

## OBJECTIVES

### **2025 Co-operative Tour and Learning Experience Costa Rica: Co-operatives and Sustainability February 16-24, 2025 (plus travel days)**

In collaboration with Universidad FUNDEPOS de Costa Rica, the International Centre for Co-operative Management (ICCM) and the Centre of Excellence in Accounting and Reporting for Co-operatives (CEARC) are offering an international co-operative tour and learning experience to the beautiful country of Costa Rica between from **Sunday, February 16 to Monday, February 24, 2025** (plus your travel days to/from San Jose, Costa Rica).

The following learning objectives will be addressed through visits and dialogue:

**Understanding the Costa Rican context** - From the urban centre of San Jose to the wilds of tropical rainforests, from plantations to ocean sides, participants will have the opportunity to learn about and experience the diversity of landscapes, industries, histories, and people. This backdrop will provide a foundation to understand the context in which Costa Rica has developed into one of Latin America's most equitable nations.

**Building knowledge about the Costa Rican co-operative sector** - Participants will gain firsthand knowledge about the Costa Rican co-operative sector through site visits, conversations with co-operators, and tours in co-operative communities. Participants will have the chance to discuss success factors with retail co-operatives, visit the only worker co-operative (in the world!) in the aeronautic repair industry, take a hike in a co-operative rainforest, track co-operative dairy from farm to glass (or ice cream cone!). Enjoy these co-operatives and much more.

**Witnessing how Costa Rican co-operatives are engines of sustainability** – Participants will explore the integration of environmental, social, and economic factors within this national system of co-operatives.

*Environmental* - Participants will have an opportunity to learn how co-operatives in Costa Rica have incorporated environmental sustainability into their organizational culture and daily operations. Costa Rica has been focusing on environmental sustainability for many years and consequently has leading examples from which all can learn.

*Social* – Co-operative in Costa Rica are anchors in their communities. Participants will have the opportunity to engage with Costa Rican co-operators on what they are doing to address the social needs of their members and communities.

*Economic* - Costa Rican co-operatives are employers, providers of goods and services, and drivers of stable, local economic development. Participants will have the chance to dive deeply into understanding how economic sustainability is achieved through the operationalization of the co-operative identity.

**For more information:** [www.smu.ca/iccm/programsandcourses/internationalstudytours/](http://www.smu.ca/iccm/programsandcourses/internationalstudytours/)