

## Applying IT for Cooperatives' Account Development

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“Account” is an important document or evidence showing financial movement or might be a measure of honesty in business aspect.

Thus, it is a must for every cooperative as well as each farmer group to send accounts to be audited about facts of its financial statement by the Cooperative Auditing Department (CAD). The purpose of this is transparency, strength and self-reliance.

In the past, accounting had been done manually by many cooperatives whose members were quite a lot each day. It caused a delay performance: the staff could not close accounts in time.

Owing to the vision of CAD's Director-General, Mr. Singthong Chinnawornrungeesee while being one of its Administrators in the year 1998, he used to express that IT system would play a significant role in the future, it was therefore introduced to deal with making cooperatives' accounts.

Since then, it took 3 years to innovate new ideas and develop Accounting Software which was successful in 2001. Thrift and credit cooperatives had begun using it followed by agricultural cooperatives.

The reason of selecting thrift and credit cooperatives as the first priority was because of the necessity of IT using. Letters must be issued monthly for imposing accumulated share, so accounts making was highly frequent.

Importantly, if transactions were done incorrectly, nor adroitly, it would be a severe risk of making mistakes.

When accounting software was used in recording accounts, as a result, the cooperatives' operation was accurate and quicker. It helped issue bills only in 1 day instead of half a month. One Stop Service was offered to members as well.

After that...in the year 2004, CAD joined hands with the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC) to develop the former program to be the Cooperative Full Pack Accounting Software: FAS and it was applied nationwide as a pilot project that solved problems of making accounts of Agricultural Marketing Cooperatives (AMC) having more than 3 million members in total. It can save time for closing accounts from 5 months to be only 1 month.

We can say that it is a successful step of CAD who has strived for developing new accounting software to come out today with a considerably and really fruitful performance which is concrete and evident.