

Jose Luis de Palma Fernández, *Las organizaciones interprofesionales agro-alimentarias. Regulación jurídica*, Editorial Reus, Madrid 2023, ss. 370.

The food chain regulation in Spain provides for different ways of approach to agri-food organisations and is complementary to the general food regulation, adding to it provisions on interprofessional organisations. The strength of collective bargaining is key to obtaining better profitability in the primary agricultural sector. This strength will be proportional to the level of integration; but, paradoxically, the main characteristic of the first level of the chain in Spain is atomisation. Hence, in the face of an unequal chain structure, associationism is extremely important in increasing the bargaining power; and so is cooperativism or the strengthening of a vertical integration. For this reason, a research into the nature of the bargaining power has been dedicated to the study of interprofessional organisations, a topic that has been little studied in Spain.

The author begins by presenting the origin and evolution of agri-food interprofessional organisations in Spain, and provides an outline of their evolution from the point of view of comparative law. There is also a reference to the promotion of interprofessional organisations in the European Union, and more precisely with regards the Brussels institutions. The second chapter is devoted to the treatment of interprofessional organisations under the common agricultural policy, and provides an exhaustive reference to Regulation 1308/2013 and the new regulation. The third chapter deals with Law 38/1994 of 30 December 1994 regulating the interprofessional agri-food organisations in Spain, showing the long process of the creation of this law.

The concept of the legal nature of interprofessional or food organisations is the subject of a separate chapter in which different types of these organisations are analysed from the point of view of a state as well as an autonomous community. Of special interest are purposes of agricultural interprofessional organisations analysed in light of the new common agricultural policy. The administrative procedure applicable to those organisations is more complex regarding their constitution and recognition as well as formal requirements for their formation such as the act of incorporation, their statutes, internal regime or representation.

The author also exhaustively analyses all matters related to agreements within the scope of interprofessional organisations, types of those agreements, competence for their adoption and formal obligations required to make them, as well as their compliance with the law. And finally, the author makes a reflection to the legal nature of the extension of the rules when there is more than one interprofessional food organisation per sector or product.

In short, this is an extremely interesting and exhaustive publication and a must-read book, being one of the few studies that have been published in Spain on this topic.

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