



10th June 2016

Funding secured for landmark co-operative research



Thanks to the outstanding generosity of these leading Kiwi co-ops, we have now secured the funding to carry out what will be a landmark university-led research study into the co-operative sector here in NZ and its importance to the local economy.

Championed by Cooperative Business NZ, the University of Auckland and Massey University are joining forces to conduct the “Co-operative Economy of New Zealand” research project between August and November.

Co-operatively funded between Fonterra (lead sponsor), Ballance Agri-Nutrients, CDC Pharmaceuticals, Co-op Money NZ, Farmlands, FMG, Foodstuffs South Island, Market Gardeners, Mitre 10, Ravensdown and Silver Fern Farms, the project represents increasing co-operation between CBNZ and NZ universities, using data from recent surveys and cases studies that have been completed by researchers at the two universities.

With 115 co-operatives registered under the Cooperative Companies Act 1996, the combined annual revenues of these organisations amounts to over \$NZ43 billion – that’s almost 15% of NZ’s GDP.

On the back of United Nations (UN) and International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) reports indicating New Zealand to be one of the most co-operative economies in the world, the commissioned research will systematically describe the current economic contribution of NZ’s top 30 co-ops and outline key strengths, achievements, and challenges of the cooperative model in NZ.

Several benefits for NZ co-operatives are expected from the research, including accurate facts and figures about the current contribution of NZ’s cooperative economy that can be used to educate key stakeholders about the nature, extent and importance of cooperatives in NZ. In addition to education, an accurate picture can help advocate for the profile and needs of organisations in NZ’s cooperative economy.

The final report is due in early December 2016. We will keep you informed of progress as the next stage gets underway.



Online updates | www.nz.coop

Please check out some fresh online features including a new [Welcome to CBNZ video](#) and copies of [nz.coop NEWS](#).

- Watch out for some new co-operative profiles in coming weeks as we continue our series which celebrates the success of our business model.



News from Craig

	3 JUNE 2016
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2016 International Day of Co-operatives – July 2nd

This year's [International Day of Co-operatives](#) is on Saturday, 2nd July. Themed '**Co-operatives: The power to act for a sustainable future**', the day this year will be dedicated to the International Co-operative Alliance's [sustainable development goals](#) (wipe out poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change.) The Goals are important, world-changing objectives that will require co-operation among governments, international organizations and world leaders.

As a member of ICA, Cooperative Business NZ supports the initiative and encourages Kiwi co-ops to reflect on co-operatives' unique approach to sustainable economic, social and environmental development. We foster democracy, social inclusion, job security, decent working conditions and promote community investment. We all play our co-operative part in making the world a better place.

Kind regards,
Craig Presland