

Weakening Cooperation in the Israeli Moshav: Preliminary Aspects

Giora Ben Dror

Department of Geography and Environment, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan 52900,
Israel. giorabd@hotmail.com 0524668672

Abstract

This paper looks at the attitudes of members of three moshavim in Israel regarding the reasons for the weakening of cooperation within their organization and settlement. The major internal causes are concerned with conflicting interests of different moshav members due to economic changes, including changes in specific agricultural branches, and issues concerning loans given to farmers. Additional reasons include the inability of the moshav cooperative association to enforce the rules of cooperation. Reasons such as production quotas, employment patterns, and education do not contribute significantly to the weakening process. Some differences in attitudes by age, education level, and type of agricultural branches were found. The overall transformation in the economic, social, organizational, physical, and environmental attributes of the moshav raises a major question regarding its future survival as a unique type of rural cooperative settlement.