



European Conference on Ensuring seed availability in the 21st century

Farmers' views and expectations for S&PM

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Copa-Cogeca: The united voice of farmers and their cooperatives in the European Union

Copa – European farmers

Bringing together 61 EU farmers' organisations

Cogeca – European agri-cooperatives

Bringing together 35 EU agricultural cooperative organisations



Copa-Cogeca: The united voice of farmers and their cooperatives in the European Union

Two organisations...

- representing 15 million people working full-time or part-time on EU farm holdings
- as well as around 40,000 cooperatives
- with strong links to other European countries
- among the biggest and most active interest representations in Brussels



Overview: general remarks and reactions

1- Our views on the current system

2- Future changes??

3- Expectations





1- S&PM Community legislation into force

Achievements...

- Ensuring that registered varieties on the market are SAFE for health and environment
- Farmers can use the best varieties

...Need for improvement

- Control of imports from Third countries
- 
- Increase of uncertified seeds into the EU in recent years
- 
- Problem for the future quality of the plant production



The objective of the legislation...is
also to ensure the free movement
of high quality S&PM

However European farmers have identified:

- Lack of EU legislation on adventitious presence of GMOs in seeds. Copa and Cogeca have been asking the Commission for thresholds since 1999!!
- Segregation of market
- Lack of harmonization as regards the implementation of phyto-sanitary requirements
- Lack of common rules for the marketing of seed treated with plant protection products

2- Copa – Cogeca's suggestions for the future

- Community approach
- EU wide authorization for Plant Protection Products for use as seed treatments as well as common provisions for the marketing of these treated seeds;
- The choice to grow GMOs or not to grow them provided farmers have legal certainty to do so;
- It should also be acknowledged that a zero tolerance policy is not achievable;
- DUS acceptance criteria should be maintained;
- Community VCU provisions should be reinforced.

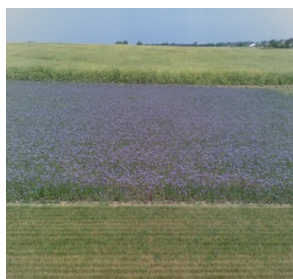
Farmers' expectations for S&PM



Thank you for your attention

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