



GHANACOOP

***92ND SESSION
OF THE IOM COUNCIL***



***‘Partnership in Migration’
Engaging Business and
Civil Society
Gineva – Nov 2006***



GHANACOOOP - Gruppo cooperativo Oltrelab
Via Boito, 33 - 41100 MODENA
Tel. / fax +39 059 279076
www.ghanacoop.it - info@oltrelab.it
P. IVA 02994380364

Ghanacoop: background and mission

- Ghanacoop was born in May 2005, as a result of MIDA-Italia pilot project, a program promoted by the OIM (Organization for International Migrations) with the support of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Ghanacoop is the first social co-operative in Italy created by an entire immigrant community



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The structure of Ghanacoop

The co-operative consist of 18 members out of which 15 are Ghanaians and 3 are corporate bodies which:

1. The Ghana Nationals Association (with about 400 members) which represents the 4000 Ghanaians living in the Province of Modena.
2. Arcadia, a social co-operative which promotes development activities in developing countries and which projected the start-up of Ghanacoop.
3. Emil Banca, a co-operative credit institute engaged in diverse activities relating to migration and development



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The activities of Ghanacoop

Ghanacoop is engaged in many activities in sectors like :

- Trading
- Agro-food production
- Tertiary sector
- Sensitization within local territory,
- Social/charity sector,



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Strategy of Ghanacoop in the agric field

Several efforts have been invested in this field:

- the searching of fertile land
- sensitization of the importance of co-operation and mobilization
- teaching on environmental and social arguments
- promoting actions to safeguard the environment friendly perspectives
- installation of Solar Energy Plant

Ghanacoop is engaged in agric field in two different aspects

- Importation of fruits and agro-food
- Intention to produce organic pineapple and also to use a clean energy (solar energy) to run the farm.



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Ghanacoop : a best practice for Diaspora Engagement

Ghanacoop is an excellent example of best practice in the field of “migration for development” for many reasons :

- a ‘*community enterprise*’
- it stimulates the acquisition, the transfer and the circulation of knowledge and skills
- a Fair-Trade licensee
- local community development projects in Ghana.

other modalities

- engagement in feasibility studies on remittances and social investments valorization
- Injection of investments, facilitation of trade opportunities and transferring of technical and economic expertise
- it enhances funds



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Trade links between migrants and their own communities

There is already an established linkage with some government and non-government actors like

- Ministry of Agriculture, of Energy, of Health, of Industry
- Italian and Ghana Co-operation
- University of Legon Accra
- Agric Development Departments
- Sea Freight Pineapple Exporters
- Rural Constituencies and Chieftaincies.

Moreover members of both Ghanacoop and the Ghana Nationals Association are protagonist of a particular relation with communities of origin



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Business relations with Civil Society

Ghanacoop has relevant relations with some potential state and non-state partners and stakeholders.

Corporate Bodies

- The Ghana Nationals Association
- Arcadia (Social Co-operative)
- Emil Banca, (Co-operative Credit Institution)



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Business relations with Civil Society

State actors

- IOM
- Province of Modena
- Municipality of Modena

Non-State actors

- Confcooperative di Modena (Co-operative Union of Modena)
- Emilifrutta (noted fruits packaging Social Co-operative)
- COGNAI (Council of Ghana Nationals Associations in Italy)
- CISL Modena (Trade Union)
- Oscar Romero Consortium (Social Co-operative)
- Power (energy services Social Co-operative)
- University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (Faculty of Economy and Health)



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CONSIDERATIONS AND CONCLUSION



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