



**International Co-operative
Alliance – Africa**
A Region of the International
Co-operative Alliance

MAPPING: KEY FIGURES

NATIONAL REPORT: GUINEA

ICA-EU PARTNERSHIP



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I. INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

This report is part of a Mapping exercise launched by the International Co-operative Alliance and its regional offices within the framework of a partnership signed with the European Commission for the period 2016-2020, which 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 Guinea.

i. Historical background

The Republic of Guinea gained national independence on October 2, 1958, and became a member of the United Nations on December 13, 1958, as the 82nd member. It is located in West Africa, covering an area of 245,857 km², and stretching 800km from east to west and 550km from north to south.

Guinea is bordered on the west by the Atlantic Ocean for 300km, on the northwest by Guinea Bissau, on the north by Senegal, on the northeast by Mali, on the west by Côte d'Ivoire and on the south by Sierra Leone and Liberia.

It is subdivided into four (4) natural regions with distinct relief, climate and vegetation.

Guinea has a tropical climate with alternating dry and rainy seasons, the duration of which varies according to the region.

The four (4) regions are:

- Lower Guinea: it covers about 18% of the national territory ;
- Middle Guinea: covers about 22% of the national territory;
- Upper Guinea: with 40% of the national territory ;
- Forest Guinea: 20% of the country's surface area.

The decree N°218/PRG/1960 of August 9, 1960 gave rise to the promulgation of the standard statutes of the Agricultural Production Cooperatives (CAP), then the law N°12/AN/CB/64 of January 9, 1964 on the general statute of the cooperatives in Guinea, will be promulgated in order to be able to implant a cooperative movement answering the political objectives of the party of that time.

It is within this framework that several cooperative organizations succeeded one another under the supervision of the Ministry of Social Security.

ii. Public National Statistics

To date, no reliable statistical data is available to know the exact number of cooperatives and similar organizations, nor that of their members.

It is estimated that there are more than 3,500 cooperatives in the files of the former SACCO (Service d'Appui aux Coopératives et de Coordination des Interventions des ONG), now the Service national de Réglementation, de Promotion des Organisations non-gouvernementales et des mouvements associatifs (SERPROMA).

Based on this estimate, the total number of the cooperative membership is estimated to be 24,500 on average.

The cooperative can be constituted in two (2) ways:

a- By transformation of one or more groupings, it must be declared in the form of a resolution taken by the majority of members present at a constitutive extraordinary general assembly.

b- By direct grouping of founders composed of at least seven (7) members living in the same locality and having the same activities.

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 organizations, considering that a worldwide survey has very challenging goals, and while the value of directly collecting data from non-member cooperatives must be recognized, the present Mapping exercise targets cooperative organizations 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 Guinea, the Mapping questionnaire, was distributed to, and completed by the one ICA member in the country. After some additional follow-up and clarifications from the member, the figures provided were compiled to be presented in the next section.

II. KEY FIGURES

This section presents the results of the data collection directed by the ICA members. It is different from the general estimates for the country provided in the public national statistics.

iv. ICA Member Data

Guinea counts one ICA member organization; Federation de Co-operatives d'approvisionnement et de l'alimentation generale (FECAAG)

FECAAG is a federation of co-operatives of procurement and general food supply. They are the first consumer co-operative federation in Guinea. Their objective is to provide to their members consumer goods which they get by wholesale purchase, by importation, by manufacturing or by production. They also offer a lot of goods and service delivery.

Their aims are to:

- Facilitate the membership of members organizations to international organizations affiliated with the ICA.
- Promote the study, defense and safeguard common interests of members.
- Search and mobilize financing for Co-operatives organization members of the federation.
- Centralize and store all documents which establish interesting statistics on members.

The federation is governed by the General Assembly (GA), administered by a Board of Directors, and controlled by a Control Commission (CC).

MEMBERSHIP

FECAAG is composed of sixteen (16) member cooperatives. The total number of membership is 3,369; 712 women and 174 young people

EMPLOYMENT

118 members

SOURCES OF FUNDING

- Members' shares
- Membership fees
- Donations and legacies
- Grants and loans
- Income from the organization

v. General overview

The information provided below represents the data provided in form of infographs for ease of comprehension.

- Number of Co-operatives in Lesotho

	Category	Total
1.	Number of Co-operatives	3,500
2.	Number of Membership	24,500 (estimate)
3.	Number of cooperatives represented in FECAAG	16
4.	Number of membership in FECAAG	3,369

Contacts

Further details on the Mapping research are available on the following website:

<https://coops4dev.coop/en>

The production of this report was overseen by ICA-Africa. For any further information or clarification, please contact the following address: info@icaafrica.coop

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