



ADDRESS/COUNTRY

Greece, Larissa, 30 KLM PEO Larisa Volos,
GREECE

LEGAL ORGANISATIONAL FORM

Cooperative

WEBSITE LINK

www.thesgi.gr

CONTACTS

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VIDEO, PPT, OTHER

interactive materials to present the coop

THESgi PPT Presentation

CONTEXT

/

INFO

YEAR OF CREATION

2013

DESCRIPTION/MAIN ACTIVITIES

THESgi is a cooperative working in the cereals production.

Its main activities concern:

- » commerce of farmers products;
- » supplying farmers with agricultural inputs;
- » contractual farming.

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

1-service/goods production; 2-markets/consumers/beneficiaries

- 1 The members are located in the area of Thessaly in Greece;
- 2 The products are sold to customers in domestic market.

REVENUE

- » 4 million sales
- » 20.000 revenue after tax

**STRUCTURE/
OWNERSHIP**

OWNERSHIP STRUCTURE

who/how many: shareholders/owners/members/worker members/ donors, ...

65 members (farmers) are the owners of the cooperative with equal shares: they compose the General Assembly.

Five of them structure the elected board committee, three are elected as supervisory board.

10 employees.

VOTING PROCESS

The elected board committee proposes the agenda to members' assembly who votes the main decisions and strategy direction of the cooperative.

BENEFITS OF BEING MEMBERS

- » Access to contractual farming;
- » Special services like agronomic support;
- » Credit;
- » Agricultural inputs and precision agriculture.

The cooperative provides families of its members and employees with life insurances and annual health check-ups programs in collaboration with private companies where they get better offer in terms of price and services.

**GOVERNANCE
AND MEMBERS
PARTICIPATION**

STRUCTURE/ORGANISATION CHART

General Assembly, Elected Board Committee, Supervisory Board, Employees.

ASSEMBLIES

how many, how, other assemblies than the General one

1 annual tactical General Assembly for legitimation and approval of annual financial results, 4 – 5 extra General Assemblies for decision making and informing the members.

BOARD COMPOSITION AND ORGANISATION

The Board is composed by 5 members, all of them are producers.

**COOPERATIVE
PRINCIPLES
BEST PRACTICES**

*Principles for which
the coop represents
a good practice*

PRINCIPLE 1. VOLUNTARY & OPEN MEMBERSHIP

The cooperative was found 7 years ago and, at the beginning, all the members showed great enthusiasm to provide to the new organization their best case practices on their fields and share their personal network of experts for the benefit of other members. This practice was beneficial for all members and after seven years the cooperative has managed to align the farmers to best cultivation techniques and practices and increase the quantity and quality of cultivation.

PRINCIPLE 3. MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

The cooperative guarantees equity to all its members. Furthermore, all the members produce grains among other products that are produced by groups of members in the cooperative. The cooperative buys from its members their grains to the maximum price to transfer the earning to all members and minimize cooperative earnings.

PRINCIPLE 4. AUTONOMY & INDEPENDENCE

The cooperative through the sharing of information and education activities for its members has managed to produce high quality grains with the same characteristics in big quantities. This was the reason why the cooperative managed to collaborate with companies that have that need and started contractual farming, getting higher prices among other producers. The structure of the cooperative also facilitates the introduction of fully certified products, precision agriculture and policies for lower CO₂ emissions. Those characteristics distinguish the cooperative among its competitors and offer competitive advantage in the industry.

PRINCIPLE 5. EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION

The structure of the cooperative offers members the opportunity to collaborate with Greek and European research institutions and universities. This collaboration provides them with valuable knowledge and insights about the future of their crops.

PRINCIPLE 6. COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

The first customers of the cooperative were other cooperatives that support it in the beginning. It got also support from other local cooperatives on legal issues and experts for the foundation of the cooperative. Until today, THESgi has kept those partnerships and now it is the supporter for other cooperative initiatives. In the short future THESgi is planning to collaborate with other cooperatives for merchandising activities.