



33° Congreso
Internacional del CIRIEC
Valencia, 13 – 15 junio
de 2022

Nuevas dinámicas mundiales
en la era post-Covid; desafíos para
la economía pública, social
y cooperativa

EVOLUTION OF THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF BRAZILIAN AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVISM

Daniel Francisco Nagao Menezes

Universidade Presbiteriana Mackenzie / CIRIEC Brasil



Resumen

In order to understand the corporate cooperativism developed in Southern Brazil, it is necessary to understand the legal procedures involved in this process. The purpose of this article is to discuss the role of the State in the development of the agricultural cooperativism. For such, we sought to analyze both constitutional laws and the General Law of Cooperativism and to understand the establishment of the corporate corporativism in our country, which gave rise to multi-stakeholder cooperatives. These elements, in turn, forged the fabric of the corporate cooperativism that mediated the renewal of the countryside, which, so far, was seen as the obsolete portion of the Brazilian territory. This is what gave rise to agro industrialization, given that when cooperatives are industrialized, they start facing dialectical processes between corporate values and cooperativist principles.

Keywords: Corporate Cooperativism; Historical View; National Development Plan; Cooperatives Laws; Brazil.



1. INTRODUCTION

Even considering the specific characteristics of management and organization of agricultural cooperatives, in Brazil the role of the State in the expansion of agricultural cooperatives was of fundamental importance. A set of measures allowed the formation of cooperatives aimed at agro-industrial activities due to the modernization of agriculture in the second half of the 20th century.

Latin American countries are characterized by greater dependence on the State for the development of economic activities and implementation of social rights. For this reason, the history of cooperativism in Brazil is the history of the State's treatment of cooperative societies.

Initially, Brazil has a period of indifference by the State in relation to cooperatives, which goes from the end of the 19th century to 1930. During this period, the State did not prohibit and also did not encourage cooperativism as an economic strategy. Groups wishing to found a cooperative should apply for authorization from the state.

The second period runs from 1930 to 1950, when cooperatives were prohibited by the state as they were mistaken for a communist organization. Only a few cooperatives linked to unions loyal to the government were allowed to function. At this time, Brazil lived the dictatorship of Getúlio Vargas and, it is interesting to note that Mexico (Cardenas) and Argentina (Perón), created a relationship with cooperativism very similar to that which existed in Brazil.

The third period starts in the 60s and is in effect until today. From that moment on, the State adopted cooperativism as a strategy for the development of some strategic sectors, such as agriculture, moving away from cooperativism from its original principles.

During the 60s, the institutional representation of Brazilian cooperativism was divided into two: the Brazilian Association of Cooperatives (ABCOOP) and the National Union of Cooperatives (Unasco), and it was only in 1969 that the Organization of Brazilian Cooperatives (OCB) was created, unifying the two entities. OCB assumed the role of representing and centralizing measures related to Brazilian cooperatives, but controlled by the State. OCB thus became accredited to provide legal support for a new format for business cooperativism in Brazil.



Therefore, since that time, in Brazil, two large groups can be defined in relation to the cooperative movement. The first represents traditional and older cooperatives, formed in the mid-twentieth century and which the Organization of Brazilian Cooperatives - OCB reorganized with an economic focus and establishment in the market, and, on the other hand, are the so-called social cooperatives, which are part of Solidarity Economy, which until 2016 had a Special Secretariat in the federal government, linked to the Ministry of Labor, therefore with a social focus.

In this text, aspects inherent to the so-called corporate/multi-cooperative cooperativism will be discussed, therefore, the one with an economic-mercantile focus. This cooperativism was consolidated in Brazil, as already mentioned, after the emergence of the OCB system, which, since the 1970s, has promoted the sector through union representation, political presence, information, monitoring and social promotion.

In business/multi-cooperative cooperatives, contradictions express dialectical pairs (and not just dualisms) and these pairs must be critically analyzed, such as the territorialization of cooperatives in the perspective of integrating the political, economic and cultural dimensions. In this methodological path, therefore, followed by the dialectical method, subject and object are intrinsic: the subject is constructed/transformed, building/transforming, and, at the same time, the object, which, once under construction, or already built, being the fruit of human work influences the subject's actions (SPOSITO, 2010).

The development model in Brazil is agro-export, marked by exports as an exogenous variable, which generated an important portion of national income and which supported imports that significantly supplied part of the domestic demand. Cooperative norms are contained in the constitutional context, in the Civil Code and in a special legislation, which is the Law of Cooperative Societies. First cooperative societies were formed and then law regulated them. Now, the Brazilian Federal Constitutions and their influence on cooperativism deserve to be highlighted and, then, the issues pertinent to the General Law of Cooperativism, that is, Federal Law No. 5,764 / 1971, will be discussed.

2. THE FORMATION OF BUSINESS COOPERATIVISM

According to the aforementioned OCB, cooperativism emerged in Brazil in 1889, with the cooperative called the Economic Society of Public Employees of Ouro Preto, in Ouro Preto - Minas Gerais, and was expanding, with several branches, to other states, such as Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Pernambuco and Rio Grande do Sul. According to Pinho (1982a), in the



period prior to 1888, intentions for the implementation of cooperativism had already emerged, since the majority of the labor force was a slave and a few European workers felt the need of organizing mutual and claiming associations, because in society, which is markedly patriarchal, free labor did not have social security or labor support

The first constitutional provision, under Brazilian law, with reference to cooperatives in Brazil, was in the 1891 Constitution, which, in its article 72, paragraph 8, authorizes and recognizes the Brazilian right of association in unions and in cooperatives by workers.

Immigrants, mainly Germans and Italians, who arrived in Brazil with the experience acquired in their countries of origin, started to form Community Organizations, mainly in the South of the country, to solve problems related to production, consumption and credit. Credit and consumer cooperatives are the main initiatives of this type in the early years of the 20th century, but they soon gave way, in terms of importance, to agricultural cooperatives. Despite the rural style, it was in the consumer and credit sectors of urban centers that cooperative organizations were formed

With the Proclamation of the Republic in Brazil (1889), vacant lands and the responsibility for colonization passed to the states. In the State of Rio Grande do Sul, spontaneous immigration and private colonization developed, becoming a colonial zone, with the installation of new colonies through public and private initiative, attracted by the possibilities of exploitation of land trade.

It was in this scenario that, in the city of Venâncio Aires, in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, in 1912, the Volksverein— Sociedade União Popular appeared, to support German Catholic immigrants after their arrival from Europe. So it is from there that cooperativism maintains very close relations with the religious aspect. This society was idealized by the Swiss Jesuit, living in Brazil since 1885, Father Theodor Amstad. The main objective of such an association was to bring together the descendants of German immigrants, encouraging them to live an intense and active community life, under the parameters of Christian solidarity, which would lead them to the development of communities in the religious, social, political and economic aspects. . In this sense, the Catholic Church served as an instrument of “Agrarian Reform”, to expand the Brazilian agricultural frontier in favor of German immigrants and their descendants in Brazil. Volksverein sought autonomous forms of development, forms that would represent the conquest of freedom and citizenship of the German-Brazilians and the social legitimacy of the Church, increasing, promoting and territorializing education, cultural diffusion, social assistance, credit cooperatives and organizing new colonies.



Prior to the republican period, at the end of the colonial period, the Federal Constitution of 1824, (BRASIL, 1824), the first after the proclamation of national independence, does not refer to cooperativism, as it is an embryonic phase of Brazilian nationality. Subsequently, the act that gave rise to the Federal Constitution of 1891 was the Proclamation of the Republic in 1889 (BRASIL, 1891). In the Republic, a president governs the country. The Constitution addresses cooperatives more specifically in Article 72, paragraph 8, authorizing and recognizing the right of association in unions and cooperatives by workers

Some authors consider this Brazilian moment as pre-cooperative, and that the progress of cooperative practice in Brazil has an effective milestone since 1932, motivated then by the stimulus of the central public power recognizing cooperativism as an instrument for restructuring agricultural activities - especially after the crisis of 1929 - under the agro-export perspective and also by the enactment of the basic law of Brazilian cooperativism, in 1932, starting to better define the specificities of that movement in view of other forms of association (PINHO, 1982c). The first references to cooperativism in legislation Brazilian economy were in the early 20th century and concerned the first agricultural and rural credit cooperatives. The table below, which represents the legislative changes of cooperativism in Brazil, follows. In the Center-South region of Brazil, there were great cooperative experiences brought by European colonies, such as credit and consumer cooperatives, alongside agricultural cooperatives with state control.

The main Laws and Decrees of cooperativism in Brazil and their characteristics are:

1. Decree 799/1903: Initial milestone of cooperativism in Brazil;
2. Decree 1.637/1907 - revoked in 1932: It did not contain specific rules for cooperativism;
3. Law 4.984/1925 and Decree 17.339/1926: It organizes Raiffeisen Rural Boxes and Luzzatti Popular Banks;
4. Decree 22.239/1932 - revoked in 1934, reestablished in 1943, revoked in 1943, and reestablished in 1945 until 1966. Promulgated Decree Law 59/1966: Partial consolidation of cooperativism. It enshrines and classifies the cooperative principles. It constitutes the fundamental law of cooperatives in Brazil;
5. Decree-Law 59/1966, regulated by Decree 60.597/1967: Cooperativism begins to suffer greater state control and to lose part of the fiscal stimulus;
6. Decree-Law 59/1966 was revoked in 1971: Period known as State Centralism;
7. Law 5.764 / 1971: Renovation of the cooperative structure.



In 1906, agricultural cooperatives emerged, also in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, founded generally by immigrants of German and Italian origin, who brought the culture of associative work from their countries of origin and sought to end the intermediaries in the commercialization of agricultural crops. In 1907, the cooperative movement was still weak, but it started to gain expression with the so-called defenders of cooperative and union associations, among which mention should be made of Joaquim Inácio Tosta, Wenceslau Belo, Carlos Alberto de Menezes and Cristiano Cruz, who ended up elaborating a project of regulation that gave rise to Decree nº 1,637/1907, revoked 25 years later, replaced by Decree nº 22.239/1932, this one formulated by Adolfo Gredilha, Fábio Luz Filho and Saturnino Brito, now supported by the principles of rochdaleanismo.

According Daller (2006, p. 8-9):

Com o crescimento do número de cooperativas, a Diretoria assumiu a responsabilidade de fiscalização e defesa das modalidades clássicas, Raiffeisen e Luzzatti, pelo decreto nº 17.339, de 2 de julho de 1926, de conformidade com o art. 40 da lei nº 4984, de 31 de dezembro de 1925. Essa lei foi conquistada pelos interessados para atrair as cooperativas de crédito amparadas no Decreto nº 1637, de janeiro de 1921, que criava a fiscalização bancária sobre as cooperativas, vistas pela Inspeção Geral dos Bancos como casas bancárias comuns, com fins puramente mercantes .

The 1932 decree created pure cooperativism, giving cooperatives greater freedom of formation and operation. In 1933 to 1938 there was an attempt to suspend the law, but without success. In the transition period from the first decree to the second, it is worth noting that, in 1920, the cooperatives of mate, milk, pigs and wood assumed prominence in the economy of southern Brazil. In 1930, the State began to interfere in the dynamics and functioning of cooperatives, initiating the incorporation of measures to plan the new economic model. Thus, the State begins to develop power relations that resulted in coordinated axiomatic actions for the reproduction and accumulation of private capital.

From the Constitutionalist Revolutions of 1930 and 1932, the Federal Constitution of 1934 emerges (BRASIL, 1934). This Constitution deepens the treatment for cooperatives. One of the main highlights is the guarantee of freedom of association and the non-dissolution of cooperative societies. According Serra (2013, p. 7), “toda uma legislação começa a ser criada para ajustar as cooperativas já fundadas e fomentar o surgimento de novas cooperativas às políticas públicas gestadas em função delas”. At this moment, Brazil moves to the import substitution development model and cooperativism serves to assist in this process. The cooperatives started to have part of their autonomy controlled by the State. So, according to



Benetti e Franz (1988, p. 6), State intervention in cooperativism “tem por objetivo apoiar não só as atividades propriamente cooperativistas, mas principalmente os setores produtivos agrícolas a ela vinculados”. The agricultural sector, due to its backwardness and shyness, was seen as an obstacle to the development of the country and the cooperatives became a vehicle to implement new modes of production proper to the modernization of agriculture.

The then government of Getúlio Vargas started the new political-economic system, now focused on the agro-export model. This represents major changes in the Brazilian agricultural sector, which started in the State of Rio Grande do Sul with programs aimed at the development of small units of family exploitation. In such a conjuncture, the State begins to present increasing regulation of economic relations, ranging from labor relations to cooperativism. According to Silva et al. (2003), agricultural cooperatives stood out in the Brazilian cooperative movement, considering that the country's economic structure was eminently agricultural.

In the 1930s to 1950s, the economic structure, until then basically agricultural, changed. This new period was marked by international crises (starting with the fall of the New York Stock Exchange in 1929) and, then, the agrarian coffee oligarchy and the agro-export model that will structure the industrial model. The import substitution policy was based on the internalization of the Basic Goods Department.

This is the model, according to Tavares (1972), which consists of the transition from an economy "out" of the agro-export cycles to an economic "in" of the industry. The path is being opened for the economic function of urban space with the import of tractor factories and the establishment of foreign capital in the country. According to Serra (2013, p. 17), the new economic model aimed at replacing imports seeks to “acumulação de capital internacional; incentivo a uma política de desenvolvimento industrial voltada à produção de bens duráveis; aceleração do desenvolvimento do Complexo Agroindustrial (CAI), com a participação de capitais nacionais e internacionais”. The formation of these Agroindustrial Complexes leads to the development of entrepreneurial cooperativism, which makes cooperatives come closer to corporate values and distance themselves, without departing at all, from cooperative principles.

In this sense, in the dialectical relationship between the State/cooperatives and cooperatives/cooperatives, the productive structures are becoming more complex within the urban/industrial sector. According to Benetti and Franz (1988), cooperativism is the institutional instrument used by the State to pass on policies to promote agricultural activities. The State needed to get out of the great depression created by the 1929 crisis and transform



the rural, which depended essentially on the export of coffee, to a diversified and modern rural, now more dependent on the industrial urban sector. Still according to Benettie Franzt (1988, p. 8), this group of politicians “transformava o cooperativismo num instrumento de intervenção estatal na sociedade agrária e numa instituição com funções substitutivas do Estado capitalista”, transforming cooperativism into a corporate institution to foster the process of modernizing agriculture. Cooperativism, in turn, in this system, gains a business role, carrying the dilemma of a company/cooperative, that is, a dilemma between business values and cooperative principles.

The State did not have the conditions or political forms of planning and development to ensure the modernization process throughout the national territory; however, the cooperative action in the South of the country, more specifically in the west of Paraná, was of great relevance for growth, expansion and mutual help from its members.

With the political territorialization of capital, cooperativism started to be configured as an alternative “within” the system and no longer as an alternative “to” the system (SERRA, 2013). This shows that the historical process of Brazilian agricultural cooperatives followed the economic policy guidelines adopted by governments throughout the 20th century.

Federal Decree No. 23.611/1933 established the cooperative professional consortium, a legal instrument that regulated the situation of the founded unions. Article 1 allowed cooperative professionals (agrarian, proletarian, liberals and civil servants) to carry out their economic purposes in consumer, credit, production and derivative cooperatives. The beginning of the military government of Getúlio Vargas marks the act of the Federal Constitution of 1937 (BRASIL, 1937). This Constitution guaranteed freedom of association and gave the States powers to legislate on points that were not covered by the federal legislator.

The cooperative model until 1937 was called, according to Benetti and Franzt (1988), corporatist cooperativism, governed by Decree nº 23.611/1933, because it was a tenentist movement that adopted the corporative model of cooperative unionism based on Mussolini's Italian fascism (BRASIL, 1937).

During the Getúlio Vargas government (1951/1954), policies were developed to strengthen small properties to increase diversification in agriculture. According to Benettie Franzt (1988), this government believed that the solution to the agrarian question would be reduced to the strengthening of small agricultural production, but the main problem of small production would be the traders and the professional unpreparedness of small producers.



Therefore, the State turns to economic and social policies to solve the problem of commercializing production through cooperativism and vocational education programs to combat professional disqualification.

In the 1960s, with the banking reform, promoted by the governments of the military regime, a reform based on Federal Law No. 4.595/964, credit cooperatives needed to be restructured and declined, and since then many cooperatives were extinct (BRAZIL), 1964). In 1966, Federal Decree-Law No. 59/1966 was instituted, later regulated by Federal Decree No. 60.597/1967, which created the National Cooperative Council and repealed previous laws (BRASIL, 1967).

The 1967 Federal Constitution was marked by influence and state control over cooperatives. In this case, the State authorizes the formation of cooperatives and controls the acts practiced by the cooperatives, causing the decline of cooperativism (BRASIL, 1967). In this last decree, in its article 5, the cooperatives can adopt any type of services, operations and activities. With this standardization, cooperatives are subject to greater state control and lose part of fiscal incentives. This period became known as state centralism. According to Serra (2013), cooperativism is subject to state control in the implementation or change of policies, but it pays for it, since cooperatives receive financial resources.

According to Serra (2013, p. 17), the Agroindustrial Complex structured in the early 1960s, mainly in the states of the South and Southeast,

em três pilares interdependentes: a montante o setor responsável pela produção de bens para o setor agrícola (tratores e outras máquinas agrícolas), ao centro uma agricultura altamente tecnificada e a jusante a indústria de transformação ou agroindústria, segmento que passaria a ter a efetiva participação das cooperativas

In this context, according to Delgado (1985), multicooperatives emerge and are strengthened, being similar to other companies controlled by business groups, although given the differences, according to Costa (1992), which are distinguished by the definition of cooperative, as it is of an association of people and not of capital.

In the 1970s, the government (at the federal and state levels) invested heavily in the modernization of agriculture, and cooperative members and cooperatives were granted credit lines to support the new Brazilian agricultural model.



The various rules instituted to give a new format to the national cooperativism ended up culminating, in 1971, in the General Law of Cooperativism (Federal Law nº 5.764/1971), a law that renewed and fixed the cooperative principle based mainly on the reduction of state intervention (BRASIL, 1971). The General Law of Cooperativism maintained the previous doctrinal lines, but expanding/adapting its field of action and making structural modernization more flexible, which allowed Brazilian cooperatives to act as modern and dynamic companies, transforming them into the so-called “multi-cooperatives”. During this period, restructuring took place, allowing the definition of the specificities of cooperatives in Brazil, although it perpetuated the State's interference in the functioning of these organizations. In this law, a representative body was created at the national level - the Organization of Brazilian Cooperatives (OCB) - and the State Cooperative Organizations (OCEs), as representation in each unit of the federation.

The 1971 General Cooperative Law, (BRASIL, 1964), therefore, defines the National Cooperative Policy and institutes the legal regime of cooperative societies, its provisions being distributed in 18 chapters, which are thus entitled: 1. The National Policy for Cooperatives; 2. Cooperative Societies; 3. The Purpose and Classification of Cooperative Societies; 4. The Constitution of Cooperative Societies; 5. Books; 6. Capital Stock; 7. Of the Funds; 8. Associates; 9. Governing Bodies; 10. Merger, Incorporation and Break-up; 11. Dissolution and Liquidation; 12. The Operating System of Cooperatives; 13. Inspection and Control; 14. The National Cooperative Council; 15. Government Agencies; 16. Representation of the Cooperative System; 17. Credit Stimuli; 18. General and Transitional Provisions. This is, therefore, the law that governs cooperatives until today. In this law, the legislature printed cooperativism as a strategy for the development of the country and, for that, recognizes the existence of a national cooperative system with a constitutionally formalized legal nature.

The General Cooperative Law, mentioned above, which was sanctioned by the Emilio Médici government in 1971, (BRASIL, 1964) defines the national policy of cooperativism and creates the legal regime of cooperative societies. There, cooperativism is treated as a strategic development point for the country. In order for the cooperative system to develop, the legislator sought to shape the national cooperative policy program. In this case, the State is responsible for coordinating and stimulating the growth of cooperatives through technical assistance and economic incentives, aiming at creating, developing and integrating cooperatives.

With the General Law of Cooperatives, soon after being instituted and already supporting cooperatives for the development of business cooperatives, the II PND - National Development Plan - 1975-1979 follows it. This plan promoted changes in the industrial and agricultural sector. With regard to the agricultural sector, it continued the process of



modernization and internalization of agriculture, emphasizing the large agricultural company as an agent of economic occupation of the agricultural frontier and of export. Therefore, there is a new role for agriculture and livestock in the country, with the production of industrializable products, leaving aside traditional products for domestic consumption to meet the needs of the world market. The modernization of agricultural activity in the Center-South was accompanied by the performance of companies that commercialized products resulting from technological packages, promoting the expansion of consumption of these inputs proper to modernization, through credits for the implementation and expansion of agro-industry.

Decades later, with the Federal Constitution of 1988, the revival and expansion of cooperativism happens, since the new constitutional text, in its article 5, item XVIII, provides for the freedom of association and the creation of cooperative societies, being prohibited the interference of the State in its development. Still in this Constitution - currently in force -, in its article 146, item III, the tax act differentiated in relation to cooperatives is promoted (BRASIL, 1988).

Article 174 of the 1988 Constitution regulates the role of the State as a supervisory, encouraging and planning agent for the public and private sector, and determines that the cooperative act is encouraged and promoted through other laws and other public policies (BRASIL, 1988). Article 187 deals with agricultural policy, which must be planned and executed with the effective participation of the production sector, involving producers and rural workers, as well as the commercialization, storage and transport sectors, taking into account cooperatives and other types of activities services. Article 192, on the other hand, inserts credit unions into the international financial system. With these regulations and the changes in the agro-export sector, the country-planned measures aimed at the development of agribusiness and, consequently, created conditions for the constitution of multi-cooperatives, which will then leverage the agro-export sector.

Agricultural cooperativism, which aims to produce food, has been showing important growth in Brazil and worldwide. In recent years, this cooperativism has been dedicated to the agro-industrialization of production, to add value to the production of its members. This opens up the range of services that the cooperative offers its members, from technical assistance, storage, educational and social assistance, as well as the processing and marketing of production.

An informative note is about the federative nature of the Brazilian State. Brazil is a federal state, composed of the Federal government, state and municipal (local) governments. The model is very close to the US model, however, the sign is reversed. All issues are dealt



with by the central government, and state governments can legislate to complement federal legislation or, in a few issues provided for in the Federal Constitution. For this reason, the laws and public policies on cooperativism are federal.

3. FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

Technological innovations gave a new direction to the productive activities of Brazil, which started to incorporate new techniques and productive equipment. In this sense, the Brazilian State created and recreated actions to transform productive spaces in Brazil. With these mechanisms, he formulated laws and rules for the development of rural activities and in favor of economic export policies, in the formation of a business cooperative in Brazil.

The pursuit of public policies in the course of the twentieth century was aimed at implementing the modernization of agriculture in small and medium-sized production units, which is why the role of agricultural cooperatives was extremely important, aiming to optimize and maximize this path. Then industrialization expanded rapidly and started to demand the restructuring of the field, since it is a source of raw material. It was necessary to prepare the field to produce for industry and, at the same time, for the field to also receive industrialized products, such as pesticides, fertilizers, modified seeds and machines.

The rules contained in the current Federal Constitution and in the specific legislation on cooperatives were being shaped for the development of multi-cooperatives. Therefore, in this long way from the Republican Constitution of 1891 until the Citizen Constitution of 1988, the main guidelines were corroborating a strengthening of the preference for business cooperativism (BRASIL, 1988).

In this context, agricultural cooperatives become the mediators between public policies and small and medium productive units for the introduction of capitalism in the countryside. These are profound transformations in cooperative organizations, transformations that are based on the re-signification of the old cooperativism brought from Europe and that currently lives highly dialectical relations, strongly approaching the business logic and, thus, it moves away from the cooperative principles formulated by the cooperative members from Rochdale, England. This continuous process of industrialization of rural areas brought about the fragmentation of transformations in the relations of production in agriculture and, consequently, redefined the socioeconomic and political structure in the Brazilian field.



In the past, cooperativism emerged to defend workers excluded from the labor market because of the Industrial Revolution. Since it appeared, therefore, it has been undergoing transformations and becoming a hybrid, to meet the demands of workers and capital, and precarious its cooperative principles. When cooperativism assumes the needs of capital and approaches corporate values, it begins to experience contradictions within the system, experiencing the dilemma between cooperative principles, cooperative members, the market and competitiveness.

Although the modernization of agriculture began in the 1950s, it was from the 1970s that transformations began to be felt at the national level, with the implementation of State programs aimed at improving and expanding production areas. So-called CAIs (Agroindustrial Complexes) were instituted in Brazil, which increasingly demanded changes in the way of producing in the field. With the help of the government, the implementation of the Agro-Industrial Complexes that occurred in the 1970s promoted the intersectoral integration of three basic elements: the industries that produce for agriculture, modern agriculture and the agro-industries (GRAZIANO DA SILVA, 1996). And, together with this new productive structure, cooperatives were also being reorganized, which became multi-cooperative calls and started to operate in networks to meet the new requirements. Industrial capital started to command the rural economy, shaping cooperatives according to their interests. Then there was an intense process of agro-industrialization of cooperatives in the 1980s, especially in the southern region of Brazil. Agricultural cooperatives have become agro-industrial cooperatives, serving the rural in all phases of the production process and integrating productive units with financial capital, always directed by the State through the implementation of specific public policies.

Brazil is experiencing a historic opportunity to inaugurate a fourth stage in the history of Brazilian cooperativism, starting with agricultural cooperatives. The proposal for this fourth stage is to couple cooperativism to a strategy to overcome underdevelopment, as advocated by organizations such as ECLAC and authors such as Celso Furtado (2004) and Raul Prebisch (2011).

This will result in the redirection of cooperative production to the domestic market, moving away from the dependence that large agricultural cooperatives have on the foreign market, especially China and the United States. This will reduce the dependence of large Brazilian agricultural cooperatives on the international market and, on the other hand, will increase the power of small businesses, returning to the old cooperative principles of Rochdale.



REFERENCES

- BENETTI, M. D.; FRANZT, T. R. (1988): Desenvolvimento e crise do cooperativismo empresarial do RS, 1957-1984. 2. ed. Porto Alegre: FEE.
- BRASIL (1964): Lei 4.595, de 31 de dezembro de 1964.
- BRASIL (1971): Lei 5.764, de 16 de dezembro de 1971.
- BRASIL (1824): Constituição Política do Império do Brasil.
- BRASIL (1891): Constituição da República dos Estados Unidos do Brasil.
- BRASIL (1934): Constituição da República dos Estados Unidos do Brasil.
- BRASIL (1937): Constituição dos Estados Unidos do Brasil.
- BRASIL (1946): Constituição dos Estados Unidos do Brasil.
- BRASIL (1967): Constituição da República Federativa do Brasil.
- BRASIL (1988): Constituição da República Federativa do Brasil.
- CARONE, E. (1975): O tenentismo. Rio de Janeiro: Difel.
- COSTA, V. M. H. de M. (1992) "A modernização da agricultura no contexto da constituição do Complexo Agroindustrial no Brasil" in: 11º Encontro Nacional de Geografia Agrária, Maringá: UEM; pp. 02-27.
- DALLER, V. L. de O. (2006): Evolução do cooperativismo no Brasil: Denacoop em ação. Brasília: Ministério da Agricultura, Pecuária e Abastecimento.
- DELGADO, G. (1985): Capital financeiro e agricultura no Brasil, São Paulo: Ícone.
- FURTADO, C. (2004): Raízes do Subdesenvolvimento. 3ª ed. Rio de Janeiro: Civilização Brasileira.
- GRAZIANO DA SILVA, J. (1996): A nova dinâmica da agricultura brasileira. Campinas: Editora da Unicamp, 1996.
- ORGANIZAÇÃO DAS COOPERATIVAS BRASILEIRAS (OCB). Sistema OCB. Disponible en: <http://www.ocb.org.br/site/ocb/>.
- PINHO, D. (1982): O pensamento cooperativo e o cooperativismo brasileiro: manual do cooperativismo. Vol. 2. São Paulo: Saraiva.
- PREBISCH, R. (2011): O Manifesto Latino-Americano e Outros Ensaio. São Paulo: Contraponto, 2011.



SERRA, E. (2013): “A participação do Estado na formação e desenvolvimento das cooperativas agrícolas no Brasil”, *Campo-Território: revista de geografia agrária*, v. 8, nº 16, p. 06-37.

TAVARES, M. C. (1972): “Auge e declínio do processo de substituição de importações no Brasil” in: TAVARES, M. C. (org.). *Da substituição de importações ao capitalismo financeiro*, Rio de Janeiro: Zahar, pp. 07-20.

SPOSITO, E. S. (2010) “A questão do método e a crítica do pensamento geográfico”. in: CASTRO, I. E.; MIRANDA, M. & EGLER, C. A. (orgs.) *Redescobrimo o Brasil: 500 anos depois*. Rio de Janeiro: Bertrand Brasil, pp. 347-359.

SILVA, E. S. et al. (2003): *Panorama do cooperativismo brasileiro: história, cenários e tendências*. Recife: UNICOORP.