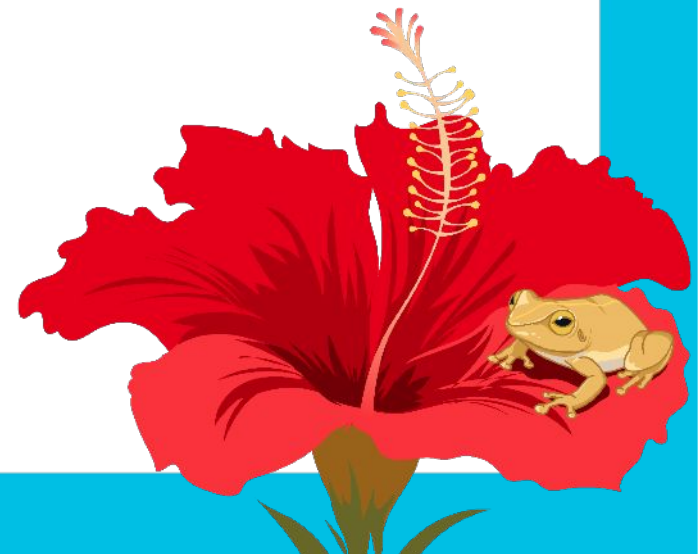


Puerto Rico Co-ops:

Developing a Cooperative Ecosystem

José Julián Ramírez, M.A.
July 8, 2026



coljic
REGLAMENTO

DE LA

SOCIEDAD DE SOCORROS MUTU

"LOS AMIGOS DEL BIEN PUBLICO"

FUNDADA EN ESTA OAPITAL EL 22 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 18



PUERTO-RICO.

Imprenta "La Cooperativa."

73. FORTALEZA 73.

1893.

1873

Beginning of Puerto Rico co-op movement



Santiago Andrade



Dr. Jose Celso Barbosa

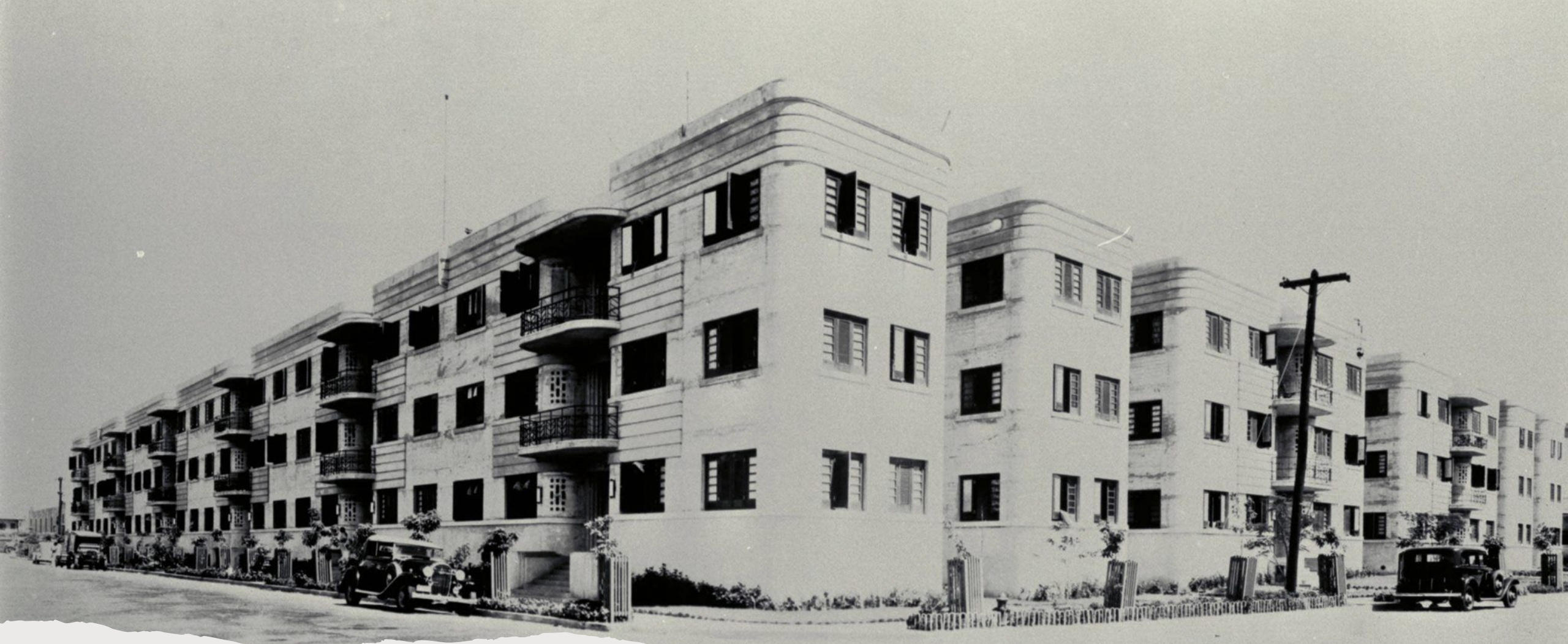
19th Century

- 1873 – First Cooperative: **Sociedad de Socorros Mutuos Los Amigos del Bien Público** (Society for Mutual Aid The Friends of Public Good).
- 1894 – First Local Credit Union: **El Ahorro Colectivo** (The Collective Savings).

1920's Coop 2nd Wave

- **Rosendo Matienzo Cintron** promotes the first laws for cooperatives societies.
- Just **Consumer** and **Production** Coops were allowed.
- This legal framework do not establish a clear link to Rochdale Pioneers Principles





1945: Co-op Third Wave

Inspired by the Antigonish movement

El Falansterio, Housing Coop, 1956

1945



Cooperative Antigonish Movement

- Antigonish Commission travels to Nova Scotia, Canada
- After recommendations were adopted the first PR Cooperative Societies General Act, 1946.



Ana Ma.
O'Neill



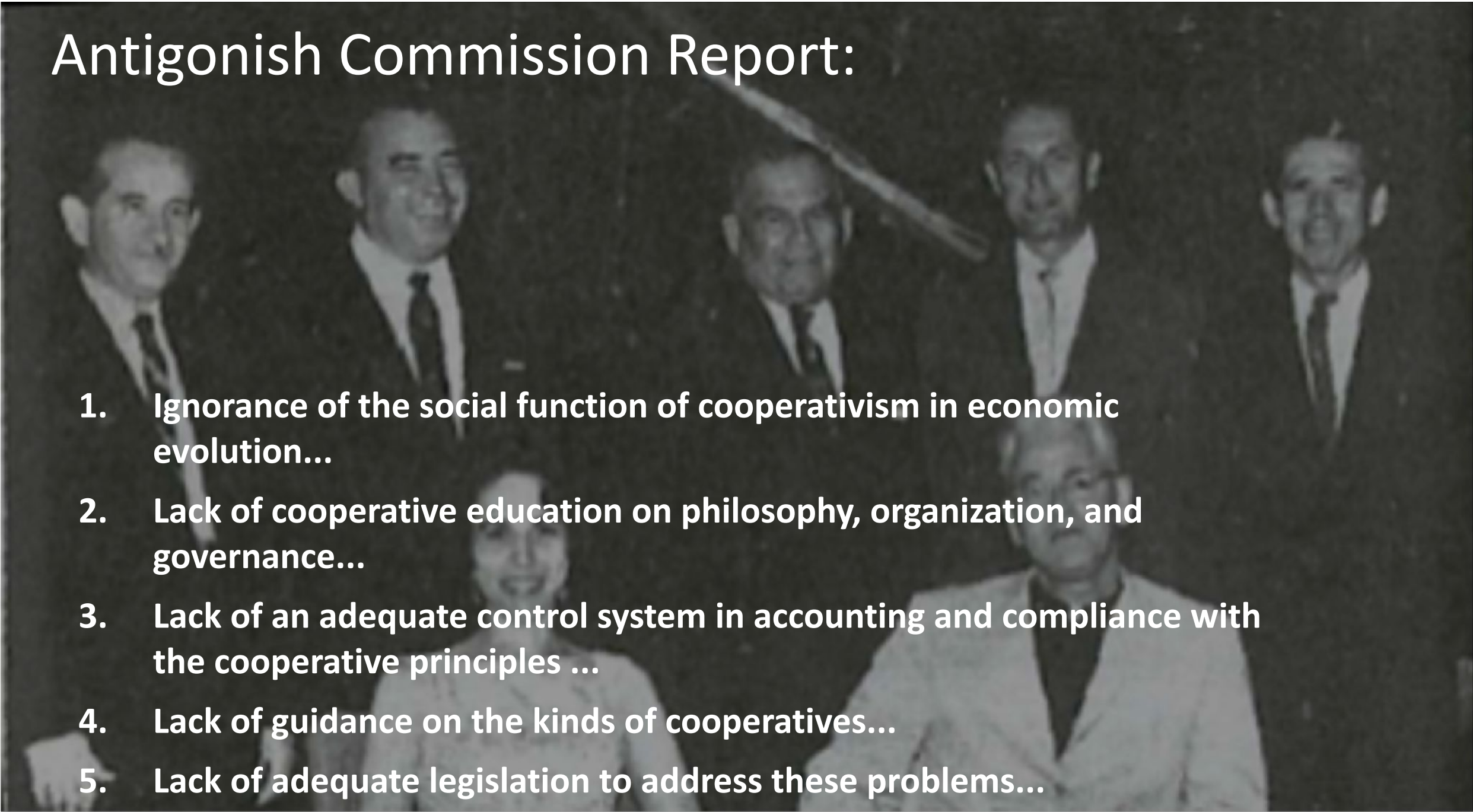
Joseph A.
MacDonald



"Don
Moncho"
Colón



Antigonish Commission Report:

- 
1. Ignorance of the social function of cooperativism in economic evolution...
 2. Lack of cooperative education on philosophy, organization, and governance...
 3. Lack of an adequate control system in accounting and compliance with the cooperative principles ...
 4. Lack of guidance on the kinds of cooperatives...
 5. Lack of adequate legislation to address these problems...

Antigonish Commission Recommendations

**Cooperative Societies
General Act**

**Credit Unions
Special Act**

To create a **government
office for regulation** and
supervision of
cooperatives."

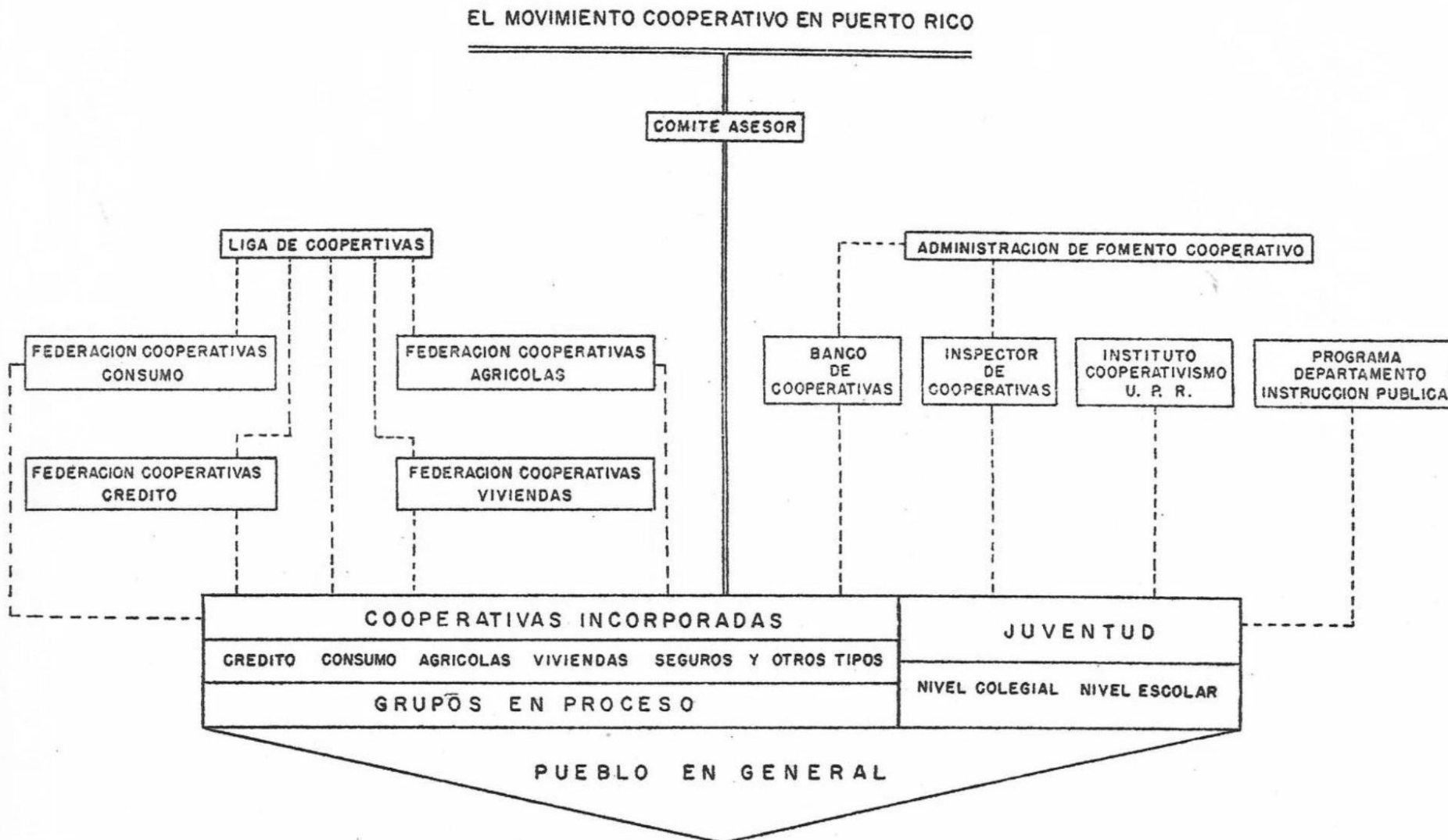
To create a
Department to
promote and develop
cooperatives

To develop courses on
cooperativism in the
UPR and Public Schools

**Agency for the
extension of credit in
cooperatives...**

Movimiento Cooperativo PR – 1962

(Según Padre Joseph A. MacDonald)



Oleo de Padre Joseph MacDonald, obra del pintor Francisco Rodón, CACCSM



Current Structure of the Cooperative Movement

Puerto Rico - 2026

Commission for Cooperative Development



Agency in charge of
promoting cooperatives and
the registration process at
Dept. Of State.
(Ley 247-2008)



GOBIERNO DE PUERTO RICO
Corporación Pública para la Supervisión y
Seguro de Cooperativas de Puerto Rico

COSSEC

Public Corporation for the
Supervision of Cooperatives
and CU. Also, deposit and
shares insurance for CU.
(\$250k)
(Ley 114-2001)



FIDECOOP
FONDO DE INVERSIÓN Y DESARROLLO COOPERATIVO

Not For Profit Corporation and
Cooperative Development
Financial Institution. Match
funds from Coops and Gov.
Provides T.A. and F.A.
(Ley 198-2002)



Cooperative Institute

Fac. Soc. Sc, UPR-RRP
(Res. Núm. 95 – 1953)

Private Sector:

- 4th Level**
- **PR Coop Mov.** has representation at Intl. Level Organizations



- 3rd Level**
- **League of Cooperatives**
National Confederation in Puerto Rico



Tu enlace financiero cooperativo



- 2nd Level**
- **Federations & CUSO's**
Insurance Coops,
Cooperative Bank, Share Branch, etc.

- 1st Level**
- **Cooperatives & CU's**
Credit Unions, Consumers, Workers, Producers, Retailers, Housing, Health, Youth, Energy, etc.

Coop Bus. (Act 239-2004):

- Consumer/User/Multi-Stakeholder
- Trabajadores, Ch.34
- Housing, Ch. 35

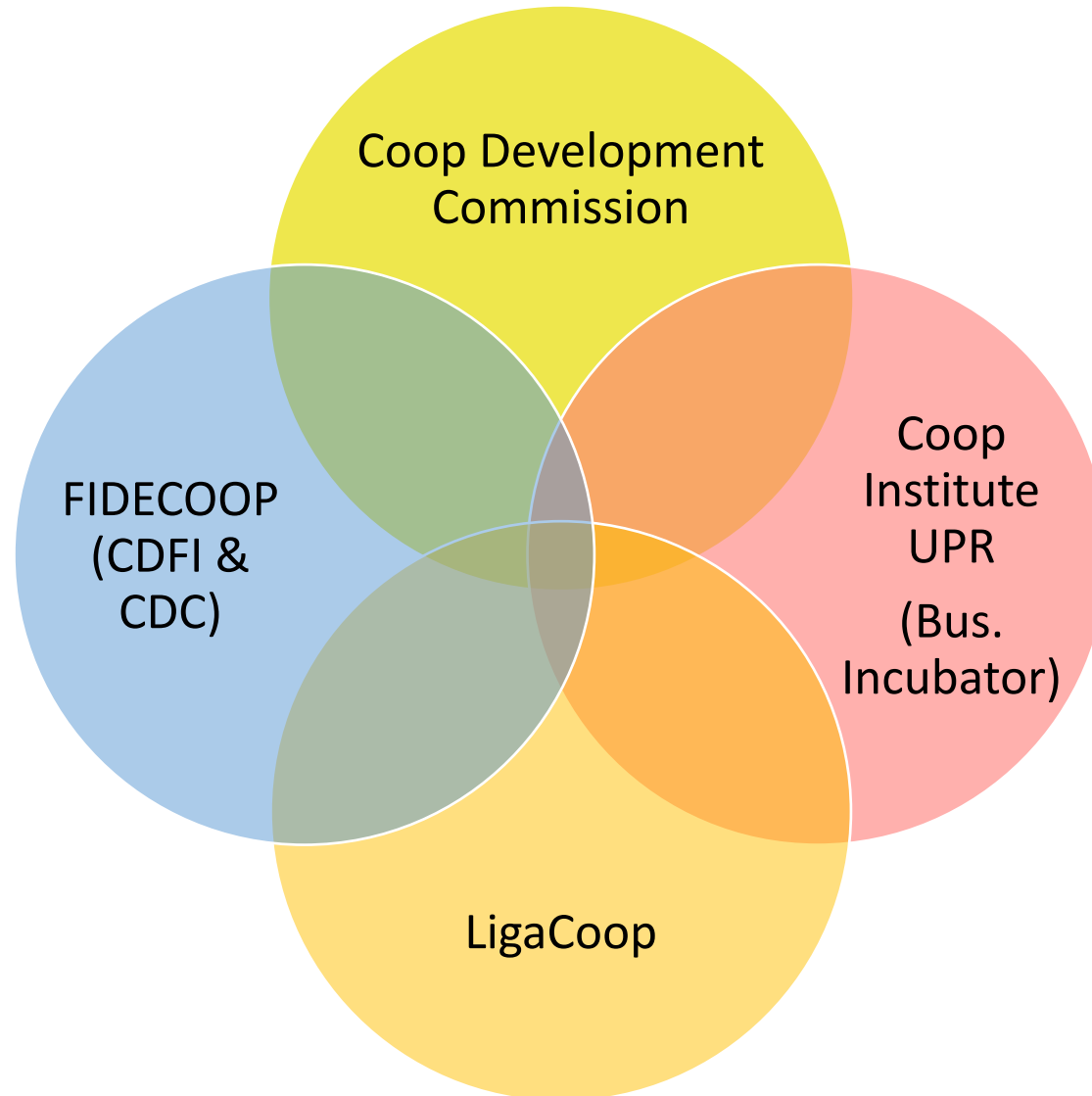
• Energy, Ch. 36

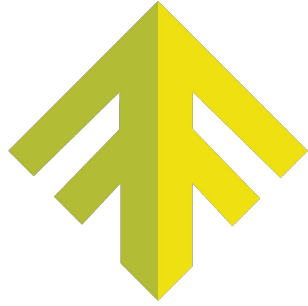
Credit Unions
(Act 255-2002)

Youth Cooperatives
(220 Act 2004)



Cooperative Development Ecosystem





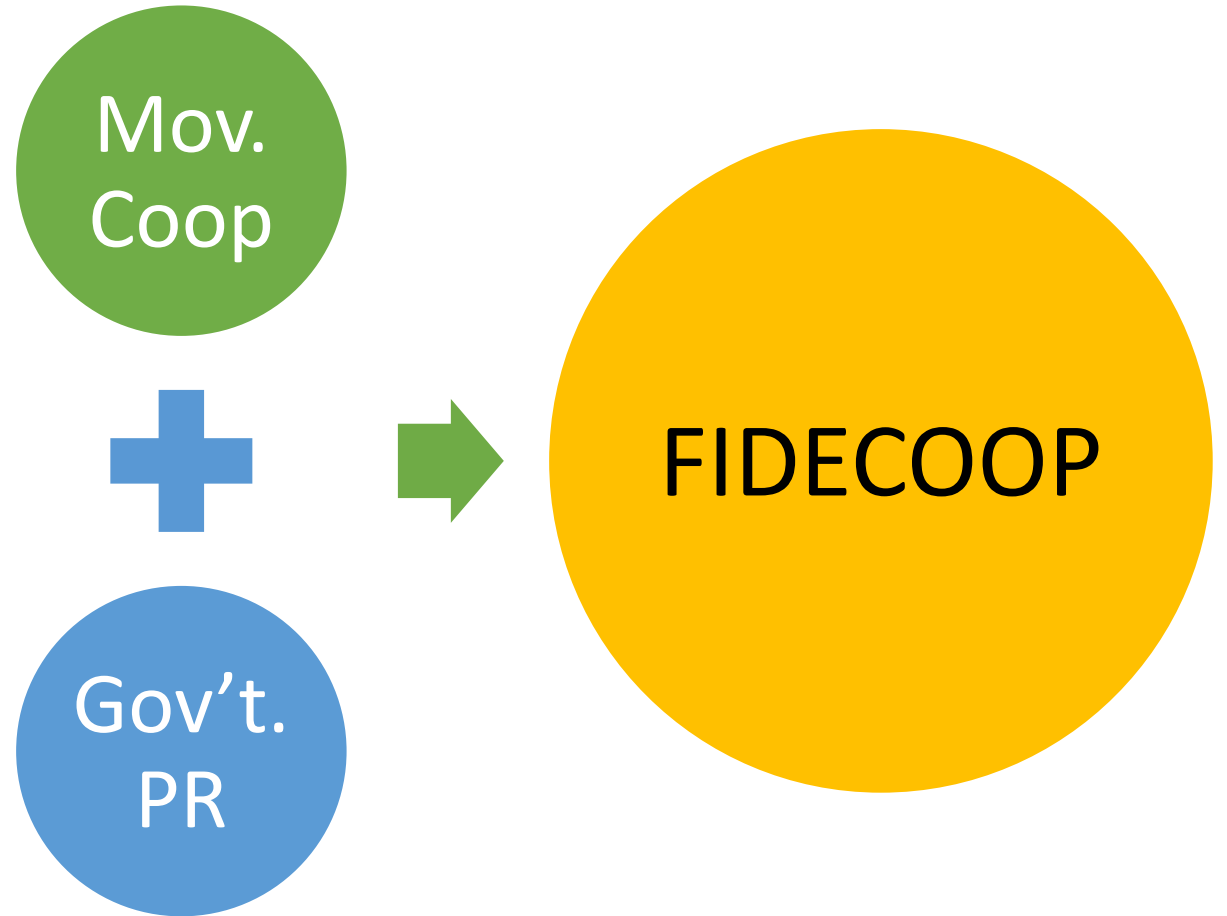
FIDECOOP
FONDO DE INVERSIÓN Y DESARROLLO COOPERATIVO

**Cooperative
Investment &
Development
Fund**
(Est. 2002)

- ✓ **Est. 2002** by Act 198 – 2002
- ✓ **Loan Fund, Seed Capital & Non-For-Profit
Venture Capital**
 - ✓ +\$25 MM approved loans & investments
 - ✓ > 5,000 Jobs Supported
 - ✓ USDA Rural Development Certified Lender
 - ✓ CDFI Certified by CDFI Fund (US Treasury)
 - ✓ 501(c)(3)
- ✓ **Cooperative Development Center (CDC)**

FIDECOOP:

Created by the
contribution of
the Coop
Movement
& PR Gov't



Board of Directors



Government Representatives	Cooperative Representatives
Gov. Dev. Bank. (AAFAF)	PR League of Coops
PR Industrial Dev. Co (PRIDCO)	Coop Bank of PR
PR Dept. of Commerce (DDEC)	Insurance Cooperatives (COSVI & Seguros Multiples)
Cooperative Dev. Commission (CDCoop)	CU Representative
Public Interest Representative	



Economic Development

The mission of FIDECOOP is to promote cooperative development:

- **Cooperative StartUps** or Cooperatives in **Development**.

FIDECOOP does not restrict its support to cooperatives from diverse sectors:

- ✓ Manufacturing
- ✓ Associated Labor
- ✓ Commercial
- ✓ Professional or Technical Services
- ✓ Educational
- ✓ Agriculture

Our Services

Commercial Financing

Financial Assist. ONLY for Coops. & CU's in PR.

Commercial Loans

Lines of Credit

Syndicated Loans

Solar Loans

Among others...

Micro Commercial Loan

Stimulus Reserve for Micro Commercial loans (\$13,000).

For Start Ups & Coops w/ special needs.

ONLY for non-financial coops and youth coops

Secondary Capital Investment

Leading role in organizing 2nd-Level coops, federations or subsidiaries to expand and develop the cooperative movement in PR.

Provide secondary capital (up to 50% of common shares).

Business Incubation / Acceleration

Guidance

Mentoring

Cooperative Education

Training

Technical Assistance

**FIDECOOP +
Cooperativism
= Food Security**





Cooerativa Agrocomercial – Café Ciberales

- Bus. Accelerator Participant
- \$500k Line of Credit
- \$75k Term loan for Equipment
- Electrical Assesment & Energy Audits

CooPorci:

- \$2.5 MM Term Loan for Meat Slaughterhouse Purchase
- \$1.8 MM Term Loan for Pork Farm Acquisition
- \$400 Line of Credit for Working Capital
- Bus. Accelerator Participant



Vainilla Coop

- Bus. Acceleator Participant
- Received Technical Assistance
- Financial Assistance for rental





La C.A.T. - Cooperativa de Acceso a Tierras

- Bus. Incubator Participant
- \$325 K Term loan for agricultural land acquisition





COOPERATIVA DE MUJERES
CAFICULTORAS DE
PUERTO RICO



Women Coffeeroasters Coop

- Awarded by FIDECOOP for Business Incubation.
- Receive Technical Assistance



Coop Orgánica
Madre Tierra

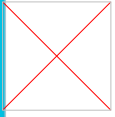


- Bus. Accelerator Participant
- Technical Assistance



**Cooperativa de
Productores de
Leche**





- **Social Media:**

- **fidecooppr**

- Facebook
 - Twitter
 - YouTube
 - LinkedIn



- **Web Page:**

- www.fidecoop.coop
 - www.emprendecoop.com



- **E-Mail:**

- info@fidecoop.coop

- **Address:**

- Urb. Villa Nevárez, 400 Ave. Américo Miranda,
Suite 302, San Juan, PR 00927-5142



- **Phone:**

- 787-999-0322

¡Gracias!

