



MAPPING: KEY FIGURES

NATIONAL REPORT: PARAGUAY

ICA – EU PARTNERSHIP



Table of contents

I.	INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT	2
<i>i.</i>	<i>Historical background</i>	3
<i>ii.</i>	<i>Publiv national statistics</i>	4
<i>iii.</i>	<i>Research methodology</i>	5
II.	KEY FIGURES	6
<i>iv.</i>	<i>ICA member data</i>	7
<i>v.</i>	<i>General overview</i>	7
<i>vi.</i>	<i>Sectoral overview</i>	8
III.	GRAPHS	9
<i>vii.</i>	<i>Percentage of cooperatives by sector</i>	9
<i>viii.</i>	<i>Percentage of memberships by sector</i>	9
IV.	ANNEXES	10

I. INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

This report is part of a Mapping exercise launched by the International Cooperative Alliance and its regional offices, within the framework of a partnership signed with the European Commission for the period 2016-2020. The programme aims to strengthen the cooperative movement and its capacity to promote international development. Other research projects led within this partnership include a worldwide Legal Frameworks Analysis, and several thematic researches on themes of significance for cooperatives.

Responding to challenges and existing knowledge gaps facing the cooperative movement, this research seeks to provide exhaustive information on cooperatives worldwide. This is achieved through a process jointly conducted by the ICA and its four regional offices – Cooperatives of the Americas, Cooperatives Europe, ICA Africa, and ICA Asia-Pacific – using a common methodology. Each office collected the input of ICA members present in the countries within its geographic area, by using the same questionnaire, and completing it with relevant national statistics, in order to obtain an accurate picture of the national situation.

Mapping out cooperatives in each country provides a more precise picture of the cooperative context at national and regional levels, enhances the movement's visibility, networking, partnerships opportunities, as well as advocacy, and empowers cooperators by providing them tools for positive change.

Within this framework, the present report showcases information about the cooperative landscape in Paraguay.

i. Historical background

The origins of associationism in Paraguay are linked to its first inhabitants, the native Guarani, for whom organizing in cooperative communities was a way of life. Thus, they practiced the amandaya or assembly of the tribe, the oñondivepa or solidarity work and the yopoi or mutual aid. This system was used and encouraged by the Jesuits, who organized a cooperative republic with thirty Guarani peoples, in the so-called “jesuíticas” reductions.¹

According to the document "Panoramic vision of the cooperative sector in Paraguay"², developed between the International Labor Organization and ICA; At the end of the 19th century, the first experiences of social economy began in the country. These take place among the groups of Spanish and Italian immigrants who arrived in Paraguay after the War against the Triple Alliance —a warlike conflict that pitted Paraguay against Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay from 1865 to 1870—, who created the first relief societies mutual, entities that implemented reciprocal solidarity and mutual aid, prioritizing care in case of illness.

Vargas, A. & Nacimiento, Z. (2000) mention that the first cooperatives emerged in the late 1940s, started among these immigrant groups who had experience in this type of association. Other cooperatives had their origins among the beneficiaries of projects carried out by official or private organizations.

According to a study about the cooperative movement in Paraguay³, At the end of the 1940s, four cooperative societies had been established in the country. Two of them among settlers of Mennonite origin and one among Japanese immigrants. At the end of the 1950s, 61 new cooperatives were established, reaching a total of 180 at the beginning of 1972, with 11 583 members.

¹ Vargas, A. & Nacimiento, Z. (2000). El cooperativismo en Paraguay: especial referencia a las cooperativas de producción. CIRIEC-España, Revista de Economía Pública, Social y Cooperativa. Available at: <https://www.redalyc.org/pdf/174/17403408.pdf>

² Carosini, L. (2012). Visión panorámica del sector cooperativo en Paraguay. OIT & ACI. Available at: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---americas/---ro-lima/documents/publication/wcms_185891.pdf

³ Verdecchia, J. (1989). Algunas consideraciones sobre las condiciones de éxito y fracaso en asociaciones cooperativas campesinas en el Paraguay. Centro Paraguayo de Estudios Sociológicos.

ii. Public national statistics

For a more comprehensive picture of the cooperative movement in Paraguay, the present section provides key data from the country's public registers as a useful background context to the ICA members' data showcased in Section II of the report.

The data presented here come from the 2012 National Cooperative Census⁴ led by the Paraguayan Confederation of Cooperatives (CONPACCOOP).

NUMBER OF COOPERATIVES:

According to the 2012 National Cooperative Census, the country had 450 cooperative entities, of which 145 were founded after 2014.

EMPLOYMENT:

The 2012 National Cooperative Census reports through its final synthesis a total of 35 858 direct jobs generated by cooperatives.

COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP:

Through the census, CONPACCOOP determined that the number of people associated with Paraguayan cooperatives was 1 410 313 (724 868 men and 685 445 women), representing approximately 21% of the population in Paraguay for that year.

PRODUCTION VALUE:

The 2012 National Cooperative Census in Paraguay estimated that the Gross Value of Production (GVP) of cooperatives represents 6.71% of the country's total economy.

⁴ Confederación Paraguaya de Cooperativas. (2012). Censo Nacional Cooperativo 2012. Available at:

[http://www.mercosur.coop/files/PresentacionesInstitucionales/Paraguay/Censo%20CONPACCOOP%202012%20\(Paraguay\).pdf](http://www.mercosur.coop/files/PresentacionesInstitucionales/Paraguay/Censo%20CONPACCOOP%202012%20(Paraguay).pdf)

iii. Research methodology

The aim of the mapping research is to collect and make publicly available reliable and up-to-date data to understand what the cooperative movement represents in the targeted country. With this view, the data detailed in the present report has been collected using the methodology detailed below.

The methodological tools include a questionnaire used to collect the data, which was distributed online to the members, as well as a methodological note provided for further guidance. They were built jointly with all ICA regional offices with the support of external experts from the European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises (Euricse) and are applied in a harmonised way in all the target countries.

The classifications used in the research are consistent with the internal system used within the ICA movement (e.g. on membership status and types of cooperative organisations) and with standards increasingly adopted in recent studies and by international organisations like the ILO – e.g. using international classifications of economic activities such as the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) rev. 4, which ensures the comparability of statistics both nationally and internationally, as well as with statistics on other forms of enterprises.

Regarding the target organisations, considering that a worldwide survey has very challenging goals, and while the value of directly collecting data from non-member cooperatives must be recognised, the present Mapping exercise targets cooperative organisations members of the ICA.

Furthermore, in order to complete the ICA members' data, the decision was taken to also look at external sources, to provide additional and more exhaustive cooperative statistics for the country. As a result, the data is collected following two strategies contemporaneously: 1) collecting statistics already available in the country; 2) carrying out a survey targeting ICA cooperative members.

In Paraguay, the mapping questionnaire was distributed and completed by 3 ICA member organizations. After further follow-up of the surveyed members, the figures provided were compiled to be presented in the next section.

II. KEY FIGURES

This section presents the results of data collection conducted by ICA members.

Paraguay has 6 ICA member organizations (all as full members):

- **Confederación Paraguaya de Cooperativas (CONPACCOOP).** Full member.

Established in 1991 as the main body of representation and union defense of the Paraguayan cooperative movement. It is a third-degree cooperative, of a union nature, which serves as a center for discussion and analysis of issues that affect the entire cooperative sector of the country, in legal, juridical, tax and educational aspects. Sector: Apex.

- **Cooperativa Universitaria (CU).** Full member.

Founded in 1973 by 49 people, in order to offer financial products and services to associates to improve their quality and that of their families, committed to innovation, their membership and the environment. Sector: Finance.

- **Federación de Cooperativas del Paraguay (FECOPAR).** Full member.

Founded in 1975, it is a union institution of 2nd. degree, made up of 34 production cooperatives and its objectives are proactive union defense, training and technical support for grassroots cooperatives. Sector: Apex

- **Confederación de Cooperativas Rurales del Paraguay Ltda (CONCOPAR Ltda.).** Full member.

It is a non-profit, third-degree, union-based cooperative entity that focuses on union representation, political advocacy, institutional strengthening and cooperative education. Sector: Integration.

- **Federación de Cooperativas Multiactivas del Paraguay (FECOMULP Ltda.)**
Full member.

Founded in 2008 by thirteen cooperatives, in order to provide innovative opportunities for cooperative education and responsible union defense, for the strengthening of Paraguayan cooperatives. Sector: Integration.

- **Panal Compañía de Seguros Generales S.A. Propiedad Cooperativa (PANAL)** Full member.

Founded in 2002, it is a company that operates traditional insurance businesses, within the asset and personal branch, which is fully cooperative capital. Sector: Insurance.

ICA member organizations are directly or indirectly active in the following sectors:

- Banking and insurance
- Commerce
- Industry
- Agriculture and food industry
- Administrative services

iv. ICA member data

The data collected was provided for 2017 and 2018, as provided by member organizations.

v. General overview

This section provides an overview of the ICA membership data for Paraguay.

Category	Total
Number of cooperatives	315
Number of memberships	-
Number of employees	-

In general, ICA members represent approximately 286 cooperatives in the country, since not by means of the survey carried out to member organizations, it was not possible to count 100% of the associated cooperatives directly and indirectly, in the same way the number Memberships and jobs was also not possible to count through the survey due to lack of information provided by the associates.

vi. Sectoral overview

Due to the lack of information raised in the previous point, it is not possible to present the information in an ideal way; However, through the responses from CONPACOOOP and FECOMULP, it is estimated that 249 cooperatives from the banking and insurance sector and 66 from the agriculture and food industry sectors are represented.

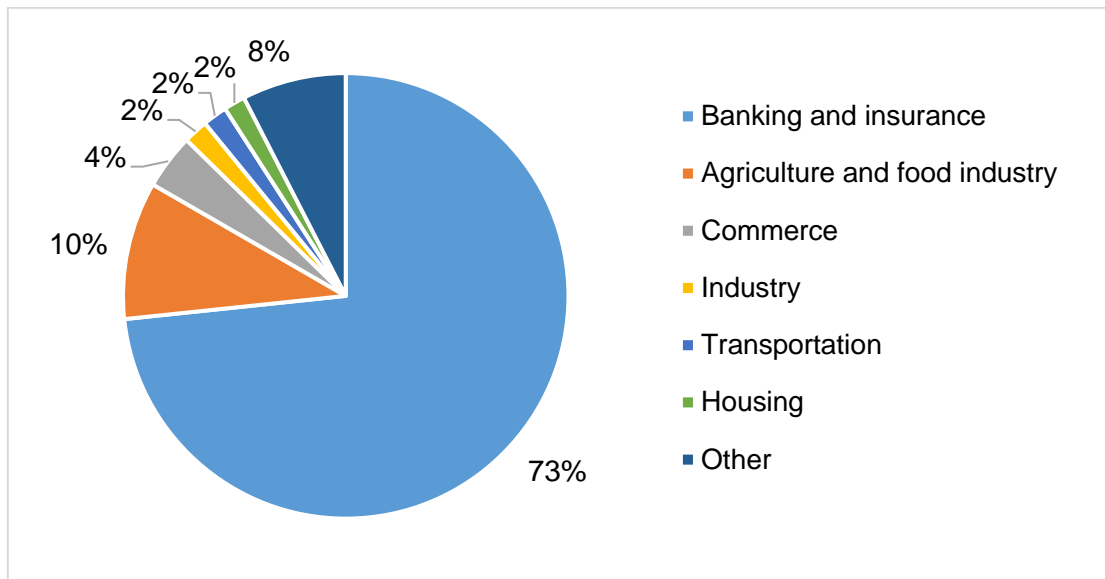
In order to provide more information, the sectoral distribution of Paraguayan cooperatives is shown below, which in its entirety does not necessarily respond to cooperatives associated with the ICA directly or indirectly.

Sector	Cooperatives	Membership	Employment
Banking and insurance	330	1 344 735	-
Agriculture and food industry	45	18 700	-
Commerce	18	34 058	-
Industry	8	3 018	-
Transportation	8	239	-
Housing	7	1 009	-
Health	5	834	-
Utilities	2	391	-
Other	27	7 329	-
Total	450	1 410 313	35 858

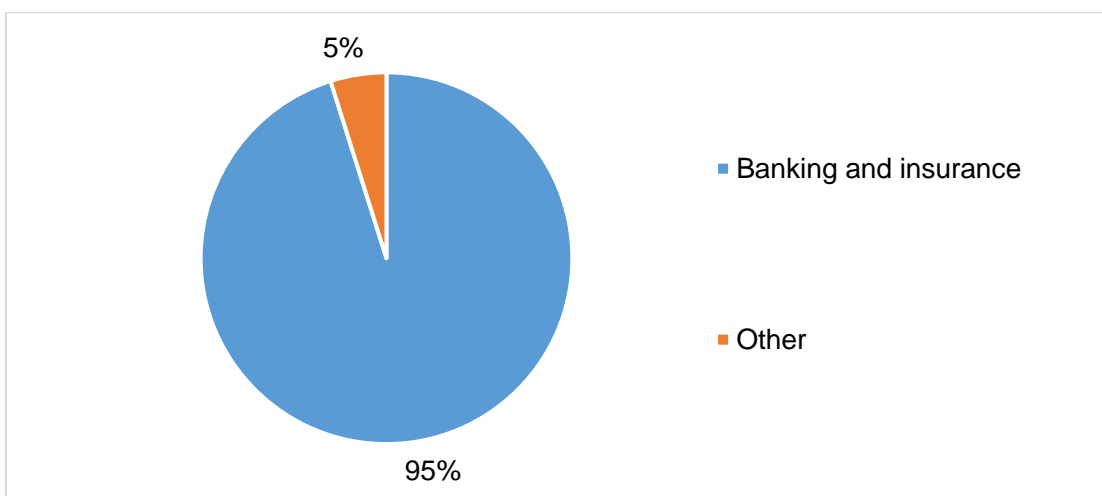
III. GRAPHS

Specific variables are also detailed in the charts below.

vii. Percentage of cooperatives by sector



viii. Percentage of memberships by sector



IV. ANNEXES

Sources:

Vargas, A. & Nacimiento, Z. (2000). El cooperativismo en Paraguay: especial referencia a las cooperativas de producción. CIRIEC-España, Revista de Economía Pública, Social y Cooperativa. Available at:
<https://www.redalyc.org/pdf/174/17403408.pdf>

Carosini, L. (2012). Visión panorámica del sector cooperativo en Paraguay. OIT & ACI. Available at: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---americas/---ro-lima/documents/publication/wcms_185891.pdf

Verdecchia, J. (1989). Algunas consideraciones sobre las condiciones de éxito y fracaso en asociaciones cooperativas campesinas en el Paraguay. Centro Paraguayo de Estudios Sociológicos.

Confederación Paraguaya de Cooperativas. (2012). Censo Nacional Cooperativo 2012. Available at:
[http://www.mercosur.coop/files/PresentacionesInstitucionales/Paraguay/Censo%20COOPACOOP%202012%20\(Paraguay\).pdf](http://www.mercosur.coop/files/PresentacionesInstitucionales/Paraguay/Censo%20COOPACOOP%202012%20(Paraguay).pdf)

Contacts

Further details on the Mapping research and other country reports are available on www.coops4dev.coop

The production of this report was overseen by staff from Cooperatives of the Americas and the International Cooperative Alliance. For any further information or clarification, please contact mappingresearch@ica.coop or with the Research Officer for Cooperatives of the Americas carlos.gonzalez@aciamericas.coop

Updated: September 2020

This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of Cooperatives of the Americas and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.