

Restructuring the Tellus Agrarian Coöperative

A proposal for the updating and remodelling of the existing coöperative under the Ministry of Human and Environmental Health

Current status of the Tellus Agrarian Coöperative

Created 29 June 2013, the Tellus Agrarian Coöperative is supposed to function as a worker-run and -oriented coöperative, with the primary goal of introducing agrarianism into Sandum life and to provide a basis for the Sandum economy, linked to agriculture and the production of food. Whilst early development was undertaken, this development has stagnated in recent years.

Today, nearly 7 years after the original Royal Charter was issued, the coöperative has seen little development in recent times. It may indeed be that the original focus on agrarianism and farming-type activity constricted the ability of some Sandum citizens to participate in coöperative activities.

As such, it is my proposal that the coöperative be restructured under the following plan in order to improve development and activity of the coöperative moving forward.

Tellus Horticultural Coöperative

First, by refocusing the coöperative's purpose from agrarianism to horticulture, the minimum scope of projects can be reduced: the growth of a single plant cannot be said to be agriculture, but it is horticulture. Second, the scope of plants

which can be grown is expanded, with the study and cultivation of plants not only for food but economic products (medicine, dyes, or ornamentals) being included.

A Dharmachakra model

Instead of either a purely centralised or decentralised model, I propose that the individual outlying gardens be able to rely on, and use as a resource, a hub centre; this Sandum centre of horticulture could then produce resources, source and distribute seeds, and hold seed banks for use by the outlying gardens.



It should be stressed that this centre would not be in authority over the outlying gardens; there would not be a hierarchy within the coöperative. Like a wheel, the hub, spokes and rim all lie flat and in a single plane. However, the centre would help to coördinate the activity of the outlying gardens; it would provide information, seeds, and advice.

The Kropotkin Centre

I propose that the central hub of this coöperative be named the Kropotkin Centre after famed left-anarchist biologist Peter Kropotkin, who not only placed mutual aid and symbiosis at the heart of his evolutionary biology but also

advocated for decentralised, mutually dependent networks of gardens, greenhouses and irrigated grows (growth of irrigation?) for the agriculture of post-state communism.

Each outlying garden could then be named according to the will of its work group and registered with the coöperative to take part in coöperative activities. Any policy within the coöperative would then be decided by workers' democracy, with each member of a given garden having a single vote in all matters concerning coöperative policies with regards to distribution of resources or association with other micronational bodies.

Creation of Outlying Gardens, new work groups

In order to establish a garden work group, citizens would only need to notify the Tellus Horticultural Coöperative of their intent, preferably with outlines of either general intentions or specific species to be cultivated. The coöperative should not only keep track of gardens' species, but also connect gardens with each other based on their plants or purposes.

If outlying gardens produce seed in excess of their need or desire, they may send this excess seed to the hub's central seed bank. In return for donated seed, gardens will be given points for bidding on any seed in the seed bank which they might desire to add to their collection.

This should incentivise the donation of excess seed to the central seed bank.

Any garden will have the right to apply to receive seed from the central seed bank, and will be entitled to full access to advice, growing resources, and other available tools for maximising the chances of a successful harvest.

Functions of the new Tellus Horticultural Coöperative

The focus of the new coöperative would be on the following fronts:

- Helping to provide information and resources for Sandum citizens to take part in horticultural projects by founding their own gardens.
- Build a central hub centre which can procure seeds and produce information on their germination and care.
- Produce regular updates to both the nation and the micronational community on the progress of projects, plants and research.
- Foment, where possible, intermicronational coöperation with likeminded nations for mutual benefit.

Legal responsibility for ensuring the compliance of plants grown with wider macronational law rests solely with the garden producing them; there cannot be the expectation that the cooperative can provide legal advice either for or against specific plants, and so it will rely on the good sense of individuals to determine legality in most cases. In cases, however, of clear violation (where the locality of plants is known, and species are reported) gardens will be made aware of possible lapses; failure to address these lapses may result in expulsion from the cooperative.

Associate Gardens Program

In addition to outlying gardens, the Tellus Horticultural Coöperative will establish connections with other micronational garden projects, to foster strong

coöperative links within the community: the wider the network of gardens and growers, the more likely seeds can be put to use and solutions to the growing of problem plants will be identified. If an associate garden is a partner in the Common Economy or in the Social System, then they may receive suffrage in the worker's democracy and the right to participate in coöperative government.

Associate gardens, unlike outlying gardens, would be admitted under the discretion of the coöperative (the Kropotkin Centre and outlying gardens) and not automatically allowed to join. Any and all members of the coöperative would have a single vote in the admission process.

Conclusion

The current Tellus Agrarian Coöperative has not ultimately lived up to the potential it might have had; instead, due to the demands of agrarian production, low levels of involvement have resulted in on-going stagnation.

By swapping to a horticultural focus, we can still produce goods of interest both with the nation and to those outside (be that in the form of food products, seeds, dyes or other plant products) without this being our goal. Instead, we should seek to better understand the processes of horticulture and see this learning process as an opportunity to work together to build up the resources of our micronation.

Everyone, no matter their situation, can engage in horticulture on a small scale. We should encourage this in our country, for it brings benefit to our micronation, our citizens, and to our local environments.

I propose that we reform Tellus into a horticultural coöperative, and that its development in the intermediate term be placed under the Ministry of Human and Environmental Health until such a time that the coöperative has sufficient internal mechanisms and activity to regulate its own affairs. At that time its activity will be turned over to the coöperative's own internal workers' democracy.

At the approval of this proposal, I will begin the process of amending the coöperative's charter and/or passing new by-laws.

Drafted and submitted by

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Ministry of Human &
Environmental Health

Ministère de la Santé
humaine & environnementale

Ministerium Saluti
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Sandus Europāi

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Sôgmô

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15 June 2020

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Approved by

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Central People's
Government

Gouvernement
populaire central

Res Publica
Centralis

15 June 2020

Appendix: 2013 Royal Charter

By the Authority invested in the Sôgmô of the State of Sandus:

To all whom receive these benedictions, *Ave!*

- Quum,* this Office of the Sôgmô maintains the legitimate authority invested in it by the Sovereign People through the Founding Law of the State of Sandus;
- Et Quum,* this Office of the Sôgmô has established a plan for the State to meet certain extraordinary goals by MMXV (2015), of which include the establishment of a basic working Socialist economy and a basic working, productive cooperative;
- Et Quum,* the Sôgmô has written numerous treatises and appealed to the Sovereign People to follow the course of history by beginning this economic plan at the commencement of known recorded human history, which is the Neolithic Revolution;
- Et Quum,* this Office of the Sôgmô has established the «*All-Citizens United*» plan by which the Sandum Philosophy and the compassion of the Sandum People can be expressed and shared equally amongst the Sovereign People and others;
- Et Quum,* the Sôgmô has often related the ideal behind the Sandum Nation as «*Anticosti*», of which symbol relates a humble, rustic, sylvan, and agrarian lifestyle;
- Et Quum,* many scholars have noted the pending population crisis upon our Earth, wherein food security and offspring become an issue of common importance;
- Et Quum,* many scholars have also noted the health and economic benefits of eating fresh and healthy foodstuffs, grown organically or in one's own garden;
- Et Quum,* the basis of Socialist advancement in Sandus has been noted in the Sôgmô's works on the future of the Sandum Socialist system, whereby all citizens comprise «*work-groups*» of cooperatives found in our prospective economy;
- Et Quum,* the establishment of an agrarian cooperative will be fortunate for the welfare of all citizens of the Sovereign People of the State of Sandus, and guided by the vision of our numerous revolutionary predecessors who have inspired our Nation;
- Nunc benedicaris,* in the fact of Our Sôgmô, to have set up in this state of Our Sovereign Will, as a people do so declare and ordain the following, pursuant to the creation of this

Tellus Agrarian
Cooperative