

# Agricultural Co-operatives in Spain

## What Can They Learn from the Canadian Experience?

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This presentation will outline the results of research comparing Canadian and Spanish co-operatives, funded by the Marie Curie International Research Staff Exchange Scheme. The research compares the organizational, governance, legal, policy, and environmental challenges of the Spanish agricultural co-operatives with their counterparts in Canada to see how the Canadian experience might relate to the Spanish situation.

Agriculture plays a significant role in the economy of both countries, creating jobs and contributing to the development of communities. Agricultural co-operatives have the same structural and financial problems as any other co-op, but must deal, in addition, with the problems of the food industry, including price variation, bargaining power, perishable products, and the need for value-added products.

Especially relevant is the recent history of conversion, restructuring, and failure of agricultural co-operatives in Canada. Should Spanish agricultural co-ops follow these examples, or avoid them?

Tuesday  
10 September 2013  
3:30 – 4:30 pm  
Canada Room  
Diefenbaker Building



Cristina Cano Ortega has a law degree from the University of Almería in Spain and a master's in private law from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. She is currently a PhD student at the University of Almería and is at the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives as a visiting scholar from mid-June to mid-September 2013, supported by a fellowship from the Marie Curie International Research Staff Exchange Scheme.



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