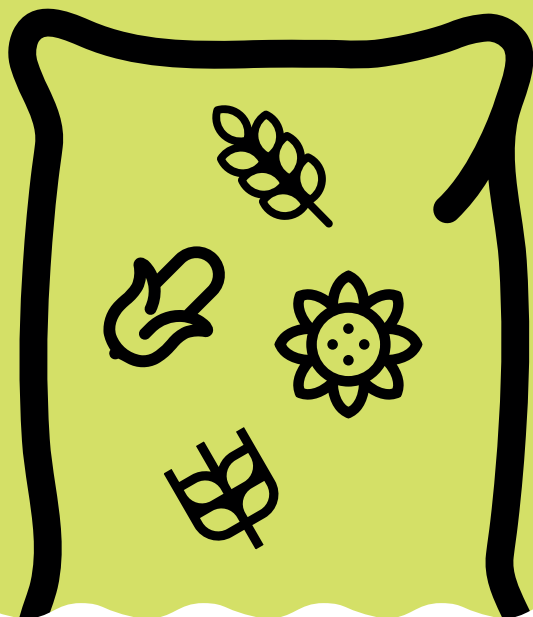


COOPERATIVE
ZORA-KNEJA



ADDRESS/COUNTRY

Municipality Kneja, 73 Marin Boev Str. -
BULGARIA

**LEGAL
ORGANISATIONAL
FORM**

Cooperative

CONTACTS

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CONTEXT

/

INFO

YEAR OF CREATION

1993

DESCRIPTION/MAIN ACTIVITIES

The cooperative operates in the township of Kneja, located in North-western Bulgaria.

It is a leader in the production of staples such as wheat, sunflower seeds, rye and corn.

The business strategy also focuses on the production of agricultural supplies including dairy products, import and export, the purchase and servicing of machinery, stocking of fertilizers and pesticides and the farming of agricultural land as a joint effort of the shareholders.

MAIN STAKEHOLDERS

member, clients, producers

The main stakeholders are the business partners, all suppliers and purchasers and employees.

REVENUE

8.280.602,57 Bulgarian levs = 4.232.677,37 euro

**STRUCTURE/
OWNERSHIP**

OWNERSHIP STRUCTURE

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

The cooperative is a joint ownership based on voluntary membership. The partners pay share contributions and stake their own land in to the cooperative.

VOTING PROCESS

All strategic and operational decisions are voted for in a General Assembly.

BENEFITS OF BEING MEMBERS

Shareholders are entitled to rent income for their share of land and dividends based on the operational profits.

STRUCTURE/ORGANISATION CHART

The structure of the cooperative is: General Assembly, Management Board, Control Board, Chairman.
All cooperative members have voting rights in the General Assembly.

ASSEMBLIES

how many, how, other assemblies than the General one

The General Assembly:

- » adopts, amends and supplements the statute of the cooperative;
- » determines the number of members of the Management and Control board;
- » elects the President by open ballot;
- » approves the report of the Management Board for its annual activity;
- » approves the annual financial report, the auditor's report and the distribution of the profit after hearing the conclusion of the Supervisory Board;
- » defines basic guidelines for the development of the activity in the cooperative.

All decisions of the Management Board have to be authorized by the General Assembly and their implementation is supervised by the Control Board in accordance with the laws of Bulgaria.

BOARD COMPOSITION AND ORGANISATION

The Board of Directors consists of 9 people, who are elected by the Assembly in a secret ballot.

The Supervisory Board consists of 5 people, who are elected in a similar fashion to the Board of directors.

The Chairman is elected by the Assembly in an open ballot.

**COOPERATIVE
PRINCIPLES
BEST PRACTICES**

*Principles for which
the coop represents
a good practice*

PRINCIPLE 1. VOLUNTARY & OPEN MEMBERSHIP

Cooperative members with their own land and capital may participate in the composition of the cooperative. They have the right to vote in the General Assembly, which decides on the development of the cooperative. They have the right to be elected in the management of the cooperative. A member of the cooperative receives rent on the land he has provided for the processing of the cooperative, to help protect the cooperative property.

PRINCIPLE 4. AUTONOMY & INDEPENDENCE

The cooperative has good production practices concerning agricultural / plant and animal / products. It receives high yields from the crop and of high quality. It constantly updates machines and equipment for better results.

The cooperative has a sustainable policy and absolute financial independence.

It focuses on sustainable development and innovation among cooperatives and rural communities, on education, young leaders and gender empowerment; on supporting its members in their respective development work.

PRINCIPLE 5. EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION

The cooperative:

- » provides the employees with training courses in order to improve their skills;
- » carries out training activities based on the above plans;
- » assists the local partners in monitoring and evaluating the benefits that are derived from effectively planned and conducted training and development.

PRINCIPLE 6. COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

The cooperative is a member of the Union of agricultural cooperatives both at regional and national level. The cooperative is in constant contact with them for the exchange of information.

PRINCIPLE 7. CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

The cooperative has a policy of social responsibility to its member cooperatives. It offers them services and assistance approved by the General Assembly.

With regard to agriculture and animal husbandry, the cooperative observes all practices related to environmental protection.