Effect of Membership Size on the Efficiency of Agricultural Credit Cooperatives in India

**Author:** Devi Sekhar, Sree Narayana Gurukulam College of Engineering, India

**Discussant:** Puneet Vatsa, Lincoln University, New Zealand
Summary

- The main question: does membership size affect the relative operational efficiency of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) in Kerela, a southern Indian state?

- The answer: yes.

- The study also presents data on PACS in Kerela to motivate the main question.
Comments, questions, and suggestions

- **Data**
  - The data were collected through interviews as most PACS do not publish data online.
  - How many of them do? Even if only a fraction publish their data online, a much larger nationally representative sample could be obtained.
  - Why study only Kerela?
Comments, questions, and suggestions

- The introductory paragraph of Section 5 and Section 5.1 could be combined with Section 4.
- Section 4 could be called Data
- Section 5 could be devoted to the main empirical exercise
  - The title “Empirical results” may be assigned to this section.
  - The contents of Section 5.2 could be moved to Section 5.
Comments, questions, and suggestions

- **Method**
  - All the models should be formalised in Section 3
  - Motivate the method: why are these used and not others?
  - Which methods have been used in previous studies?
  - Equations can be moved to Section 3

- **Results**
  - Discuss the results more rigorously
  - Connect the results to past studies
  - The section should be more analytical; currently, it is rather descriptive
  - Consider interpreting the results in more detail; what do the coefficients mean?
Comments, questions, and suggestions

- Conclusion
  - What are the limitations?
  - What are the policy implications and how can the results be used to inform policy?
  - Propose avenues for future research