

# Latvian Agricultural Cooperatives Association and cooperatives in Latvia



# Information about Latvian Agricultural Cooperatives Association (LACA)

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- ✦ LACA is nongovernmental organization which associates agricultural and forest cooperatives that are giving the services for their members (producers of agricultural products/forest owners), but don't have agricultural land or forests by themselves;
- ✦ LACA was established in 2002;
- ✦ at the moment LACA has 52 members;
- ✦ finances of organization are composed of entrance fee, membership fee, incomes from projects and national subsidies;
- ✦ LACA is the member of COGECA.

## LACA main activities (1)

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- ✦ providing actual information (law changes, available support, terms of application);
- ✦ providing consultations in all questions relevant to cooperation and agricultural in general;
- ✦ representation of members interests in EU / national government bodies (especially – Ministry of Agriculture) and other institutions.
- ✦ organizing training courses / study trips / conferences;

## LACA main activities (2)

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- ✦ forming farmers/forest owners and the rest public understanding about cooperation and cooperation advantages in rural economy;
- ✦ cooperation with Ministry of Agriculture for planning support and legislation of cooperatives (rural development programme, national support);
- ✦ summarization of statistical data of cooperatives in Latvia.

## Agricultural cooperatives in Latvia

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**Before 1990** – members of agricultural cooperatives have common property – farmland. They collectively manage it.

**After 1990** – new cooperation trend – agricultural service cooperatives (serious development of this cooperation form was starting after 2000).

**After 2012** – forestry service cooperatives.

# Information about cooperatives in Latvia (1)

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- ✦ main principle - focus on collective interests;
- ✦ objective of the common activity – more economic, less – social benefits;
- ✦ cooperatives are ruled by specific laws – they work in compliance with Law of Cooperation;
- ✦ the minimal number of founders of agricultural/forestry service cooperative are five;
- ✦ each cooperative member in general meeting has only one voice;
- ✦ cooperatives offer to its members a large number of services, especially sales and purchasing, as well as supply farms/forest owners with raw materials;

## Information about cooperatives in Latvia (2)

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- ✦ cooperatives mostly are managed by person from among members. There are positive examples in grain sector when cooperatives are managed by person from outside;
- ✦ in other countries – members are obliged to deliver their whole production to the cooperative. In Latvia – it is not obligatory (question of statutes);
- ✦ cooperatives provide consultations to members of best farming principles (including transfer of knowledge).
- ✦ grain and milk sector – there are no requirements for new agricultural cooperatives, other sectors – there are free places for new agricultural cooperatives;

# Latvian agricultural/forestry service cooperatives common turnover







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## **Latvian Agricultural Cooperatives Association**

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