

ABSTRACT

Abstract of thesis submitted to the Graduate School of Maejo University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science in Cooperative Economics

A STUDY ON ECONOMIC CHANGES OF MEMBERS OF SANKUMPANG AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE, LTD., FISCAL YEARS 1992 AND 1999

By

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The objectives of this research were to examine 1) economic changes of members of Sankumpang Agricultural Cooperative, Ltd., fiscal years 1992 and 1999; 2) their participation in the cooperative's activities; 3) their knowledge and understanding of cooperative principles and practices of the affairs of the cooperative; and 4) problems and recommendations to solve the problems of the cooperative and its members. The data was collected by means of pretested interview schedules from 141 members of the cooperative registered for membership in 1993, and analyzed with the use of the SPSS/PC⁺.

Before and after being members of the cooperative, the respondents were found to be significantly different in personal and economic status i.e. asset, debt and income. They had a moderate level of participation in the cooperative's credit business and a low level of participation in providing goods for sales, collecting products and gasoline services. Their knowledge and understanding of cooperative principles and practices was found to be at a highest level.

The results also revealed the following problems in the cooperative's business transaction : the members' lack of faith in its board of directors and managerial staff; lack of motivation in career development; long distances between the stores and the members' homes; limited kinds of goods; unawareness of the members' backgrounds; no career grouping, resulting in the lack of information for production and marketing promotion; low share holding by the members; use of loans incompatible with objectives; and no employment of knowledgeable and competent staff to run the cooperative's business.

The following were recommended : creation of the members' faith in the cooperative; encouraging the members to do more business with the cooperative : awareness of the members' backgrounds; career grouping of the members; conducting complete life - cycle business transactions; increasing capital share holding; provision of supervised credit; and employment of knowledgeable and competent staff to run the business.