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SOURCE Hsin Chung-kuo ti Ho-tso Shih-yeh (Cooperative Enterprises of New China), published by T'ang-ti Ch'u-pan-she, pp 28-30;

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NEED FOR SUPPLY AND MARKETING COOPERATIVES IN CHINA

Supply and Marketing Cooperatives are organized voluntarily by peasants in the rural villages and other workers acting as producers and consumers. Funds are raised by selling shares. Supply and marketing cooperatives are generally set up in a comparatively large village or market place so as to serve the neighboring villages. However, they may be set up in an administrative village or on the hsiang level. The goal of these cooperatives is to expedite the sales of their surplus and supplementary agricultural products, and, at the same time, buy necessities at a comparatively low price by avoiding the middleman's profit.

This kind of cooperative is currently the most urgently needed type for economic development and to prevent stagnation in the rural economy. In terms of the individual members, this type of cooperative organization is equally urgent, especially in rural villages following land reform where the techniques of production have been improved, and where the peasant's production of agricultural products have been increased. Local products need to be sold or exchanged for needed items, but it would be very inconvenient for the peasants to buy and sell on the market on an individual basis because of time, distance, and price.

At present, there are ten times as many supply and marketing cooperatives as there are consumers cooperatives in the urban areas. In the basically better localities, such as Heilungkiang Province, the number of people who have participated in supply and marketing cooperatives range from 80 percent to over 90 percent. From this it may be seen clearly that this type of cooperative is beneficial to the peasant, and should be organized by the peasants.

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