

Dates of Meeting:

22-05-1951 – 02-06-1951

Type of Meeting:

National Cooperative Work Conference

Place of Meeting:

Beijing

Attendance:

The All-China Federation of Cooperatives

Major Agenda Items:

The conference mainly focused on the issue of organizing cooperatives

Speeches/Reports:

It was acknowledged that although significant progress had been made in the development of cooperatives, there were still unreasonable aspects in organizational structures and internal institutions. Most higher-level cooperatives had not yet independently established business and operational guidance units. At the grassroots level, many cooperatives had been formed based on administrative districts or administrative and production units, resulting in issues such as too few members, limited capital, and inconvenience for members in purchasing and selling goods.

Other Decisions and/or Actions:

the conference decided that rural cooperatives should be established with market towns or larger villages as their centers. Existing cooperatives set up along administrative village lines should be merged with the consent of members, in order to consolidate resources and expand operations.

For urban areas, the following three models were proposed for the establishment of consumer cooperatives:

1. In large factories, schools, or government offices with centralized dormitories, cooperatives can still be organized based on production or administrative units.
2. In areas where workers live in concentrated communities, worker consumer cooperatives should be organized, and employees from all factories and government offices within the area may join.
3. In areas without concentrated worker housing, mixed consumer cooperatives should be organized by district, and may include staff, other working people, students, etc., as members.

Regarding the internal structure of cooperatives at all levels, the conference decided that in order to expand operations, dedicated business guidance and operating institutions must be established:

1. Federations of cooperatives at the greater administrative region, provincial, and county levels should immediately establish supply and sales departments under the direct leadership of their boards of directors. These departments would guide and organize the supply and sales work of lower-level cooperatives.
2. At all levels, the business guidance departments and operational departments for supply and sales must be kept separate to avoid imbalances such as oversupply or excessive sales with insufficient supply.
3. Cooperatives above the county level should, based on local economic conditions and business needs, systematically set up warehouses, storage facilities, transport stations, and processing plants in suitable locations.

The conference also concluded that, given the current economic situation, in addition to urban consumer cooperatives and rural supply and marketing cooperatives, there was also an urgent need to vigorously organize:

- Handicraft production cooperatives
- Fisheries cooperatives
- Transportation cooperatives

As for credit services, due to their connection with national financial policy, cooperatives are not well-suited to handle them independently. It was recommended that such business be managed by the People's Bank of China.

The conference also stated that conditions were not yet ripe for the establishment of agricultural production cooperatives.

In addition, the conference discussed and submitted the following documents for approval and implementation by the board of directors of the All-China Federation of Cooperatives:

- Draft articles of association for urban consumer cooperatives, rural supply and marketing cooperatives, and cooperative federations at all levels
- Draft registration regulations for supply and consumer cooperatives in the People's Republic of China

Remarks: