

ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL THEMATIC AND SECTORAL COMMITTEES

AN OVERVIEW

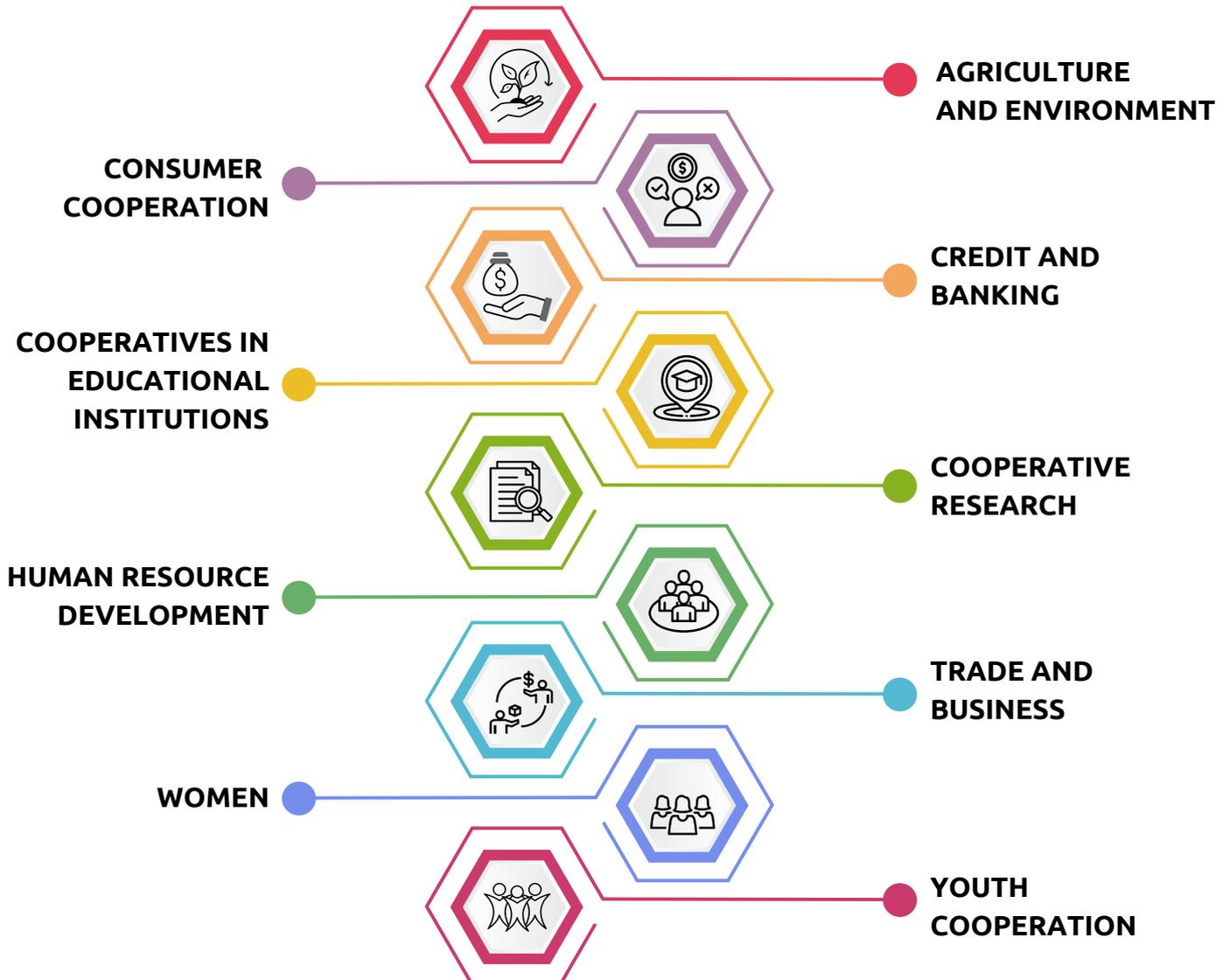
INTRODUCTION

Established in 1960 in New Delhi, India, the International Cooperative Alliance Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP) is one of the four regional offices of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA). Established in 1895, ICA is the apex body that represents 3 million cooperatives worldwide. It provides a global voice and forum for knowledge, and expertise, and coordinates action for and about cooperatives.

With a rich history spanning over six decades, the ICA-AP regional office unites, promotes, and develops cooperatives in the Asia and Pacific region. We proudly represent and serve a network of 122 members from 29 countries (October 2025) across varied economic sectors.

Through the promotion of cooperative identity, advocacy, collaboration, and capacity building, we strive to empower cooperatives to thrive and fulfil their potential as drivers of sustainable development, social inclusion, and economic prosperity. We do this through various programs and our thematic and sectoral committees.

ICA-AP THEMATIC AND SECTORAL COMMITTEES



ICA-AP COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT



The ICA-AP Committee on Agriculture and Environment was formed in 2023 after the merger of the ICA-AP Committees on Agriculture and Forestry.

The ICA-AP Committee on Agriculture, established in 1967, aimed to foster robust agricultural cooperation and formulate policies to safeguard farmers' interests. In 2012, responding to escalating global environmental threats and climate change, the Committee on Forestry emerged from the Agriculture Committee, given the acute impact felt in the Asia-Pacific region due to climate-related disasters, high deforestation rates, and low per capita forest cover.

This newly consolidated committee is dedicated to fostering the development of cooperatives in agriculture, forestry, dairy, fisheries, beekeeping, local crops, agro-tourism/eco-tourism, and allied sectors in the Asia-Pacific region. It aims to promote sound agricultural cooperation by advocating for suitable policies and programs, address adverse impacts of weather and climate hazards on agriculture and allied activities, elevate the socio-economic status of marginalized groups, particularly women, through collective action in natural resource management, forestry-based environmental improvement, employment generation, and integrated rural development, and influence policymakers to duly recognize cooperatives in national policy and legislative frameworks.

ICA-AP COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER COOPERATION

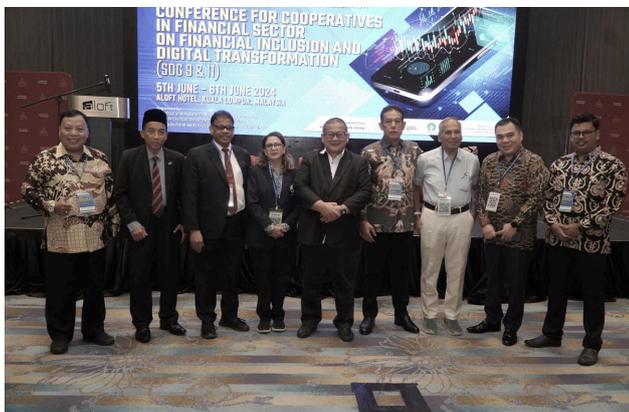


The ICA-AP Committee on Consumer Cooperation was established in 1977 to promote sound and effective consumer cooperation in the region and develop appropriate policies and programmes to promote and protect the interests of consumers.

In this respect, the committee organises programmes and activities to review the progress made by consumer cooperatives in the region, promote the growth and development of consumer cooperatives, and recommend policies of consumer cooperatives and consumer protection.

Since its inception, the committee has organised many training programmes and workshops for managers of consumer cooperatives, created opportunities for cross-learning, and collaborated both within the region and globally. The Japanese Consumer Cooperative Union (JCCU) has been financially supporting the activities of the committee for many years.

ICA-AP COMMITTEE ON CREDIT AND BANKING



The ICA-AP Committee on Credit and Banking was constituted in 1998 to promote the development of cooperative credit and banking in the region and to recommend activities in the field of credit, banking and finance.

The Committee emphasizes the role of women and youth in credit and banking cooperatives and encourages cooperatives to send women and youth representatives to meetings and trainings. It has organised seminars, conferences, and roundtable discussions and published reports to improve the understanding of credit and banking

cooperatives in the region. Some of these include the Regional Seminar on Cooperative Insurance and Promotion of Savings in Tokyo, Japan (1976), the Open Asian Conference on Cooperative Credit and Financial Management in Chennai, India (1976), study on Thrift and Credit Cooperatives in a Changing World (1981), seminar on Capitalisation: Challenges for cooperative banks in Bali, Indonesia (2014), and a round table discussion on the role of cooperative banks and social finance institutions in promoting and financing social initiatives and social and solidarity enterprise (2015).

ICA-AP COMMITTEE ON COOPERATIVES IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS



The ICA-AP Committee on Cooperatives in Educational Institutions (ICEI) was established in 2008 to promote the development of cooperatives in educational institutions (university, colleges, and high schools) with the participation of teachers, staff and students as members.

The Committee facilitates youth integration into the cooperative movement by involving students in cooperatives and making them understand the cooperative values and importance of self-help and mutuality.

The National Federation of University Cooperative Associations (NFUCA), an ICA member since 2002, has played a critical role in supporting the establishment of ICEI.

ICA-AP COMMITTEE ON COOPERATIVE RESEARCH



The ICA-AP Committee on Cooperative Research (ICCR) was established in 2000 to promote and support the initiation and furtherance of research activities within cooperatives and research organizations at regional, national, and local levels, to enhance their social and economic effectiveness. It has members working in the field of research and academia, and those in the member organisations of the ICA-AP.

During its two decades of existence, ICCR has organized 15 regional research conferences and some local seminars. Regional conferences were held in Singapore 2000, Cebu

2003, Chiang Mai 2004, Colombo 2006, Hanoi 2008, Beijing 2010, Kobe 2012, Mysore 2013, Bali 2014, Pune 2015, New Delhi 2016, Seoul 2017, Tehran 2018, Newcastle 2019, Online 2020, Bandung (2022), Manila (2023), Kerala (2024), and Colombo (2025).

ICA-AP COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

The ICA-AP Committee on Human Resource Development (HRD) was started in the 1980s to promote and support the initiation and furtherance of HRD programs within cooperatives and cooperative organizations at regional, national and local levels, to enhance their social and economic effectiveness. The Committee organizes seminars and workshops to disseminate information on HRD practices by members; promotes exchange visits to learn about HRD practices, and organizes training to develop HR capabilities.

ICA-AP COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND BUSINESS



The ICA-AP Committee on Trade and Business was established in 2016 to promote the growth and development of trade and business in the region by recommending policies, supporting business interactions and disseminating information. The members of the committee organize seminars and workshops to disseminate information on trade and business activities, coordinate participation in trade fairs as well as promote exchange visits to learn about trade and business practices and develop business relationships. In 2019, the Committee organized the C2C Trade Seminar on Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth in Johore, Bahru,

Malaysia, funded by the National Cooperative Movement of Malaysia (ANGKASA). In conjunction with the seminar, ANGKASA and the Committee initiated the Malaysian Carnival of Cooperative Products and Services (MACCOPS) 2019, whereby MACCOPS opens a new leaf of cooperative products, provides exposure to open markets and increases ratings of cooperative products in domestic and foreign markets.

ICA-AP COMMITTEE ON WOMEN



The ICA Asia and Pacific Committee on Women (Women's Committee) was established in 1998 to promote gender integration and increased participation of women at all levels in cooperatives, especially at leadership levels. This is done through representing women in cooperatives through a common forum; promoting the understanding of gender integration and gender equality through networking; identifying areas for capacity building; advising and implementing activities; and liaising and collaborating with different stakeholders. In doing so, it has undertaken various interventions at individual and structural levels.

From building technical and managerial capacities of women through Training of Trainers' programs to raising gender awareness at several platforms such as the Women's Forums, regional Cooperative Development Forums, Ministers' and Registrars' conferences. In 2016, the Women's Committee developed a new strategy to promote gender equality in cooperatives. The activities of the Women's Committee are supported by the Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union (JCCU).

ICA-AP COMMITTEE ON YOUTH COOPERATION



Recognising the importance of increasing youth engagement within the cooperative movement, the ICA-AP Committee on Youth Cooperation (ICYC) was established in 2000 to promote and strengthen cooperation among youth in cooperatives. It facilitates knowledge exchange and capacity building among youth in cooperatives, encourages their active membership and participation at all levels within the cooperative movement, increases awareness on participatory democracy among youth, strengthens business activities of youth cooperatives, provides linkages and networking with cooperatives at all levels and promotes youth inclusion into the mainstream

cooperative movement. ICYC has organised seminars, youth conferences, and regional workshops to promote cooperatives among youth. It has been instrumental in facilitating climate action through its successful Go Green campaign.

For more information on our committees, please visit <https://icaap.coop/thematic-and-sectoral-committees/>

