



Editorial

REBRAE is a four-monthly publication of the Graduate Program in Management at the Business School of the Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná (PPAD/PUCPR) - Curitiba, Paraná, Brazil. Since 2008, REBRAE has published original theoretical and empirical papers or theoretical essays using diverse methodological approaches, aiming to advance strategic management theory and practice. Following international scientific information practices, REBRAE adopts a peer-evaluation process and publishes only articles written in English. Traditionally, the last issue of each year is dedicated to a special topic. In the present issue, we are pleased to present nine articles that were selected for the REBRAE Special Issue on Cooperative Organizations.

The first article analyzes the social indicators reported by the Paraná agroindustry's cooperatives, those that show their commitment to society. It is a qualitative, descriptive study that uses content analysis. The study shows that the types of information disclosure vary according to cooperative size, and include information about accountability indicators, labor practices and human rights, among others.

The second paper seeks to verify whether cooperatives in the state of Paraná use their annual results as a form of capitalization and how much of the result is given back to their members. The results of the quantitative study reveal that almost two-thirds of the total revenues are directed to fund development and capitalization, and smaller shares are given back to their members in the form of financial resources or social capital shares.

The third article aims to contribute to the understanding of the relationship between monitoring practices in Brazilian credit unions, which possibly implies the reduction of agency costs and consequently the efficiency of cooperative organizations. The findings suggest that the higher compliance monitoring practices indicated by the Central Bank can influence a higher asset value, higher value of revenue and a higher surplus in credit unions.

The fourth article deals with the insertion of commitment as a critical success factor in a model of translation and control of strategy in agro-industrial cooperatives in the context of an agro-industrial cooperative located in the State of Paraná. The paper discusses several interactions that commitment has with other factors of the strategic model in agro-industrial cooperatives.

The fifth paper in the issue analyzes corporate policies and their contribution to the creation of sustainable competitive advantage in a cooperative organization that provides medical services. The results show the importance of corporate policies in organizations, as the cooperative in question has established flexible, comprehensive, coordinated and ethical policies. Furthermore, all the stakeholders are involved in the decision-making process.

The sixth article seeks to estimate the cost of equity, parameter used by an investor to make a decision, and investigate its determinants in cooperatives in the states of São Paulo and Paraná. The results pointed to the lack of significance of location in the composition of the cost of equity, while the return on assets has a predominant role, with little impact from other factors.

The seventh paper in this issue focuses on cooperative organizations of small rural producers in the context of rural settlements in the State of Mato Grosso. It analyzes the influences of the organizational environment, social participation in decisions and the economic and social efficiency of these organizations. It concludes that, in order for the cooperatives to achieve economic, social, organizational and administrative advantages it is necessary to overcome the limitations, mainly in organizational, managerial and cooperative education dimensions.

The eighth paper sets out to identify the main barriers for cooperative societies in the International Standard Application of the "Impairment of Assets" (CPC 01) since the 2010 financial year, will have on cooperative societies. The results show that although the standard allows a number of different methods to be used in determining its various assumptions, little concrete guidance is passed to accountants in applying these methods. Hence cooperative societies with little experience in accounting will face difficulties and serious problems in the implementation of CPC 01.

Finally, the ninth article presents the results and discussions of the exploratory descriptive research on the Cooperative of Organic Products of the Amazon (COPOAM). The study illustrates the strategies of cocoa producer strategies towards production and marketing of organic products, as well as the cooperative's market expansion based on its formalized contracts and sustainable development practices.

We would like to thank the collaboration of the authors, reviewers and the editorial support staff. We hope that these articles will contribute to the dissemination of relevant studies in the area of Strategy and Management of Cooperatives. Enjoy your reading.

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Guest Editors

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