



Botschaft
der Bundesrepublik Deutschland
Ankara



2nd Agriculture, Food & Nutrition Policies Summit

Co-operatives in Agriculture - German Model

Ankara,
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Dr. Peter Bohlen,
Agricultural Counsellor

A Co-operative is...

- an enterprise
- natural and/or legal persons join voluntarily, because they
 - share at least one common interest and
 - **to achieve their goals together better than alone.**



Entrepreneurial Activity for the Members

Not shareholder value maximization

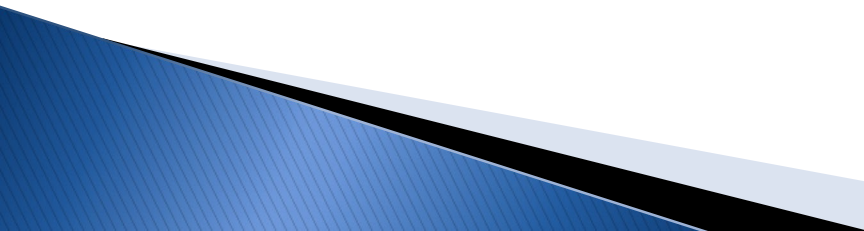
but

Membership value maximization through:

- better prices
- lower costs
- access to inputs
- (additional) services

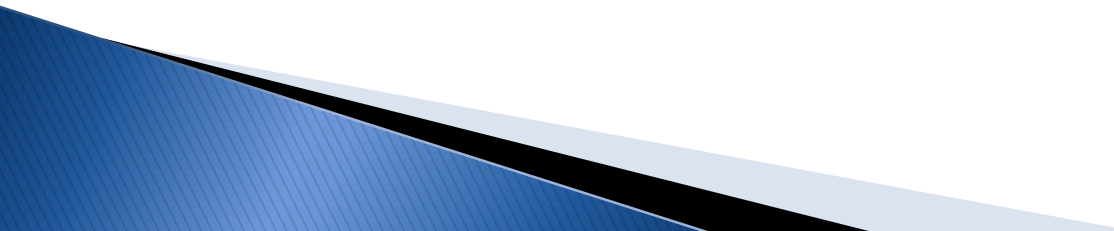
„Together we are strong“.

Agricultural Co-operatives in Germany (2017)

- Number of Co-operatives: 2.104
 - Members: 364.000 (without credit Co-operatives)
 - Turnover: 63 billion €
 - 50 % of total turnover in agriculture by Co-operatives.
- 

Higher Farm Income through Co-operatives

Higher Farm Income through:

- ▶ 1. Turnover (Price) increase
and/or
 - ▶ 2. Cost reduction.
- 

1. Higher Prices through higher quantity

Coops impact on **Quantity** of supply

- ▶ Be able to offer more than one farmer or a small number of farmers can produce
- ▶ Can lead to price increase
- ▶ Example: Fill a ship for export (“minimum Quantity”).

Example for minimum quantity for export (figures of 2016/2017)

Term	Unit	Result
Capacity of Panamax ship	tons	60.000
Average Farm Size in Germany	hectar	60
Thereof under Cereals (assumed 67 % of total size)	hectar	40
Average Yield (Wheat) in Germany	tons/ha	7,5
Wheat Production by average Farm	tons	300
Farms needed to produce Capacity of Panamax ship	Number	200

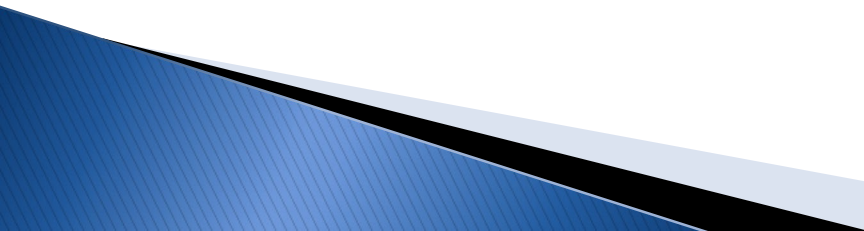
Higher Price through better Quality

Production of a better quality (e.g.: cooperative for quality wheat production)

Dry (clean) cereals to reach minimum quality and higher prices.

Coops ensure high Quality

- ▶ Quality controls
 - ▶ Work with reliable quality assurance systems
 - ▶ Guarantee a complete proof of origin
 - ▶ Quality and safety are top priorities
 - ▶ Branded products of cooperative origin are therefore highly valued by trading partners and consumers both at home and abroad

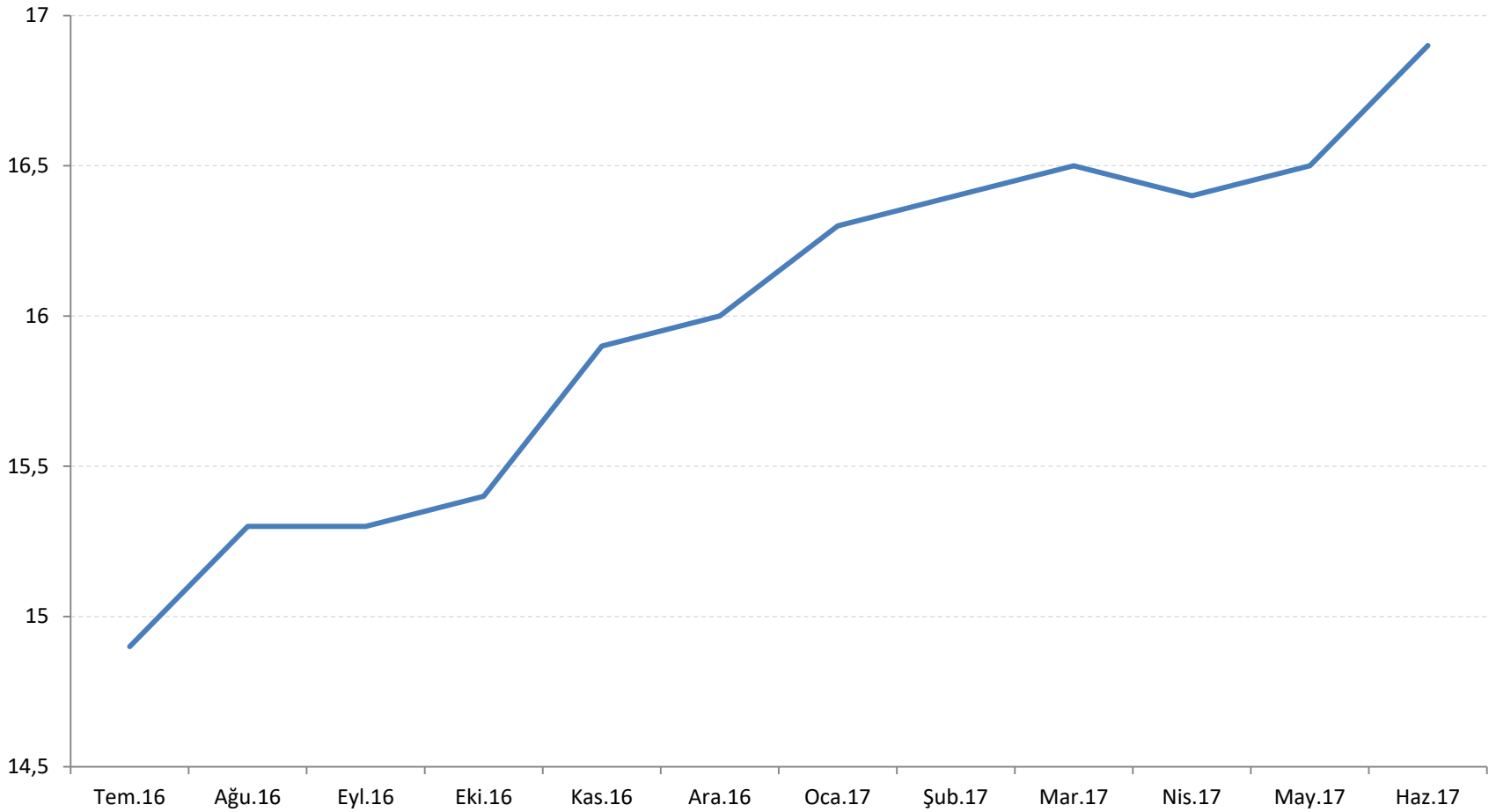
 - ▶ Production of a homogenous quality.
- 

Supply at the right time

Storage capacity is needed.

- ▶ Price increase to the end of the season through availability of storage capacity
- ▶ Example: Bread wheat price on the German market.

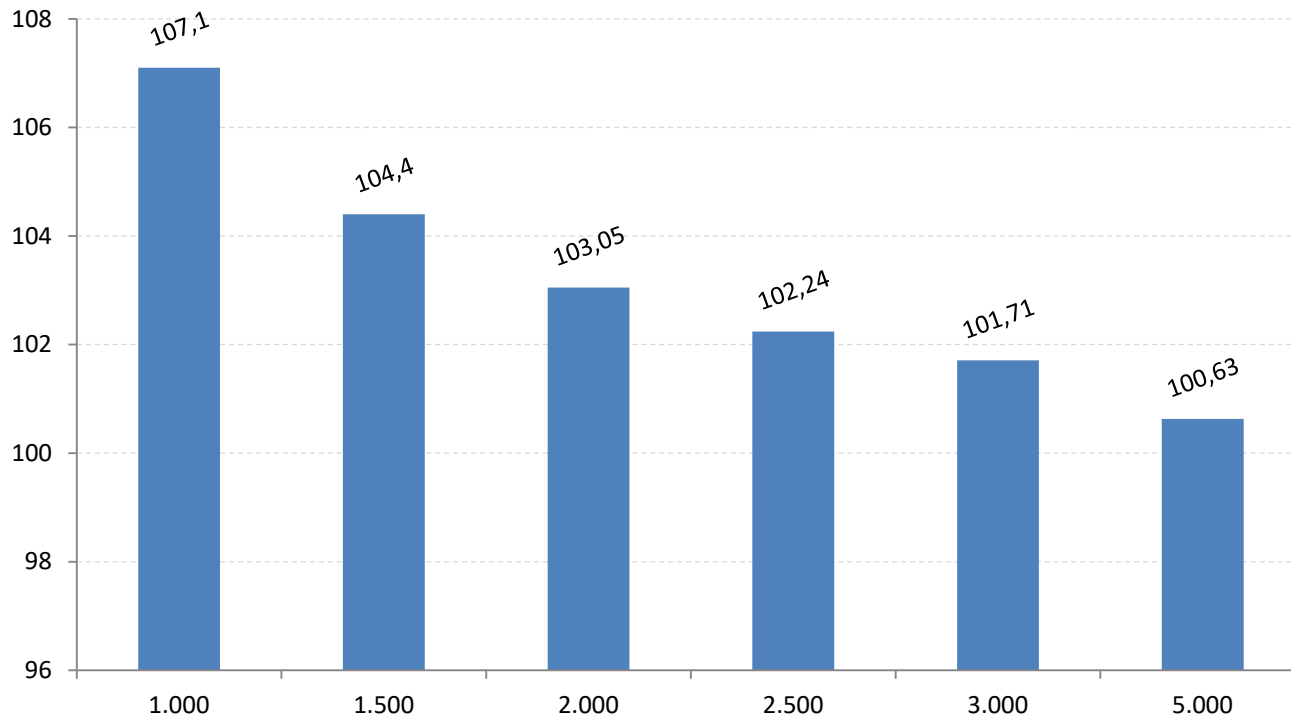
Producer Price for domestic Bread Wheat



2. Higher Farm Income through Cost reduction

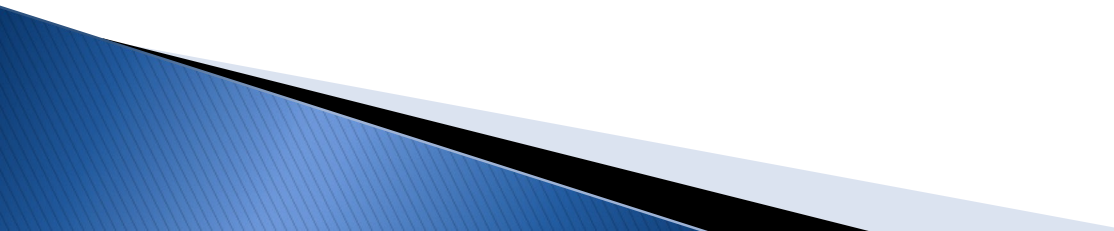
- Buying in a higher quantity for a reduced price (e.g.: fuel)
- Possibly in better quality (feed)
- Generally: Increasing availability of inputs in rural areas through coops.

Fuel Price according to Purchase Quantity



Services of Coops for a better Market Position

Examples:

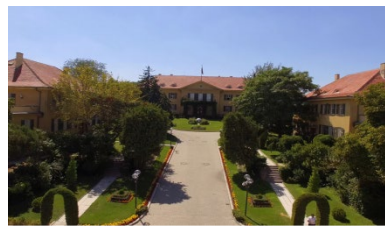
- ▶ Better access to information (Extension for production methods, new products, plant protection advice, renewable resources)
 - ▶ Better access to machinery
 - ▶ Better access to inputs (fuel, fertilizer, plant protection).
- 

Conclusions

- ▶ Advantage of a membership in a Co-operative through
 - Higher turn over
 - Lower costs
 - Access to inputs
 - Services for members.
- ▶ In more and more globalized markets competition in agriculture becomes ever more intense.
- ▶ Coops strengthen farmers position in the market.
- ▶ The more, the smaller farm structure is.
- ▶ Against this background I'm sure Co-operatives strengthen the position of Turkish farmers as well.



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Thank you very much for your attention

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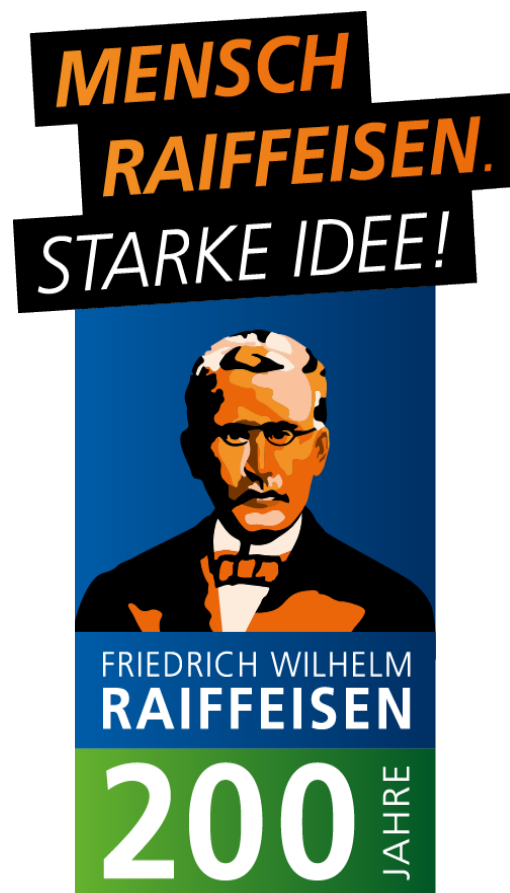
Annex

▶ Further Information on German Co-operatives

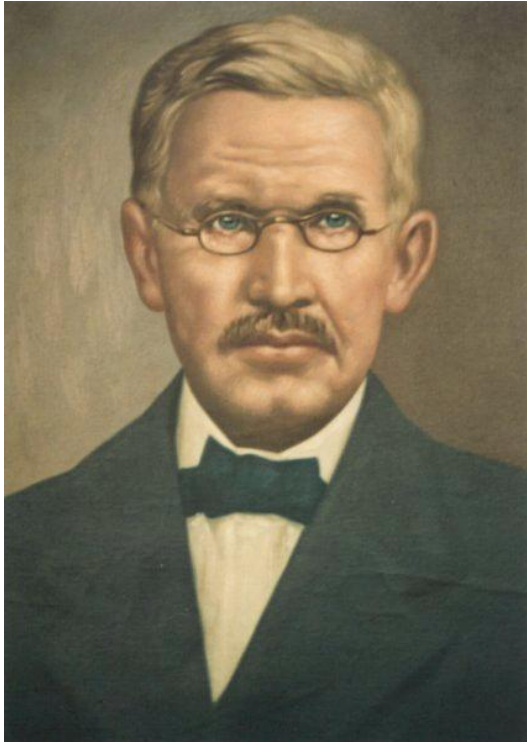
On the basis of: - Andreas Kappes: Competition Edge through Co-operation
- Figures of the German Raiffeisen Association

Co-operatives– A Successful Idea Fit for the Future

- **Middle of the 19th century:**
Foundation of the first cooperatives through Friedrich Wilhelm Raiffeisen and Hermann Schulze-Delitzsch
- **1870ties:** First co-operative federations
- **1889:** Passing of the German Co-operative Societies Act
- **1972:** Merger of the Raiffeisen and Schulze-Delitzsch organisations
→ Establishment of DGRV



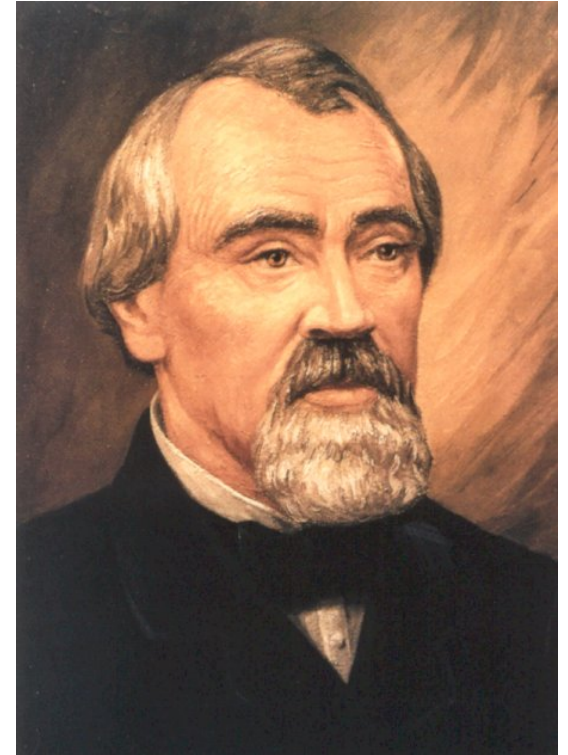
Co-operative Principles



Friedrich Wilhelm
Raiffeisen

Guiding Principles:

- ✓ **Self-help**
- ✓ **Self-responsibility**
- ✓ **Self-administration**



Hermann
Schulze - Delitzsch

DGRV – German Co-operative and Raiffeisen Confederation

- ▶ National head organisation
 - ▶ Top-level auditing federation
- } for the co-operative group in Germany
- ▶ Largest economic organization in Germany in terms of members:
 - 5.514 co-operatives
 - > 890.000 jobs
 - > 19 mio. members
(excl. 1,925 housing co-ops,
2,8 mio. members)
 - ▶ **German co-operatives:
→ 160 years of successfull business-tradition**



Germany: Legal Frame - Stable since 1889

- ▶ Special co-operative law (no choice of legal form):
Co-operative Societies Act
- ▶ Contains the co-operative principles
- ▶ Creation of a „eG“ (reg. coop. soc.) with three persons/ enterprises already possible
- ▶ Legal continuity creates stability
- ▶ Last amendment in May 2018
- ▶ „eG“ by far the safest legal form in Germany with regard to insolvency

Cooperatives in Germany: Key Data 31.12.2017

	No.	Balance sheet total	Members
Savings and Credit Cooperative Banks	915 ¹⁾	891 billion €	18,51 Mio.
Central Banks and specialized Financial Institutions of the cooperative financial Link-up System (FinanzVerbund)	10	545 billion €	
	No.	Turn-over	Members
Raiffeisen commodity, service and agricultural cooperatives incl. centers	2.104 ¹⁾	62 billion € ²⁾	1,3Mio. ³⁾
Small-scale industry commodity and service cooperatives incl. centers	1.342	133 billion € ²⁾	0,32 Mio.
Cooperatives in Renewable Energies	862	1 billion € ²⁾	0,18 Mio. ²⁾
Consumer and Service Cooperatives	379	1 billion € ⁴⁾	0,3 Mio. ²⁾
Total	5.514 ²⁾		19,71 Mio. ^{2) 5)}

1) Incl. 98 cooperative banks with agricultural trading services

2) preliminary figures

3) incl. members of 98 cooperative banks with agricultural trading services

4) Estimated

5) incl. multi-memberships

Division of Labour on Secondary Level

Non Financial Functions

Co-operative Federations

Training, HRD

Auditing

Technical Assistance

Data Processing / IT

Deposit Protection
Institutional Protection

Financial Functions

Co-operative Apex Institutes Coop. Central Banks

Liquidity Compensation

Re-finance

Giro-system

Credit Funds

Commercial Centrals in Agriculture and Trade

Centralized Purchase

Centralized Marketing

Import / Export

Primary Co-operatives

Important Institutions in German Agriculture

Ministries of Agriculture (federal & state-levels)

Joint Committee on German Agriculture

DBV
German
Farmers
Association

approx. 300,000
farmers and
families as
members,

local-regional-
national structure

DRV
German Raiffeisen
Federation

members: 2,104 agricult.
coops,
5 central institutions,
Co-operatives:
400,000 memberships,
turnover 62 bn. €

local-regional-national
structure

**Association of
Chambers of
Agriculture**

**Chambers of
Agriculture**
farmers: mandatory
membership

enterprises in agro-business

DLG
German
Agricultural
Society

> 25,500 nat. +
internat. Members

approx. 276,000 Farmers (> 5 ha: 250,000 farmers)

Agricultural Co-operatives in Germany

Kind of Co-operative	Number	Members (1000) in (2016)	Turnover (billion €)
Credit (with supply and marketing)	98	934	} 35,5
Supply and Marketing	273	85	
Central (Supply and Marketing)	5		
Dairies of which processing enterprises	198 32	69	} 13,7
Livestock and meat	85	125	7,0
Wine-powers	162	41	0,8
Fruit, vegetable and gardening	83	21	3,3
Agric. Co-operatives (primary production)	714	23	1,8
Other agric. Co-operatives	486		0,9
Total	2.104	1.298	63,0

Co-operatives – Important Partners in Agriculture

In Germany:

- 50 % of turn-over in agriculture by co-operatives
- Market share of co-operatives:
 - ➔ approx. 30 %: wine, meat
 - ➔ approx. 50 %: fruit & vegetable, cereals
 - ➔ approx. 60 % milk
 - ➔ 28% of agricultural land use in Eastern Germany
 - ➔ 33% of agricultural exports from Germany
- Co-operatives serve as bridges to the markets

Structural Changes in Agriculture

	No. Of farms	Average farm size	No. of coops
1950 Western-Germany	1,600,000	8 ha	23,750
2017 East & West Germany	268,000	62 ha	2,104

Agricultural co-operatives respond actively to structural changes:

- **Mergers**
- **Close-down of co-operatives combined with transfer of business to other co-operative enterprises.**