

# ▶ The role of cooperatives in the elimination of child labour in agriculture

Guy Tchami – ILO Cooperatives Unit

March 2022

## Defining cooperatives : cooperation!



## ► Defining cooperatives : towards a more *institutional* definition!

A cooperative is “*an autonomous **association of persons** united voluntarily to meet their **common** economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a **jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise**”*”



## ► Cooperative principles

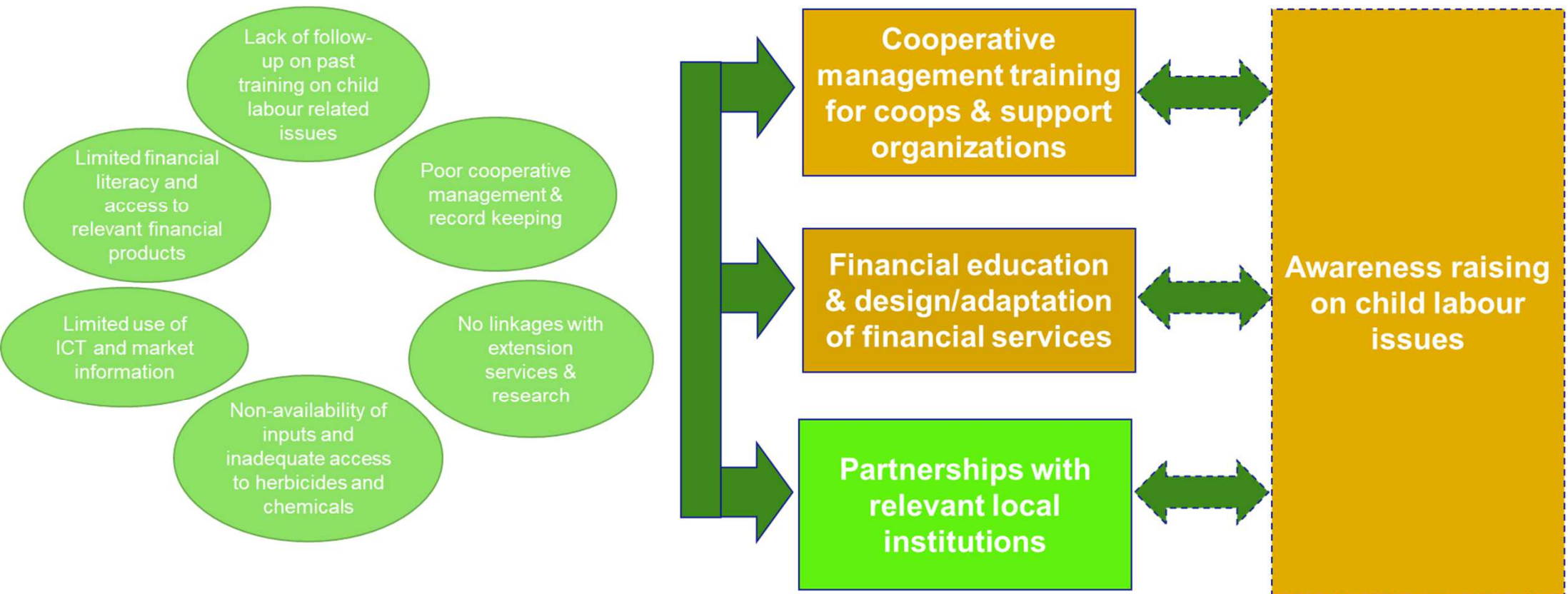
1. Voluntary and open membership
2. Democratic member control
3. Member economic participation
4. Autonomy and independence
5. Education, training and information
6. Cooperation among cooperatives
7. Concern for community



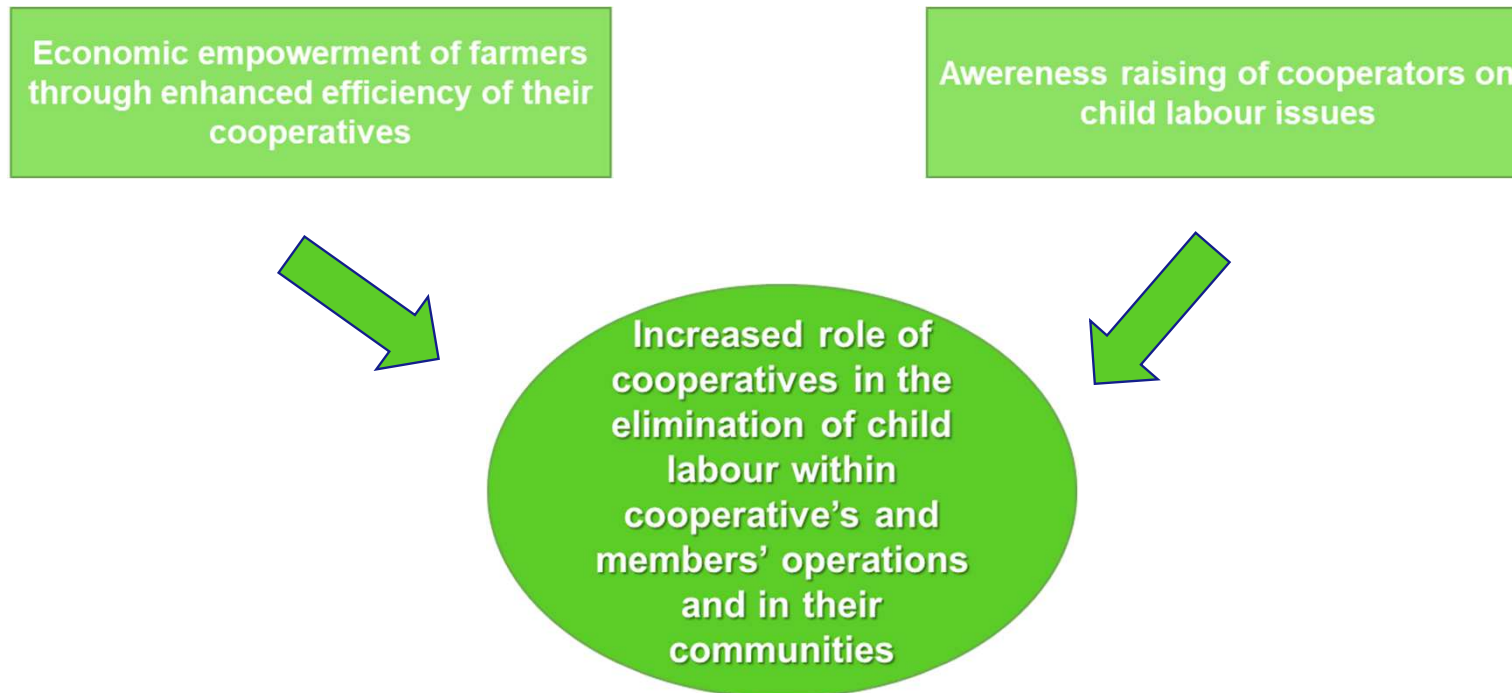
## Cooperatives and child labour

- The agricultural sector accounts for **71 per cent of all those in child labour** (i.e. **108 million children**) representing the sector with the largest share of child labour
- Cooperatives play a significant role in agriculture around the world; **Ethiopia:** over **4,000** agricultural cooperatives (membership of **4.5 million**), **Kenya:** over **7,000** agricultural cooperatives (over **2 million farmers**); **EU:** agricultural cooperatives control **40%** of agri-food sectors
- As **values-based** organizations, cooperatives, are well-placed to advance and advocate for fundamental principles and rights at work such as the effective abolition of child labour

## ILO's approach in Africa in a nutshell



## ▶ ILO's approach in Africa in a nutshell (con't)





## ▶ ILO's approach: No sustainability without critical involvement local stakeholders!!

- Training of trainers model (capacity building)
- Better market access of cooperatives through collaboration and synergies with relevant local players

