

Name:

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WINS Seminar

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Title of presentation: Changing Governance in European Co-operatives - Simply Shifting or Losing Control?

Abstract

This presentation begins with a review of the literature on innovations in co-operative control and management and the reasons why co-ops might adopt these changes. Based on an analysis of five hundred agricultural co-operatives in the European Union, it moves on to discuss changes among leading European agricultural co-ops. Finally, it examines the fallout of recent crises in some sectors and the subsequent implications of governance changes for member control and manager accountability. Observations about the political as well as market environments for co-operative development in Europe will set the stage for discussion at the end of the presentation.

Short bio

Markus Hanisch is an agricultural economist with a background in institutional and resource economics. His work combines contemporary approaches in agricultural economics and political science with his own research and training initiatives in co-operative studies. His research aims to understand the roles of co-ops and producer organizations in the sustainable development of value chains, rural development, and innovation. Markus has wide-ranging research interests, including changes in co-operative ownership and control structures, problems of value assessment before and after mergers, the role of co-ops in the reform of the energy sector in Germany, and co-ops as organizations of community-based service provision in rural areas, among many others.