**The Role of Women's Cooperatives in the Context of Sustainable Development**

*Sustainable development aims to increase economic growth and welfare by protecting the environment and people's quality of life. While doing so, it involves a holistic approach that includes not only the economy but also social and environmental effects as a requirement of development. Cooperatives, which include all three components of sustainable development, have recently become popular.*

*Cooperatives are organizations formed to meet the social and economic needs of people who come together for a specific purpose. However, cooperatives work not only to meet their own wants and needs, but also to develop the society in which they live. Women's cooperatives are one of the best examples. Women's cooperatives play a major role especially in the fight against poverty and try to overcome this situation with cooperative activities. In addition, women's cooperatives have a direct impact on the achievement of sustainable development goals that are determined to ensure that people live in prosperity, such as preventing unemployment, generating employment, eliminating wage inequality, ensuring gender equality, and strengthening women's positions. In this respect, it is an extremely important issue that needs to be examined.Organizations like the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and he International Labor Organization (ILO) carry out projects and collaborations on women's cooperatives in countries such as India, Iran and Thailand, (FAO, 2004). Therefore, women's cooperatives are seen as a development solution for the elimination of economic and social problems and for women's progress. In this study, articles from Turkey and World and websites on the subject have been examined.*

*In the early 2000s in Turkey women's cooperatives have emerged as a type of organizations formed by gathering of women who are economically weak. Women's cooperatives are women-led and women-run cooperatives, established as a business model. Especially women are active in various fields such as local food, handicrafts, child care, agricultural production within the framework of home-based work. Women's cooperatives contribute to sustainable development by revealing local values, providing care services, providing access to safe food, preventing food losses, developing sustainable business models, ensuring agricultural development and while doing all these contribute to sustainable development by considering economic, social and environmental goals. For this reason, women's cooperatives are important for our country's cooperative system. After all, women create economies that will work for everyone with a solidarity and sustainable development approach. Although they were among the groups most affected by the COVID 19 pandemic, they produced masks, prepared aid packages and supported each other in the sales of their products. During periods of crisis, they have performed an important role in the development and recovery of the society by providing services to their community. In this regard, for a more sustainable and more human-oriented future, women should be encouraged to establish cooperatives, and legal regulations for women's cooperatives should be progressive and supportive. Cooperation with local governments should be increased and necessary financial support for cooperatives development should be provided. In this context,this study examines the role of women's cooperatives in sustainable development. In the same vein,the activities of women's cooperatives with reference to examples of successful women's cooperatives from the World and Turkey were evaluated and suggestions were made.*

***Keywords:*** *Development, Sustainable Development, Cooperative, Women's Cooperative*

**Source**

FAO, 2004. *Promoting rural women’s cooperative businesses in Thailand,A training kit,RAP Publication 2004/1,, FAO and UN Regional Office for Asia and Pacific, Bangkok: author unknown.*