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## Editorial

After four years as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Rural Cooperation, I felt that it is time for me to step down and let others lead the way. I am glad to announce that Co-Editor Zvi Lerman has agreed to assume the role of Editor-in-Chief beginning in January 2010. I will continue to serve JRC as Co-Editor. This ensures a smooth transition of responsibilities. The editorial responsibilities of the articles included in the present issue were shared by Zvi Lerman and myself.

During 2006-2009, 56 regular papers were submitted to JRC, and 20 of them were accepted for publication and appeared in 5 regular issues (including this issue). In addition, 25 articles were published in 4 special issues, focusing on specific aspects of rural cooperation. The regular issues also included 8 book reviews and numerous dissertation abstracts.

Yair Levi, JRC Editor-in-Chief between 1978 and 2005, passed away in 2007. It was an honor for me to step into his big shoes, and I hope I succeeded to keep the standards that Yair set and maintained for years. I could not have done it without the cooperation of many, including the team of co-editors, **Zvi Lerman, Michal Palgi** and **Michael Sofer**; the editors of the special issues, **Yair Levi, Catherine Murray, Vardan Urutyan**, and **Richard J. Sexton**; the authors, the book reviewers, the referees, and of course, the readers.

Together, we tried to attract new audiences to JRC, especially from developing and transition countries, we went on-line (abstracts only), and we reached an agreement with AgEcon Search, a database including nearly 40,000 working papers and journal articles in Agricultural Economics and related fields, to include older issues of JRC (two years after publication) in the database. In the last 17 months, almost 2,500 downloads of JRC articles were recorded!

I hope and believe that JRC will continue to serve as a leading platform for theoretical, empirical, and case-study articles dealing with all aspects of rural cooperation.

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