

Russian Agricultural Producers' Changing Attitudes towards Top-Down Organized Cooperatives¹

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by

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Abstract

It is not uncommon in Russia that agricultural supply and marketing cooperatives are instituted by governmental authorities, and agricultural producers are invited to join these cooperatives. Golovina and Nilsson (2009) present a study among members and potential members of such newly established cooperatives. The data were collected within the Kurgan region in early 2008. The findings give rise to some concerns. Although the members are fairly positive, there is a risk that their attitudes may become worse, partly influenced by the negative non-members. The present study investigates how the members' recent experience with cooperatives has affected their attitudes. The data originate from the same sample of producers, but were collected in late 2008. The findings show that the members have a poorer attitude to cooperatives and less trust. They are less interested in trading with the cooperatives and in controlling them. Their willingness to invest is low as is their knowledge of cooperatives.

Key words: Russia, transition agriculture, cooperatives, socio-psychology, learning

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