

Ways to promote women's inclusion in cooperatives

Explain the benefits of including women

- Explain to all members that it is good for business.
- If women see other women involved in the cooperative, they are more likely to do business with that cooperative.
- Buyers who value women's inclusion are also likely to do more business with the cooperative.



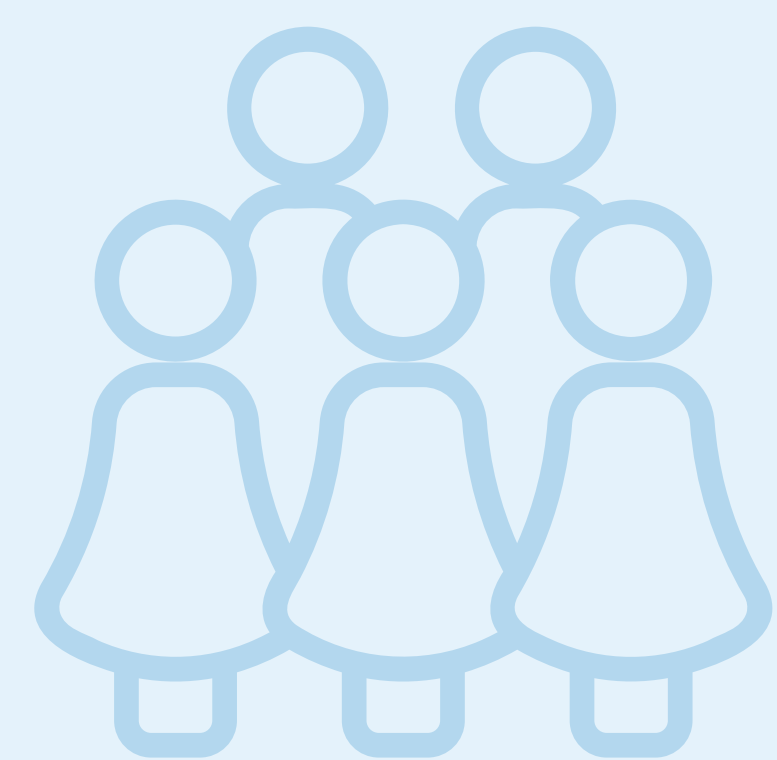
Offer training that meets women's needs

- Offer training to women members and the wives of male members.
- Include leadership, literacy, and numeracy training.
- Hold training at times and locations that are convenient for women.
- Hire women as trainers and field agents to work with members.



Form a women's membership committee

- Create a women's membership committee that includes men and women, plus the wives of male members.
- Roles for this committee include:
 - identifying and recruiting women members,
 - supporting women's leadership development,
 - and developing communication strategies aimed at increasing awareness about the benefits of women's participation.



Support women's groups and women-led projects

- Women's groups provide women with valuable skills training and leadership experience.
- These groups and other women-led projects help prepare women for leadership roles.



Encourage women to stand for election

- Remove any nomination requirements that unfairly prevent women from standing for election.
- A women's membership committee can help identify and support these women.



Have quotas for women's representation

- Introduce quotas for women's representation that would require a minimum number of women to serve as managers, board members, and trainers or field agents.
Example: a minimum of two board seats must go to women.

