

**Basic Economics of an Agricultural Cooperative**  
**A Self Study Guide for Members and Staff of Agricultural Cooperatives**

**A SUMMARY OF THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF OPERATING  
 A MARKETING OR SUPPLY COOPERATIVE**



**1. Marketing Business**

SALES	T\$ 140,000	On behalf of the members, the co-operative sells the produce at the best possible price.
- TOTAL PAYMENT TO MEMBERS	- 132,000	Most of the money received is given to the producers (they may have received some in advance).
= COMMISSION	T\$ 16,800	The co-operative keeps a fixed percentage (a commission) to cover running costs.
COMMISSION	T\$ 16,800	The commission must be high enough to pay for wages and other costs.
- RUNNING COSTS	- 13,200	
= NET SURPLUS	T\$ 3,600	After the running costs are paid, there should still be a small amount left over.

## 2. Supply Business

COST PRICE	T\$ 15	When the co-operative buys farm supplies from the wholesalers, it pays the cost price.
+ MARK-UP	+ 2	To that price it adds the mark-up ...
= SELLING PRICE	T\$ 17	so that it gets a selling price, the price the members are expected to pay for the supplies.

## 3. The Surplus

SALES	T\$ 38,000	The sales will bring more money into the cooperative than it has paid for the goods...
- COST OF GOODS	- 34,200	
= GROSS SURPLUS	T\$ 3,800	...so there will be a gross surplus.
		The income from the sales is used to buy a new stock of supplies ...
GROSS SURPLUS	T\$ 3,800	...and the gross surplus should cover the cost of running the supply business.
- RUNNING COSTS	- 2,600	
= NET SURPLUS	T\$ 1,200	After the running costs are paid, there should still be a small amount left over.