

Act No. 69/1949 Coll., on Unified Agricultural Cooperatives

The National Assembly of the Czechoslovak Republic resolved on this Act:

Section 1 (1) In order to ensure the beneficial development of agricultural cooperatives and to eliminate fragmentation of cooperative activity in agriculture as a legacy of the past, unified agricultural cooperatives will be established on the voluntary basis, which should unite various agricultural cooperatives and bring significant benefits to working farmers. Unified agricultural cooperatives are people's cooperatives according to Section 157 of the Constitution.

(2) The unified agricultural cooperative (hereinafter referred to as the "unified cooperative") is a legal entity. The name of the unified cooperative shall read as follows: "Jednotné roľnícke družstvo v ..." (Unified agricultural cooperative in ...).

[keywords: development of agricultural cooperatives, unified agricultural cooperatives]

Section 2 (1) The unified cooperative carries out all activities that can be beneficial to fulfilment of tasks listed in Section 1 (1). The subject of the unified cooperative's activities includes in particular:

- a) joining individual plots of lands;
- b) mechanization of agricultural work, while the unified cooperative is also authorized to enter into contracts with the central authority for agricultural mechanization, a national enterprise, and, as the case may be, with its bodies, on the performance of agricultural work for farmers in the municipality;
- c) cooperation in establishing, scheduling, and implementing production plans in agriculture, in particular concluding contracts for production of agricultural products (Section 3);
- d) cooperation in establishing, scheduling, and implementing deliveries of agricultural products, in particular conclusion of contracts for procurement and supply of agricultural products (Section 3);
- e) participation in procurement of agricultural products and in fulfilment of agricultural needs;
- f) care for the improvement of plant and animal production;
- g) care for organization of work to increase the productivity of agriculture;
- h) care for raising cultural and social level of rural areas;
- ch) care to facilitate the work of the rural woman.

[keywords: tasks of unified agricultural cooperatives]

Section 3 The unified cooperative is authorized to negotiate production contracts and contracts for supply of agricultural products to implement tasks established in the unified economic plan; at the same time, the unified cooperative represents its members and, as the case may be, other farmers in the municipality (Section 2 (2)).

[keywords: unified cooperative, supply of agricultural products, unified economical plan]

Section 4 As a rule, only one unified cooperative shall be established in each municipality. If local conditions so require, the Ministry of Agriculture may grant an exception after hearing the Central Council of Cooperatives.

[keywords: local unified cooperative]

Section 5 (1) The work to establish a unified cooperative is carried out by a preparatory committee composed of 5 to 10 members, to be established from amongst members of existing agricultural cooperatives, as well as from other interested parties active in agriculture. The preparatory committee shall elect its chairman and vice-chairman from amongst its members. The establishment of the preparatory committee becomes valid as soon as it has been approved by the Central Council of Cooperatives (its district body).

(2) The preparatory committee will notify the Central Council of Cooperatives (its district body) of the completion of necessary preparatory works and shall ask it to approve establishment of the unified cooperative; the unified cooperative is established as to the day of granting such approval.

(3) After approval according to paragraph 2, the preparatory committee will submit the application on registration of the unified cooperative into the register.

(4) The preparatory committee shall convene a general meeting, which shall elect the cooperative's bodies established by its statutes. Until these bodies are elected, their powers are exercised by the preparatory committee.

[keywords: establishment of unified cooperative]

Section 7 (1) Any working farmer or person who can contribute to the fulfilment of cooperative's purpose can voluntarily become a member of a unified cooperative.

(2) By establishing a unified cooperative according to Section 6 (1) and (2), the members of the existing cooperatives become members of the unified cooperative without a membership application, unless they have announced their withdrawal from the unified cooperative within 14 days as of the date of the announcement of the foundation of the unified cooperative.

[keywords: member of a unified cooperative]

Section 8 In the period from the effective date of this Act until the date of establishment of a unified cooperative in the municipality, cooperatives carrying out the activity specified in Section 2 (1), can only perform their activities within limits of normal operation.

[keywords: temporary provisions]

Section 9 (1) More detailed regulations on the field of activity of the unified cooperative, in particular on composition and authority of its bodies, on gaining and losing membership, as well as on method of its management, shall be included in its articles of association.

(2) Model articles of association of a unified cooperative will be issued by the Central Council of Cooperatives based on the approval of the Minister of Agriculture.

[keywords: articles of association]

Section 10 (1) Unified cooperatives are members of the Central Council of Cooperatives, within which they form a special department, managed by a 9-member administration board.

[keywords: Central Council of Cooperatives]

Section 11 (1) The Ministry of Agriculture supports and supervises activities of unified cooperatives.

(2) More detailed regulations implementing the Act may be issued by the Minister of Agriculture in form of a Decree.

[keywords: statutory delegation]