activities directly related to the production, manufacture, supply, distribution and consumption of raw materials and animal feed.



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Sectors of activity of our member cooperatives

Supply Sector

The supply sector encompasses the activity carried out by cooperatives in relation to fuels, veterinary medicines, fertilisers and phytosanitary products, among others.

Fruit and Vegetable Sector

The cooperative Campoastur is the one that brings together producers of cider apple and Asturian bean. The activity is developed with the aim of achieving progress in professionalization that allows a higher yield and better quality of crops.



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Current context of cooperatives and challenges in the agro-food sector. Where are we?

- > Our agriculture and that of the EU are going through one of their most difficult periods since joining the EU:
 - **Real incomes of farmers have declined in recent years** to levels similar to those of the 1990s and the little improvement has not served to reverse the situation.
 - The Asturian agricultural sector **continues to age at an alarming rate:**
 - 31% are over 65 years old.
 - Out of 100 holders, only 10% are under 35 years old, the rest are over 55 years old.



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Current context of cooperatives and challenges in the agro-food sector. Where are we?

- Agricultural activity is not attractive to young people, and this is a medium- and long-term problem.
- It's a very masculinized sector.
- There is a **clear imbalance of power in the agri-food chain**. A highly atomised production and industry as opposed to a highly concentrated distribution. Our agri-food sector is **commercially disorganized**.
- **The reform of the CAP (2015 - 2020)**, has led to aid that is difficult to manage and understand for the farmer, generating a lot of uncertainty. And currently work is already underway on the next CAP, which we do not know what it will be.
- The CAP (2020-2023) is currently being designed, but it is marked by great uncertainty: Brexit, etc.





Importance of Agro-food Cooperatives in Asturias

- > The cooperatives have a special relevance for the Asturian rural environment, as they include **more than 7,000 producer members**, who contribute economically to the development and maintenance of this region, in all sectors of agricultural and livestock activity: *dairy, meat, animal feed, cider apple, sale of agricultural supplies and diesel, agricultural and consumer stores, services to members, etc...*
- > ***Cooperatives in Asturias have a turnover of more than 900 million euros.***



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Cooperative Social Projects

The cooperatives develop many industrial activities: in their feed factories; commercial, in the cooperative shops and supermarkets; they market their members' products: milk, apple, honey, beans, etc. And they implement multiple services to improve the quality and competitiveness of agricultural and livestock farms: veterinary services, agronomic services, agricultural insurance, etc.

A lot of activity with a single purpose, to facilitate and improve the quality of life of people living in rural areas.

1. Livestock Substitutions, a service aimed at improving the working and living conditions of farm owners. Supports or replaces the farmer in his daily work, allowing him to take a break from his activities to take a short vacation, attend an event, family party, a leave of absence or peak seasons



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Cooperative Social Projects

2. The “**More than a Breath**”, project was born at the end of 2014, with the aim of promoting the personal and professional development of rural women. This is the extension of the farm replacement service offered by Asturian cooperatives to all the work carried out by women in cooperatives and livestock farming, both on the farm and in the care and domestic tasks that traditionally fall mainly to women.

By considering all the work done by women as basic and necessary activities for the competitiveness of the farms, **More than a Breath supports or replaces women farmers**, in the work they do on a daily basis, freeing them from their long working days, allowing them to take well-deserved breaks to take a short vacation, improve their professional training, spend time managing the farm or participate under the same conditions as men in social and cooperative development.



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THANK YOU!

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