Production, storage and processing of fruit and vegetable products in the Centrosoyuz consumer cooperative: problems and prospects

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Abstract. Consumer cooperation organizations have extensive experience in harvesting, processing, storing and selling agricultural products. It is the procurement that is the sphere of functioning of consumer cooperatives, which supplies its own stores and processing shops with fresh agricultural products and raw materials, bypassing intermediaries. Despite the fact that fruits and vegetables retain their priority position among other types of purchased products, consumer cooperation has begun to lose its position in their market turnover. One of the reasons for this is the deterioration of the main production assets for processing and storage of fruit and vegetable products. The purpose of the study is to consider the prospects of fruit and vegetable production, the role and opportunities of consumer cooperation in the chain "production-processing – sale". Methods: induction and deduction, comparison and abstract-logical, monographic and economic-statistical allowed us to solve the problems. The authors studied the scientific works of cooperative theorists published more than a century ago, modern publications, annual statistical collections and reports. The following results were obtained. Consumer cooperation works in the socio-economic space in the interests of low-income segments of the population, residents of remote and hard-to-reach places that are not interesting to retail chains. In such circumstances, the Centrosoyuz should make every effort to make the system as a channel for selling vegetables, fruits and berries attractive to market participants: villagers, farmers, agricultural organizations and cooperatives, processors, and trade. The analysis, conclusions and suggestions will be useful to the management of consumer cooperation organizations in developing long-term programs for the development and modernization of the material and technical base of the procurement industry in order to increase its competitiveness.

1. Introduction
Organizations of the Central Union of Consumer Cooperatives comprise a universal system engaged in trade, catering, procurement, industrial production, the provision of services to the population and other activities. And although the “golden age” of consumer cooperation fell on the pre-revolutionary and Soviet periods, its activities are in demand today. For more than a hundred years, the Central Union has been a member of the International Cooperative Alliance and represents in the international arena not only its own societies, but also other types of cooperation.
2. Problem statement
In the framework of this study, the authors decided to combine their own developments on the topics that they are engaged in: the first is consumer cooperation, the second is the market of fruits and vegetables. Since domestic consumer cooperation for over a century and a half has successfully worked under various socio-economic formations, it was interesting for the authors to look at the point of view of economists who were at the origins of the formation and development of the Central Union system, the possibility of applying their scientific heritage today.

The purpose of the study is to consider the prospects for the production of fruits and vegetables, the role and possibilities of consumer cooperation in the chain “production – processing – sales”. The following tasks were set: to study the legacy of theorists of consumer cooperation, the fruit and vegetable market, the provision of the population with domestic vegetables, fruits and berries, to assess the state of the material and technical base of the procurement branch of consumer cooperation and the possibility of further growth.

3. Materials and methods
The study was enabled by the following methods: induction and deduction, comparison, and abstract-logical, monographic and economic-statistical. The authors studied the scientific works of theoreticians-cooperators published over a century ago, modern publications of specialists on the topic, annual statistical compendiums published by the state statistics service, and reports on the main indicators of economic activity of organizations of the Central Union.

4. Results
The scientific study of consumer cooperation began from the moment of its formation. Already in the first works of scientists and cooperators, general questions, causes of emergence, functions, development conditions and principles of consumer societies, issues of social significance, the place of consumer cooperatives in the market structure, the definition of consumer cooperatives, etc. are given [1, p. 120]. Foreign scientists and practitioners, founders and innovators who have made an invaluable contribution to the formation of cooperative thought include R. Owen, Ch. Fourier, W. King, C. Howard, G. Kaufmann, F.W. Raiffeisen, F.H. Schulze-Delitzsch, Ch. Gide, F. Staudinger, G.J. Holyoake, C. and B. Webb, H. Müller, M. Mariani, etc. In Russia, before the revolution, I. Ozerov, V. Leonov, and M. L. Heysin, A.V. Merkulov, V.F. Totomyantz, K.A. Pazhitnov, N.P. Ballin, V.S. Kozlov, V.N. Zelheim and others dealt with the problems of consumer societies.

I.A. Shapiro in the Guide to All Sectors of Cooperation (1914), defines consumer society as follows: “it is an independent enterprise of an unlimited number of people, striving by means of general management to deliver to its members benign consumer goods at fair prices, and the income from the enterprise is distributed among the members, commensurate with the fence. Consumer society is the most perfect cooperative form, where all cooperative principles can be implemented” [2, p. 15].

D.A. Bansel (1903) indicates that “consumer societies represent the richest, most numerous, and most widespread form of cooperation. Their success depends without a doubt, firstly, on the simplicity of their activities, and secondly, on the nature of universality that allows them to appeal to each of us, because every person is a consumer” [3, p. 10].

I. Ozerov (1900): “Consumer associations are understood to mean the connections of persons who aim, through joint procurement or setting up their own shops, in the cheapest and most profitable way to satisfy the needs of these people in the products they need, thus avoiding the mediation of small traders. These desires—to receive good quality products, to protect themselves from the bad consequences of the falsified ones and to save themselves the overpayments that go in favor of petty merchants—served everywhere as primary impulses to the formation of consumer societies” [4, p.7]. Consumer societies do not stop at one distribution function (they take products from the producer and push them to the consumer), “their goals go further: they look at themselves as a preparatory step towards a productive association, and we already see that many societies have managed to implement these goals, although partially, in some industries.” “Consumer societies, having started productive
branches with them, happily combine all these conditions of proper production. Here demand is
determined, and moreover, one can monitor day after day the movement of demand for different
products and, accordingly, establish production, reducing one, expanding the other; in this way it is
always possible to maintain equilibrium of supply and demand” [4, p. 114].

I. Ozerov argued that the goals of society are becoming more complicated; consumer societies are
institutions that are responsive to the demands of the times and able to satisfy them [4, p. 7]. He was
supported by V. Leonov (1918): “Consumer societies do not live in vacuum: they have to act in a certain
socio-political environment and they are forced to respond to the phenomena occurring in it and which
are important for the cooperative movement” [5, p. 91].

Consumer cooperation of the Central Union, like any living organism, has fully experienced the crisis
processes that have been and are happening in the Russian economy. Today's problems of consumer
cooperation are in tune with the problems of the early twentieth century, which economists-theoreticians
of cooperation wrote about.

The Central Union system is a multifunctional structure engaged in trade, catering, procurement,
industrial production, the provision of services to the population and other types of activities, the revenue
from which in 2018 amounted to 209.2 billion rubles. The main role is played by retail trade, which in
2018 accounted for 61% of the total volume of activities. At the present stage, about 12% of the total
activity of the Central Union is brought into procurement, and it is they that are the sphere of functioning
of consumer cooperatives that supplies their own shops and processing shops with fresh agricultural
products and raw materials, bypassing intermediaries. Thus, products find their customers much faster,
and fresh products retain nutrients to the maximum, providing a healthy, balanced diet for the rural
population [6, p. 248].

Products procured by cooperative organizations can be divided into several groups:
- livestock products: meat, milk, eggs;
- crop products: grain, vegetable oil, potatoes, vegetables, fruits and berries;
- livestock raw materials: leather, wool, bristles, furs;
- medicinal and technical raw materials: herbs, corn silk, sunflower and pumpkin seeds, etc., waste
  paper;
- wild products: fruits and berries, fresh and processed mushrooms, nuts, fern shoots, wild garlic, etc.

Back in the Soviet period, vegetables, fruits and berries belonged to the main types of products
purchased by procurement offices of consumer cooperation. The same value in the blanks remained after
the collapse of the USSR, in the modern period. In addition, fruits and vegetables are classified as
strategic products for which the country should ensure food security, given their importance for the
healthy nutrition of the population [7, p. 91].

The volumes of domestic production of fruits and vegetables in Russia grew from 1990 to 2018.
During this time, the gross harvest of fruits and berries increased by 37.5%, and by 33.0% for vegetables
(Table 1).

| Table 1. Gross harvests of fruits and vegetables in Russia in farms of all categories, million tons |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Crop                                              | 1990 | 2010 | 2005 | 2010 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2018 vs. 2010 [%] |
|---------------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----------------|
| Fruit and berries                                 | 2.4  | 2.7  | 2.4  | 2.1  | 2.7  | 3.0  | 2.7  | 3.3  | 137.5           |
| Vegetables                                        | 10.3 | 10.8 | 11.3 | 12.1 | 13.2 | 13.2 | 13.6 | 13.7 | 133.0           |

The Russian government is taking certain steps to ensure the recommended consumption of
vegetables and fruits per person per year, recommended by the Research Institute of Nutrition of the
RAMS, but so far this goal has not been achieved. For example, in 2017, according to the Ministry
of Agriculture of the Russian Federation, a total of 13685.0 thousand tons of vegetables were produced, of
which 11852.7 thousand tons were vegetables of open ground and 1832.3 thousand tons of closed
vegetables (Table 2). Thus, the production of vegetables per person per year amounted to 93.2 kg, which only by 66.6% corresponds to the consumption rate recommended by the Research Institute of Nutrition RAMS (140 kg). Own production reaches consumption standards only for onions and tomatoes; for carrots, cucumbers and cabbage the indicator is more than 60%, and for beets it is 41.7%.

Table 2. Provision of vegetables to the population of Russia in 2017, thousand tons

| Crop               | Annual per capita consumption norm [kg] | Demand of population | Production rate | Annual per capita production of vegetables [kg] | Provision [%] |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Total vegetables   | 140                                    | 20552.0              | 13685.0         | 93.2                                          | 66.6          |
| including         |                                        |                      |                 |                                               |               |
| bulb onions        | 10                                     | 1468.0               | 2131.8          | 14.5                                          | 145.2         |
| table carrots      | 17                                     | 2495.6               | 1806.9          | 12.3                                          | 72.4          |
| beetroot           | 18                                     | 2642.4               | 1099.5          | 7.5                                           | 41.7          |
| cucumbers          | 10                                     | 1468.0               | 1146.1          | 7.8                                           | 78.0          |
| cabbage            | 40                                     | 5872.0               | 3663.5          | 25.0                                          | 62.5          |
| tomatoes           | 10                                     | 1468.0               | 2315.2          | 15.8                                          | 158.0         |

The situation with fruits is more alarming. Due to the fact that in open sources there are no statistics on the production of certain types of fruits and berries, the authors examined per capita consumption by the example of federal districts. Thus, fruit and berry products produced on farms of all categories provided only 1/5 of the average per capita consumption. Table 3 reflects industry-specific problems. Even in the Southern and North Caucasian federal districts, which are in favorable latitudes for fruit growing, production is insufficient and accounts for half of the norm of consumption. Provision of fruits and berries of the Volga, Central and Ural districts varies from 10 to 20%, and in the North-West, Siberian and Far Eastern the figure is less than 10%.

Table 3. Provision with fruits and berries of the Russian population by federal districts in 2017

| Population as of January 1, 2017 [mln people] | Recommended nutrient requirements [ths tons] (100 kg per capita annually) | Production, thousand tons (farms of all categories) | Provision % |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Fruits and berries, total                     | 146.8                                                                  | 14680.1                                             | 2946.3      | 20.1        |
| including by federal districts                |                                                                        | 1642.8                                              | 941.4       | 57.3        |
| Southern FD                                  | 16.4                                                                   | 977.6                                               | 478.7       | 47.0        |
| North Caucasian FD                           | 9.8                                                                    | 2963.7                                              | 532.5       | 18.0        |
| Volga FD                                     | 29.6                                                                   | 3921.0                                              | 538.9       | 13.7        |
| Central FD                                   | 39.2                                                                   | 1389.9                                              | 106.7       | 7.7         |
| Northwest FD                                 | 12.4                                                                   | 1234.6                                              | 149.0       | 12.1        |
| Ural FD                                      | 12.4                                                                   | 1932.6                                              | 155.0       | 8.0         |
| Siberian FD                                  | 19.4                                                                   | 618.3                                               | 44.1        | 7.1         |

Fruits and vegetables in Russia are grown in all categories of organizations (Table 4). If in 1990 the main share of vegetables was produced in agricultural organizations (70%), then by 2018 it decreased to 26.2%. After 2000, more than 70% of vegetables were grown on households, a little more than half at present. The share of peasant (farmer) farms is constantly increasing: in 2000 it amounted to 2.4%, and by 2018 it reached almost 20%. Over the years, the structure of production of fruit and berry products has changed. In 1990, 50% of these products were grown in agricultural organizations and
households. By 2018, the situation changed: the share of agricultural enterprises decreased to 31.3%,
and the share of households amounted to almost 65%, and in 2010 it reached 80%. Thus, households
are now the main producers of Russian fruit and berry products. The share of peasant (farmer) farms
until recently was insignificant, but in 2017 it crossed the line of 4% and in 2018 added another 0.5%.

**Table 4.** Structure of production of fruits and vegetables by categories of households, %

| Crop                  | 1990 | 2000 | 2005 | 2010 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
|                       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| **Agricultural organizations** |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Vegetables            | 69.9 | 22.9 | 18.7 | 18.8 | 21.9 | 23.3 | 25.6 | 26.2 |
| Fruits and berries    | 49.5 | 15.7 | 20.7 | 15.0 | 23.6 | 25.9 | 27.5 | 31.3 |
| **Households**        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Vegetables            | 30.1 | 74.7 | 74.4 | 68.3 | 59.9 | 58.6 | 55.4 | 55.1 |
| Fruits and berries    | 50.5 | 84.1 | 78.4 | 82.8 | 73.4 | 71.3 | 68.3 | 64.2 |
| **Peasant (farmer) households** |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Vegetables            | 0.0  | 2.4  | 6.9  | 12.9 | 18.2 | 18.1 | 19.0 | 18.7 |
| Fruits and berries    | 0.0  | 0.2  | 0.9  | 2.2  | 3.0  | 2.8  | 4.2  | 4.5  |

Despite the fact that fruits and vegetables retain their priority position among other types of
purchased products, consumer cooperation has begun to lose its position in their market turnover. A
tendency towards a decrease in procurement volumes is observed: in 2018, 41.1% fewer vegetables and
44.9% fruits were harvested compared to 2010 (Table 5).

**Table 5.** Volume of purchases of vegetables and fruits by organizations of consumer
cooperation of the Central Union, thousand tons

| Crops                                 | 2010 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2018 vs. 2010 (%) |
|---------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------------------|
| Vegetables                            | 84.67| 70.24| 57.83| 60.97| 52.52| 49.83| 58.9              |
| Fruits                                | 48.67| 44.51| 39.08| 35.45| 28.82| 26.79| 55.0              |
| Fruits and berries, wild, dry and fresh | 0.31 | 0.43 | 0.33 | 0.24 | 0.25 | 0.29 | 93.5              |
| Cranberries and Lingonberries         | 0.21 | 0.30 | 0.49 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.19 | 90.5              |

While in 2010, Central Union cooperatives purchased 0.8% of vegetables produced in all categories
of farms, and 2.4% of fruits, in 2018 these figures were 0.4% and 0.8%, respectively. Large agricultural
organizations and households do not consider consumer cooperation with its procurement offices and
collection points as a channel for the sale of their products, but together they produce 80% of vegetables
and 95.5% of fruits. So, only 0.04% of produced vegetables and 0.005% of the fruits and berries of an
agricultural organization are sold to consumer cooperatives. Among households, this indicator is slightly
higher: 0.4% and 0.5%, respectively. These data are scanty. And if agricultural organizations can
directly supply their products to retail chains, then for small-scale production this is fraught with certain
difficulties: it is necessary to ensure a smooth delivery, meet the quality parameters set by chain stores,
pay fees for entry into the network, have vegetable and fruit storages, etc. These requirements are
unbearable only for households, but also for many peasant (farm) households. Consumer cooperative
organizations have extensive experience in the procurement, processing, storage and sale of agricultural
products. Therefore, their role is high not only in increasing the marketability of medium and small
agricultural producers, but also in increasing the incomes of the rural population.

Of interest to the fruit and vegetable market are purchases of wild fruits and berries. However, their
tendency is unstable. In the period 2010-2018, the volume of purchases of wild fruits and berries varied
from 240 to 420 tons, and cranberries and lingonberries from 190 to 490 tons (Table 5). Such volumes
do not meet modern needs. In the world market, products of natural origin are in demand as an organically pure product. Russia lags behind world leaders not only in the cultivation of organic products, but also in creating the legislative framework for their production. So, the Federal Law on Organic Products adopted in 2018 entered into force only on 01.01.2020.

Procurement of wild-growing products creates favorable conditions for the development of the regional sphere of collection and processing of wild-growing raw materials; stimulates the development of infrastructure for the harvesting and processing of wild plant materials in the region, including in remote areas; contributes to the promotion of regional food products produced using wild plant materials in domestic and foreign markets [8, p. 220].

For the implementation of the procurement of fruits and vegetables, consumer cooperative organizations have a network of procurement facilities. However, their total number from 2010 to 2018 decreased by 56.7%. The most common of these are pick-up stores, which in 2018 accounted for 91.1% of the total number of procurement points; less than 10% held specialized pick-up points (Table 6). For successful procurement activities, covering as many agricultural producers and rural areas as possible, this amount is not enough. So, if in 2010 there were an average of 5 procurement points for each district consumer society or district consumer union, then there were only 3 of them by 2018.

| Facilities of the Central Union in the field of purchases of vegetables and fruits (as of the end of year), pcs |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Object name                                      | 2010     | 2014     | 2015     | 2016     | 2017     | 2018     | 2018 vs. 2010 (%) |
| Reception shops                                  | 15136    | 11330    | 9620     | 9856     | 7791     | 6387     | 42.2             |
| Specialized reception points                     | 1038     | 772      | 640      | 665      | 554      | 624      | 60.1             |
| Total:                                           | 16174    | 12102    | 10260    | 10521    | 8345     | 7011     | 43.3             |
| Number of district consumer societies and consumer unions | 3074     | 2580     | 2459     | 2616     | 2408     | 2300     | 74.8             |

A.V. Tkach and A.S. Zhukov believe that the problems of marketing and processing of manufactured products by households and farms have not been resolved, given the predominant role in these agricultural products of these categories of producers. Independent procurement activities of small agricultural producers distract them from fulfilling production functions. Small forms of farming in the village do not have an infrastructure for the sale, storage and processing of agricultural products. Monopolists in the sphere of circulation in the food market complicate the sale of products to small forms of management, competition intensifies, as a result of which small agricultural producers lose. They see the solution of the problem in the formation by the consumer cooperation of infrastructure in the countryside for the harvesting and processing of agricultural products produced by small forms of management [9, p. 38].

The procurement industry of consumer cooperatives needs to be developed due to its maximum availability and mobility in rural areas. Consumer cooperation organizations should be included in the vertically integrated structures being created on the basis of a closed cycle “production - processing - sales” when using the region’s internal resources [10, p. 270].

The composition of the facilities of the Central Union in the field of processing and storage of vegetables and fruits is presented in Table 7. During the study period, the number of objects for processing fruits and vegetables has almost halved. The highest reduction relates to pickling vats and fermentation-pickling points. Processing of fruits and vegetables is carried out by old methods: salting, pickling, canning, soaking, etc. In these processes, salt, sugar and vinegar are used. However, in recent years, methods of preserving the harvest of vegetables and fruits without the use of preservatives have become more widespread: drying, freezing, and refrigerated storage, which allow you to save both the taste of the products and most of the vitamins and minerals.
Table 7. Facilities of the Central Union in the field of processing and storage of vegetables and fruits (as of the end of year), pcs.

| Object name | 2010 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2018 vs. 2010 (%) |
|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------------------|
| Storage     |      |      |      |      |      |      |                  |
| Vegetable, potato and fruit storage | 374  | 296  | 285  | 272  | 223  | 831  | 2.2 раза        |
| Refrigerators | 368  | 569  | 537  | 517  | 461  | 526  | 142.9            |
| Total:      | 742  | 939  | 822  | 789  | 684  | 1357 | 142.9            |
| Processing  |      |      |      |      |      |      |                  |
| Fermentation-pickling points | 86   | 60   | 49   | 46   | 41   | 49   | 57.0             |
| Pickling vats | 256  | 180  | 168  | 146  | 101  | 124  | 48.4             |
| Workshops for the production of canned fruits and vegetables | 38   | 26   | 24   | 28   | 25   | 24   | 63.2             |
| Workshops for the processing of fruits and vegetables (drying, salting, etc.) | 66   | 47   | 47   | 44   | 45   | 41   | 62.1             |
| Total:      | 446  | 313  | 288  | 264  | 212  | 238  | 53.3             |
| Grand total:| 1188 | 1178 | 1110 | 1053 | 896  | 1595 | 134.3            |

The number of objects for storage in chilled and frozen form increased in the period of 2010-2018. So, refrigerators have increased by 42%, vegetable stores increased by 2.2 times. However, this does not improve the situation with the use of modern methods of storage and processing of products. If you look at the equipment of each consumer cooperative of the Central Union system of storage facilities and refrigerators, then it turns out that one vegetable storehouse accounted for 10 consumer cooperatives in 2010, and in 2018 only 3; every tenth cooperative had a refrigerator in 2010, and every fifth in 2018.

5. Discussion

It should be noted that the production sphere in consumer cooperation is characterized by technical and technological backwardness, which leads to the non-competitiveness of fruit and vegetable products. The industry retains an outdated production structure, characteristic of the Soviet period and not taking into account current market trends. The size of profit and the level of profitability of consumer cooperation organizations do not allow radically modernizing production processes [11, p. 407].

To some extent, the use of information and communication technologies based on the Internet, which can coordinate real-time relations between agricultural producers and consumer cooperation organizations, can change the situation in the chain “procurement - storage - processing - sales”. According to A.V. Eder and O.V. Ivanov, the introduction of IT-technologies in food production is quite feasible, because already there are the necessary communication technologies and software, there are domestic IT players, as well as available advanced scientific developments [12, p. 365].

The Central Union for its organizations creates a digital cooperative ecosystem COOP - a modular platform with an end-to-end identification system. Currently available are the basic services: COOP ID and COOP PAY. With them, cooperatives, for example, can transmit information to agricultural producers about the types of products they procure, prices, the location of procurement points, quality requirements, etc., chain stores or wholesale outlets: information about the volumes, timing and frequency of deliveries, etc. In this case, feedback is also important when potential partners notify the cooperative about the possible volume of the crop, the timing of its harvest, the range of products manufactured, etc. The COOP PAY mobile application allows you to quickly make payments for delivered goods.
Equipping the production capacities of consumer cooperation organizations, as well as introducing IT technologies, at this stage is impossible without government support or attracting credit resources. However, the profit margin and the level of profitability of most consumer societies make borrowing inappropriate. Since consumer cooperation in recent decades has turned out to be outside the interests of the state, its organizations are outside the scope of federal support provided in the framework of various state programs. The country is pursuing a course towards the creation of agricultural consumer and production cooperatives. It should be noted that in some regions the authorities adopt programs aimed at supporting consumer cooperation, given its socio-economic significance for the region. However, these programs are episodic in nature, and decisions are often made on their early termination. State-cooperative partnership also did not receive proper development.

6. Conclusions
Consumer cooperation works in the socio-economic space in the interests of the poor, residents of remote and inaccessible places that are not interesting to retail chains. In such circumstances, the Central Union needs to make every effort to make the system, as a channel for the sale of vegetables, fruits and berries, attractive to participants in the produce market. However, taking into account the importance of consumer cooperation of Central Unions for rural areas and its residents, the state should still take care of strengthening consumer cooperatives. Taking into account that the Central Union system already has certain facilities, budget funds should be allocated for their modernization. Thus, to coordinate the efforts of the state and the cooperatives themselves, in our opinion, a state program for the development of consumer cooperation is necessary. Also, the employees and management of consumer cooperation organizations should make every effort to make the system attractive to rural residents, farmers, agricultural organizations and cooperatives, processors, and trade. The most difficult task is the revival of cooperative principles and the unification of shareholders who created cooperatives to meet their needs. The analysis, conclusions and suggestions will be useful to the management of consumer cooperation organizations in developing long-term programs for the development and modernization of the material and technical base of the procurement industry in order to increase its competitiveness.

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