Analysis of the Organizational Eco-Systemic Change in a Cooperative Society of Fishing Production

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Abstract

This work aims to analyze the organizational change that has taken the Cooperative Society of Fishing Production "The Patole", S.C. of R.L. de C.V. It is assumed that as a result of having implemented systems theory, it has improved its organizational development and thus fulfillment of its objectives, being a source of employment and income for the cooperative. The main method used in this analysis is observing partners, gathering factual information and indicators and supported by the application of a Likert scale questionnaire. It is concluded that systems theory is related to the cooperative to be beneficial in the organizational development of the company.

Keywords: Organizational change; Fisheries production cooperatives; Systems theory

Introduction

In this twenty-first century businesses must try to maintain positioning in a competitive market. This is due to competition in the sector, rising inputs, climatic change, changing consumer mindset, etc. Companies are economic entities generating jobs and wealth for their owners.

The United Mexican States have a wealth of renewable and nonrenewable natural resources. In the fishing sector companies primarily engaged in the exploitation of marine products are cooperative societies. Cooperatives are supported entities in the cooperative philosophy that seeks the common good of the members, their families and society in general. The fishing sector is part of the productive sectors that support the economy of Mexico. Therefore, cooperatives are important to be sources of employment and income for their partners, families and society in general.

Cooperative societies to be part of the fisheries sector which in turn is part of the Mexican economy are systems. That is, the cooperative is a system within several other systems work together in social and economic benefit of the country. Herein lays the importance of the study of systems thinking in the Cooperative Society of Fishing Production "The Patole", S.C. of R.L. de C.V.

Background of the Problem

The current global environment is extremely competitive. Countries should support businesses to continue working in the market. Similarly, countries should use natural resources wisely so that future generations do not lack of these resources. The United Mexican States have a vast amount of resources that should use properly the good of its citizens.

Mexico has a land area of 1,964.375 square kilometers, corresponding 1,959.248 continental surface and 5,127 to islands. The extent of coastal is 11,122 square kilometers [1]. Marine species that inhabit the coasts are: anchovy, hake, squid, red crab, red snapper, grouper, sierra, sardines, tuna and shrimp [2]. The country's natural resources are outstanding and if properly exploited food and generate wealth for the population.

The state of Sinaloa is one of the leading producers of white shrimp (Penaeus vannamei). In 2014 according to National Institute of Statistics and Geography economic units in the country engaged in fishing were 4,230,745 [3]. Also it argues that farming shrimp was 7,447.104 tons representing $507, 716.640 [4]. The shrimp was captured in estuaries 940.848 tons representing $62, 575.089. Service Information Agrifood and Fisheries (SIAP) reports in its monthly Bulletins the fish production by State in 2015. Production in the country was 26,617.59 tons and in the state of Sinaloa was 9295.26 [5]. This information shows the importance of the fisheries sector, especially shrimp in Mexico. The main operators of crustacean are cooperatives.

Cooperatives face several challenges to continue working. To name a few are the climatic change, competition, new market demands and environmental protection. It is seen as cooperatives are part of the Mexican and global economic system. This is the case of this article focuses on the case of the Cooperative Society of Fishing Production "The Patole", S.C. of R.L. de C.V. The Patole is a system that is within the economic system of the nation which in turn is part of a larger system the global economic system.

Delimitation of the Problem

This research is an investigation that was necessary to explain how organizational change was necessary at the Cooperative Society of Fishing Production "The Patole", S.C. of R.L. de C.V in order to attain greater development in production volumes and growth. Plus it is affecting the entity, because a low impact business development in the social context where it is located. Low productivity affects employment generation causing no positive impact on fishing activity and the regional, state and national economy.

Organizational improvement in the cooperative system is crucial to the future of it. Cooperatives are founded figures that promote values such as solidarity and collective benefit. The cooperative philosophy is aimed at obtaining common good that benefits all members. In today's
competitive environment, it requires that cooperatives continue to be laboring jobs for partners within them. Such is the case study; the Patole is the source of employment for eighteen members and their families.

This study is based on a diagnosis that detected an organizational problem in the cooperative society that poses systemic model implementation to improve the functioning of the Cooperative Society of Fishing Production the Patole S.C. of R. L. of C. V. For the entity reconvenes philosophical principles of mutual assistance and common welfare and generate benefits in the members, their families and society in general.

**Historical, Legal and Theoretical Background**

The cooperative has its origins in 1844 when Rochdale cooperative, located in the county of Lancashire was founded. It consisted of workers who were weaving flannel together to purchase cheaper price staples [6]. In the late nineteenth century European immigrants brought the cooperative in southern Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina.

In the United Mexican States cooperatives were promoted in 1865 by a group of anarcho-syndicalist leaders. However, it would be until the 1930s when the movement would take shape under the government of President Lazaro Cardenas del Rio. The president support agrarian reform based on cooperatives [7]. Over the decades cooperatives continued their work consumption and production benefiting its members and society in general.

However, the change in society in the last decade of the twentieth century showed that an update was needed in legislation. On August 3, 1994 President Carlos Salinas de Gortari reformed the law and denominating General Law of Cooperative Societies (LGSC), the last update was on 13 August 2009. There is also another law regulating cooperatives in Latin America called Framework Law for Cooperatives (LMCAL) that emerged in 1987 and was renovated in 2009. Both laws are in harmony.

The GLCC defines cooperative in its second article as a form of social organization composed of individuals based on common interests and the principles of solidarity, self-help and mutual aid, in order to meet individual and collective needs, through carrying out economic activities of production, distribution and consumption of goods and services.

While LMCAL in in his third article defines cooperative as associations of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs through a company owned jointly and managed democratically. They are private legal entities of social interest. The philosophy of mutual help and common benefit of the members of the cooperative is observed. In both laws cooperative principles are presented. In the LGSC in article six is exposed:

I. Freedom of association and voluntary retirement of partners;

II. Democratic administration;

III. III Limitation of interest to some partners' contributions will be agreed if so;

IV. Distribution of income in proportion to the participation of the partners;

V. Promoting cooperative education and education in the solidarity economy;

VI. Participation in cooperative integration;

VII. Respect the individual right of members to belong to any political party or religious association, and

VIII. Promotion of ecological culture.

While LMCAL partnership presents it in his article four:

1. Voluntary and open membership;

2. Democratic management by partners;

3. Economic participation of the partners;

4. Autonomy and independence;

5. Education, training and information;

6. Cooperation between cooperatives;

7. Concern for the community.

The GLCC and MAL support the cooperative philosophy and support democracy, freedom and equality of each of its partners. Also education and training, this is done through cooperative education in which the partners motivate children of cooperative members and children of the community to study. Promoting ecological culture is extremely important especially in the issue of climate change that has occurred in recent decades.

As characteristics of cooperatives noted that partners are unlimited and can vary in number, their duration is indefinite, its capital is variable and unlimited, the organization presents political, racial and religious independence, the partners have equal rights and obligations, each partner is entitled to one vote regardless of their contributions and finally the social reserves are non-distributable.

In the LMCAL acts performed by cooperatives are regulated by the cooperative law. Cooperatives can serve external people from them always and when not on more favorable terms that partners and obtained surplus be devoted to cooperative education or reserve fund. Cooperatives can occur in various ways, consumers, associated and mixed without the prevalence of any criteria of classification and in any branch of the economy work [8].

Cooperatives are systems composed of partners who perform work for the benefit of themselves and their families. Therefore the general systems theory will be discussed. Aristotle was the first person to mention systems theory by stating that reality is addressed in general and not studying their parts separately to know their entirety. Rene Descartes in his philosophical book called Discourse on Method for conducting one's reason well and seek truth in science emphasizes the study of phenomena subdividing it into systems to examine the parties and relations between them [9].

System is defined as a set of interrelated parts to achieve certain goals [10]. Von Bertalanffy defines it as a complex organization composed of a combination of parts that constitute an intricate or unitary whole [11]. The Patole cooperative society is a system composed of people, partners who in turn are systems. Therefore this research sought the views of the eighteen cooperators to detect the problem and implement organizational systems theory in the organization.

The systemic model is an integrated model, consisting of parts that come together to achieve organizational objectives. Administrators try to convey to each subordinate how important they are for the system, so the administrator role transform itself to facilitate the achievement of the subordinate through various actions such as training in skills and
appropriate behavior, concern true in relationships between people and feedback.

By the side of employees, they respond with mutual recognition of obligations to the cooperative organization. Employees go further than the self-discipline to achieve self-motivation in taking responsibility for their own goals and actions. The model provides individuals to achieve meeting a wide range of higher order needs, such as status, self-esteem, autonomy and personal fulfillment, which can result in the employee passion and commitment to the goals of the organization. The features of this model are extended in the following section [12].

The general systems theory arises from two approaches. The first is to observe the empirical universe and choose certain general phenomena to try to build a theoretical model that is relevant. Consider all systems (phenomena) seeking to reduce it to a more reasonable size. It is observed in the study on population for a given object of study, and researchers reduce the sample size, which is representative and possess the required characteristics.

The second approach sorts hierarchical empirical fields according to the complexity of the organization under review. This approach is more systematic and develops a system within a system. If a large organization is studied, there are sought departments as systems within the main system. In this way, it takes an order and the hierarchy is considered [13]. This article analyzes a case study and for this reason applies the second approach of systems theory.

In turn, there are two kinds of systems: Open systems and closed systems. In closed systems, nothing comes and nothing goes into them, everything happens within the system and communication with the outside is zero. Open systems require their environment to be. Examples of open systems are biological and social systems. Regarding the Ferguson, open systems states [14]:

“Some natural ways are open systems, that is, are involved in a continuous exchange of energy with the environment. A seed, a fertilized egg, a living being, are all open systems. There are also open systems manmade. Prigogine cites the example of a city: absorbs energy from the surrounding area (electricity, raw materials), transforms it into the factories, and returned to the environment.”

For Goldfeder, an open system can only exist for the exchange of materials, information and energy with their environment, i.e., it performs the task of importing materials and transforms them to perform their internal maintenance and export the rest [15]. Open systems are registered within a larger system in which society must constantly relate to subsist. Rodriguez and Arnold indicate that systems are defined by a dynamic relationship between inputs (inputs) and outputs (outputs) [16]. The same system is responsible for processing the materials from the environment, for which have internal structure and organization.

Open systems require a balance between what they need to survive and what they cause. The inputs are the input elements whose form is money, materials, people, products, services and political and economic forces of the larger system. The outputs are what produce systems such as roses from a bush, the fruits of the trees, a software of a computer company, i.e., elements that can be inputs to other systems because all systems are interrelated between them to be part of a larger system.

Open systems have nine features mentioned below:

A. Energy imports. Companies are not self-sufficient for that reason need inputs from the medium or supra system.

B. Processing. The system processes the inputs doing work.

C. The product. It is the result of the transformation of inputs. The product is exported to supra system.

D. Cyclic operation. The continued cycle of exchange between the supra system and the system happens when the system continues to send products that serve as inputs to other systems and vice versa.

E. Negative entropy. It is the destructive energy of the system, controlled by importing more energy than necessary in order to store the surplus.

F. Inputs are information, negative feedback and the coding process. The information received to the system helps to understand the supra system and how their actions affect the environment. Negative information announces its faults to correct them. Using coding system will accept or reject the information relevant and necessary for its operation.

G. The system features a stable and constant state supported by entries selected for operation inputs.

H. Differentiation. Systems have specific characteristics that make it different from each other.

I. Equal finality. The system can achieve the ultimate state through different paths and initial states [17].

The Cooperative Society of Fishing Production "The Patole", S.C. of R.L. de C.V., is an open system that performs internal processes of transformation of its product. And it needs the external systems to perform its duties; it could not be closed by requiring others to its proper functioning system.

The general theory of systems avoids duplication of efforts that help the Patole organizational development to be a benefit to partners, its families and society in general [11]. The cooperative theory and systems theory are closely related; while the former seeks the common good of the partners that make up the cooperative the second analyzes the components of the company as a whole. The Patole is studied as an organization of people who are themselves systems. It is expected that following the example of the Patole other relevant sinaloenses cooperatives made organizational changes to increase their efficiency and their processes and obtain profits for their cooperative members, their families and society in general.

The Contextual Framework Patole

The Cooperative Society of Fishing Production S.C. the Patole RL de CV was founded in the late 1970s and derived from a draft collective social benefit. Mr. Jose Natividad Torres Salazar advised by Mr. Enrique Echeagaray Osuna, joined a group of people of Piaxtla de Abajo, San Ignacio, Sinaloa to form a cooperative society to come to jointly support the economy of the participants. The Cooperative Society of Fishing Production "The Patole", S. C. de R.L. of C.V. it was founded in order to help the inhabitants of the community of "Lomas del Mar Piaxtla" San Ignacio, Sinaloa to generate a source of employment because farming was insufficient to meet the needs of their families. This is because the agricultural activity was insufficient to continue being the source of family income.

On June 27, 1980 after completing legal formalities the company registration was obtained. The cooperative obtained the authorization to operate in protected waters, shrimp production, flake and oysters, as well as fishing off the coast of scale and shark. The corporate purpose of
the cooperative is to extract, capture and fishing collectively in national and inland waters; as well as conducting sales, transportation and industrialization of the products obtained and aquaculture production of all kinds of shellfish, fish and crustaceans.

The mission of the cooperative is to produce shrimp aquaculture of excellent quality for local, national and international markets, seeking higher levels of profitability, with the highest overall development of the resources of society and especially the human resource and sustainable care of natural resources. Its vision is: The Patole Cooperative Society is an organization that develops a productive activity in the various economic and social fields, with proper management of resources and an efficient and competitive administration.

The cooperative has permission granted by the appropriate authorities of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), the National Commission of Aquaculture and Fisheries (CONAPESCA) and the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA). The above government organizations are highly related to the primary sector supra systems fishing activity, Mexican economic system and ecological system.

The Patole has authorized areas that are marshlands called the Tazajal, the Patole, Banderillas and Los Muertos. The importance of Tazajal lies in direct communication that the estuary system has with the sea throughout the year. Its flooded area is three hundred hectares in the rainy season, in low-water period is about fifty hectares. The estuary like the fishing camp is located within the boundaries of the municipalities of San Ignacio and Mazatlan. Then in Figure 1 below a photo of the estuary the Tazajal is shown.

Access by the international road is at number fifteen to forty-eight kilometers from the port of Mazatlan. The route has thirty six kilometers of paved road and dirt road twelve kilometers from 1.5 kilometers away from the town of Mármol, Sinaloa. On the road Maxipista at twenty kilometers from Mazatlan to Culiacan and about ten kilometers of dirt road, as it is shown below in Figure 2.

The Patole is a system composed of sub systems that are the board of directors, the production manager, and the administrator. From the administrator depend on the auxiliary administrative sub systems. While from the production manager depend the accounting and administrative assistant subsystems, wages, cleaning and guard also depend on the systems. The organization is observed in Figure 3. A brief description of the positions was made.

A. Production Manager: It is responsible for the supervision and control of workers responsible for the production process. The manager must make periodic reports to the Assembly members.

B. Administrator: The person who takes control and makes decisions on minor issues in which it is not necessary to call the board. It is supported by an administrative assistant, who helps him in the record of the documents required for their duties.

Figure 1: The fishing camp "The Tazajal". Source: Internal information of the Cooperative Society of Fishing Production the Patole, S.C. of R.L. de C.V.

Figure 2: Location of the Cooperative Society The Patole with respect to the surrounding villages and the road network. Source: Google maps.
C. Accounting: A person who takes control of accounting and financial records. Accounting manager must prepare monthly reports for the Production Manager.

D. Administrative Assistant. The person to support the production manager in administrative activities that have to do with receiving and selling the product.

E. Cleaning: It will be the person in charge of the cleanup of the plant.

F. Waged workers: Individuals who are responsible for monitoring the crop to harvest the shellfish. Wages serve the product to be ready for sale.

G. Watchman. The person responsible for protecting the safety of the place.

The structure discussed above performs the process of functioning of human resources as follows: The board of directors is the supreme body appointed by the assembly of members and makes decisions based on the reports from the production manager and administrator. The production manager is responsible for taking decisions and the entire production process. Meanwhile the administrator makes minor decisions based on administrative documentation for the best administrative operation of the cooperative.

The production manager and administrator meet to present their reports to the board of directors, who is making the major decisions that benefit the purpose and functioning of society. From the production manager depends hierarchically an administrative assistant and a counter on the first level and second level wages, a night watchman and a person responsible for grooming and cleaning.

The administrative assistant and accountant work together to present a report control of accounting records, financial and receipt and sale of the product is presented. This is done in order that the production manager can make the appropriate decisions to benefit The Patole. Wages, the night watchman and cleaning interact in the process of cultivation until harvest. Workers on wages serve the product to be ready for sale. While the watchman guards the safety of people who work and cleaning and toilet facilities are maintained in good condition.

It can be seen that the cooperative turn, society is a system in Mexico's economic supra system in the primary industry supra system fishing activity and the Mexican ecological supra system, as it is shown in Figure 3. Earlier in the Figure 3 are seen how supra systems relate to the cooperative that is itself a system. From this fact lies the importance of the cooperative, being evident for several reasons:

A. It is a source of employment and income for partners and their families.

B. Generates indirect employment for temporary contracts that are required in certain specific times of the year such as preparation, production, lifting the harvest and marketing.

C. Drives the economy of the town.

D. Influences the primary sector fishing activity.

E. Influences the Mexican economic system.

F. Influences the Mexican ecological system.

The labor process of human resources in the structure of the Cooperative Society of Fishing Production the Patole, S.C. of R.L. de C.V. interacts with supra systems: Mexican economic system, primary sector, Mexican fishing activity and ecological system. These three supra systems cause uncertainty and complexity in the cooperative. It can be cited economic problems as the devaluation of the peso against the dollar affects purchasing inputs of society.

The primary sector fishing activity has its own characteristics dominated public by policy and market requirements, may be increased by consumption of shellfish or implementing regulations that protect the environment. This exposes the relationship between the primary sector of fishing activity and the Mexican ecological system in which the government issues the regulations required for the protection and proper exploitation of the environment. The decisions made by the manager and the production manager affect the board and therefore the functioning of society. Just the same way decisions made by administrator, the production manager and the board of directors influences fishing supra systems: Mexican economic system, primary sector activity and Mexican ecological system.

In this fact it is clearly observed the interactions between internal variables of the process that makes the structure of human resources of the cooperative and the uncertainty and complexity of the supra systems in which is located the Patole. Here lies the importance of the implementation of the systemic model in society, just because all human resources of the cooperative function as a single system can solve any problems that arise in the supra systems and take appropriate action measures.
The cooperative is a theory that seeks the common good of the people while the general systems theory seeks the relationship between different systems. The Patole complies with the cooperative theory and general systems theory, being an integrated supra systems mentioned above which are governed by the guidelines established by the philosophy of the cooperative system. The change in the economy and society has led to the cooperative facing competition from globalization, implementation of new technologies and the protection of the environment. For this reason it is necessary to detect any organizational problem so that can overcome external difficulties that arise and remain productive and competitive in the market.

**Method**

This article is a report of an investigation considered it is a process that, by applying the scientific method seeks to obtain relevant and reliable information to understand, verify, correct or apply knowledge [18]. All scientific research has to be sustained by serious work on a methodology that must submit a design or shape how it should be performed. It requires a design that marks a course of action, the nature of the research, study subjects, how to choose these subjects and the methodology to be used [19]. The researcher needs to point out the details of his study in order to shed correct and proper results. It is worth mentioning that there are different types of research to suit the needs of the various studies.

The methods used in obtaining the information were observing partners, gathering factual information and indicators and supported by the application, a Likert scale questionnaire. Observation for Hernandez is an accounting record of observable situations and using a set of categories and subcategories behaviors [17]. Observation was used to analyze the relationships between partners to identify organizational problems.

The documentary research was used to analyze internal documents to see if there have been profits in the Patole. Collection or analysis of secondary data is defined by Gilbert as the study of the original data collected by other researchers or institutions generally statistical in nature such as censuses and official government statistics. Being serious documents are reliable for use. In the same way any document prepared by a researcher is considered as secondary data, i.e. files are derived from previous research and may be useful for future research.

The third method is to apply a questionnaire to the partners, based on the Likert scale. Abascal mentions that the questionnaire performs the functions of the specific questions to move to the objective of the investigation, the information obtained is homogenized because all respondents respond to the same formulated items, with proper design helps provide information and aid to effective treatment of the data collected [20].

Being standardized questionnaire helps in the statistical treatment of information obtained to be useful for research. Hernandez cites that was developed by Rensis Likert and consists of a set of five items presented as statements where it is required the participant to choose one of the items. Each item has a numerical value so that the participant gets a score that adds up until it is reached a final score. The design of the scale Likert manages to be easy to capture information in computer systems and being five items is practical to respond by study subjects.

The three methods relate to each other to achieve the desired research results. Not only applicable to the Patole but also to other cooperatives in the area and the state of Sinaloa. This is in order to maintain the cooperative democratic support and the relationship between the three supra systems in which the cooperative is related.

**Analysis of Results**

Taking up the point made by the cooperative theory, the partners have equalities and everyone works together for the common good. Systems theory supports the point that a system is composed of several parts that interact with each other for the common goal of the organization. Both theories apply to the Cooperative Society of Fishing Production "The Patole", S.C. of R.L. de C.V.

The successful implementation of the systemic model in the company depends on organizational design, the process of deciding on how to create, use and select the right combination of structures, control system and culture of the organization. Companies require supervise and monitor the design process to achieve outperformance [21].

In systemic approach it favors the cooperative because it establishes the conditions for participation in projects of external financing, provides reliable and timely information of the activities undertaken, and reduces costs and unnecessary expenses in establishing more efficient processes. Therefore, it manages the cooperative production processes can be more efficient. This coincides with the data provided by the partners in their questionnaires and comments.

According to the cooperative society studied, it is observed:

- A. An initial resistance to the application of the systemic model. This fact because the partners were pleased with the performance of the leader. However, due to the current needs cooperators understood that the application of systems theory in the Patole was necessary.
- B. Incentives to motivate members to work hard were implemented.
- C. Feedback from partners to management of the cooperative was implemented.
- D. Changes in the organizational structure and delegation of functions by the leader to the other partners were implemented.
- E. Administrative controls are performed more precise and strict. Constant evaluation is performed so that the objectives are met.
- F. The realization of agreements with buyers, in which they carry their refrigerated trucks to the fishing field so that the product remains fresh and frozen.

**Reflections and Recommendations**

This article is based on research and supported by the cooperative theory and systems theory has the following reflections and recommendations. The same reflections and recommendations can be abided by the any cooperative and any other organization wishing to implement the systemic model for more efficient activities.

The Cooperative Society of Fishing Production "The Patole", S.C. of R.L. de C.V. has implemented the systemic model based on:

- A. The diversification of white shrimp supply and incorporating added value with biotechnological processes.
- B. The cooperative philosophy based on mutual support, solidarity and cooperation among its members.
- C. The objectives, mission and vision that support the daily work of the cooperative.
- D. The correct and timely integration of partners to productive activities required in the process for obtaining white shrimp.
E. The feedback and relevant organizational restructuring which improved the efficiency of society.

F. The hiring of external personnel in strictly cases of administrative, accounting, legal advice, quality control and specialized care product activities, as can be the case that diseases are detected.

The above comments on the relevant recommendations derived:

A. The continued study of the Cooperative Society of Fishing Production "The Patole", S.C. of R.L. de C.V. in order to detect problems that afflict and may interfere with proper development and productivity.

B. Continue to involve partners in all activities that could affect the Patole. So that they can make appropriate decisions when problems arise in the supra systems: Mexican economic system, primary sector fishing activity and Mexican ecological system, affecting with its uncertainty and complexity the direct activities of the cooperative manner.

C. Conducting similar studies with this article in other cooperative societies in order to benefit the fishing sector.

D. Recommend among companies in general implementation of the systemic model in its functions.

It is observed the importance and benefits of the implementation of the ecosystem approach Cooperative Fish Production "The Patole" is observed, S.C. of R.L. de C.V. because the human resources that make up the entity in the process of its structure are active and make decisions that affect the organization. However, these decisions are influenced by interaction with supra systems: Mexican economic system, primary sector fishing activity and Mexican ecological system.

The Patole has internal interactions in the process of human resource structure supported through systems theory. Similarly, it maintains interactions among the three supra systems. It is therefore important to maintain a systemic organizational culture between the partners so that they can solve any problems that may affect the entity and remain competitive in the market for white shrimp.

This study is beneficial for the company as it can be for the other belonging to the fishing sector. As previously discussed, the cooperatives are a source of employment and income for cooperative members, their families, and the region where the cooperative and society in general is located. All of these are as a great system.

References