

THE RISE OF NEW FARMER COOPERATIVES IN CHINA: EVIDENCE FROM HUBEI PROVINCE

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Abstract

Since the late 1990s, the number of farmer cooperatives in China has rapidly grown. The adoption of the national law on farmer professional cooperatives in 2007 has led to significant governmental support for the establishment and management of farmer professional cooperatives. This paper explores the organizational features of the newly established cooperatives as well as the services they provide to their members. Particular attention is given to the role of local entrepreneurs in grouping farmers and in acquiring support from local and regional state agencies. The paper is based on data about a group of 200 agriculture and aquaculture cooperatives in Hubei Province, central China.

Keywords: marketing cooperatives, Farmer Professional Cooperatives, cooperative performance, cooperative legislation, China