



Co-op Builder 1 – Understanding Co-ops (with certificate)

This self-paced (2-3 hour) course will help you to understand some fundamental concepts for forming a co-operative. Farming Together consultants *must* take this course. Each module includes two 10-minute video lessons and a Quiz of 10 questions. You must pass the quiz to proceed to the next lesson.

TIP: Download the ‘Lesson Notes’ before watching each video and track your progress here.

Module 1

By the end of this module, you should understand the key similarities and differences between companies and co-operatives and their registration and governance requirements.

Lessons

Score

Lesson 1: Co-operatives and Companies: vehicles for collaboration
Legal models for collaboration; advantages of incorporation; and the features of a company.

Lesson 2: Co-operatives and Companies: governance and finance
Features of a co-operative; corporate governance and registration; and financial instruments.

Module 2

This module will help you understand ‘for profit’ and ‘not for profit’ organisations and how each can suit collaborative enterprises. By the end of this module you should understand distributing and non-distributing co-ops as ‘for purpose’ organisations.

Lesson 1: Co-operatives: types, purposes and profit choices
This lesson explains types of co-ops in Australia and how to choose a model for your purpose.

Lesson 2: Co-operatives: tax concepts
This lesson covers the tax treatment of not for profits and distributing co-operatives. It applies the mutuality principle and explains before and after tax distributions.

Module 3

This module aims to help groups to develop the understanding and documents they need to use the Farming Together online Co-op Builder (to build a Constitution and Disclosure Statement). By the end of this module, you should understand the importance of member buy-in and the significance of both the Business Plan and an effective Disclosure Statement.

Lesson 1: Value for members and member engagement
This lesson is about the co-op member value proposition and member engagement. Download the Module 3 Worksheet (PDF or Word) to guide you.

Lesson 2: The Business Plan and Disclosure Statement
This lesson will help you to draft an effective disclosure statement and business plan. Continue using the Module 3 Worksheet.

If you passed these lessons, you will receive a Certificate. Please provide us feedback. Now, if you have a business plan, you are ready to use the Farming Together Co-op Builder ... Go to **www.farmingtogether.com.au**