



# Bringing innovation and tools closer to farmers

Branwen Miles

Policy Advisor

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**copa**\***cogeca**  
european farmers      european agri-cooperatives



## Mission

To ensure a viable, innovative, competitive EU agriculture and agri-food sector guaranteeing food security to half a billion people throughout Europe.



## Objective

Promoting European farmers and agri-cooperatives views to **influence** EU decision-making process and public opinion.

# copa

european farmers



# cogeca

european agri-cooperatives

- Created in **1958**
- 22 million** European farmers and family members
- 60** full members from the EU Member States and 36 partner organisations

- Created in **1959**
- 22,000** European agricultural cooperatives
- 35** full members from the EU Member States, 4 affiliated members and 36 partner organisations



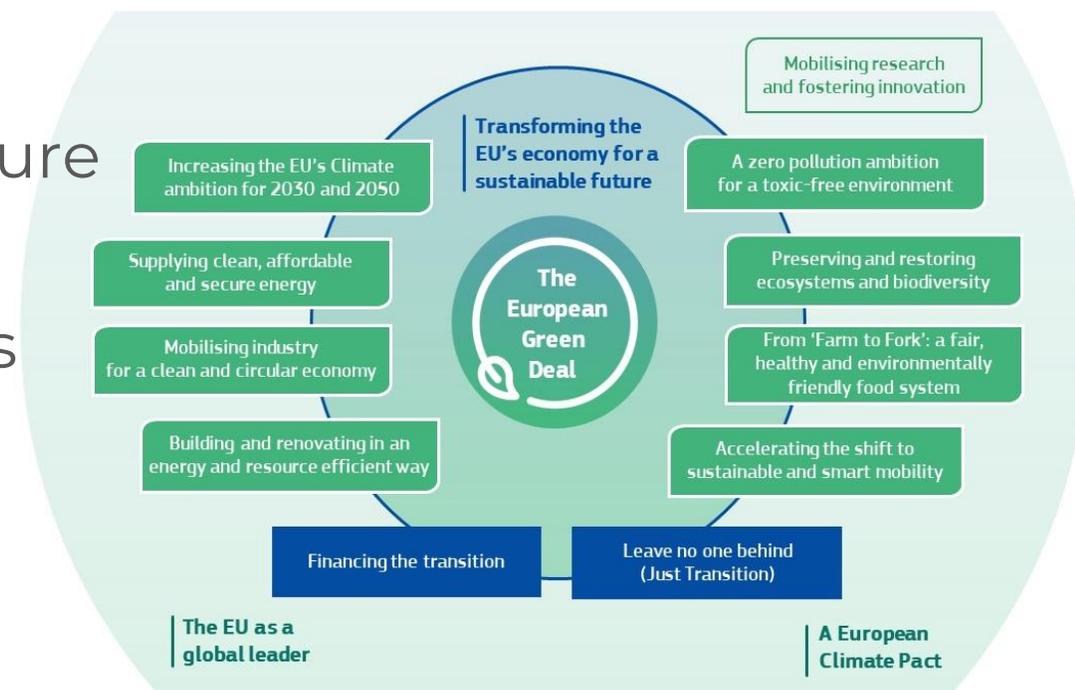
In **1962**, a joint Secretariat was created, making it one of the largest and most active organisations in Brussels for the past **60** years.

# Current State of Play

\*The Green Deal, with its Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies, sets ambitious targets for the agricultural value chain, particularly for farmers.

\*Several axis linked to agriculture

\*Opportunities and challenges for EU producers



# Innovative Farmers and Agri Cooperatives

## • ENHANCED KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

- Farmers learning from farmers
- Enhancing training and education access
- Farmers leading innovation
- Developing links between conventional and organic systems

*'Integrating research and knowledge transfer'*

## • FAIR AND COMPETITIVE VALUE CHAINS

- Collaboration across all sectors in the chain
- A new strategy for value chains

*'A fair share of added value for everyone in the chain'*

*'Doing more and better with less'*

## • GREEN GROWTH

- Efficient use of resources
- Active management of natural resources
- Climate change mitigation and adaption
- Closing the yield gap
- Improved system productivity

*'Healthy plants and animals for safe farming'*

## • HEALTHY FARMING

- Integrated pest Management
- Dealing with pest and diseases
- Enhancing biosecurity in housed livestock
- Plant and animal breeding for resilience and robustness



# Importance of Research and Innovation

- \* Within EU agriculture, R&I plays a vital role in generating economic and wider societal returns, addressing immediate challenges whilst also anticipating future needs.
- \* It is important that we consider all three sustainability pillars: Economic, Environmental and Social, and that there is a balance between productivity, security and environmental goals
- \* New tools and models are needed to enable more successful innovations and a better connection between the consumer and farming and agri-food practices. This will help build more trust and appreciation (mutual understanding) across the whole value chain.



# Challenges

- \* From a farmers' perspective it is important to make sure that recycled fertilizers are of a high quality.
- \* Need for collective actions and synergies between sectors and stakeholders.
- \* This means bringing science closer to practice and ensuring a knowledge exchange between researchers and farmers.



# A strong example

- \* Scope to recover and reuse nitrogen and phosphorus from the European value chain
- \* What projects like Nutriman are achieving is bridging the gap between science and practice.
- \* These thematic networks help to identify bottlenecks for adoption of innovative methods and incorporate the knowledge of farmers,



# From H2020 to Horizon Europe

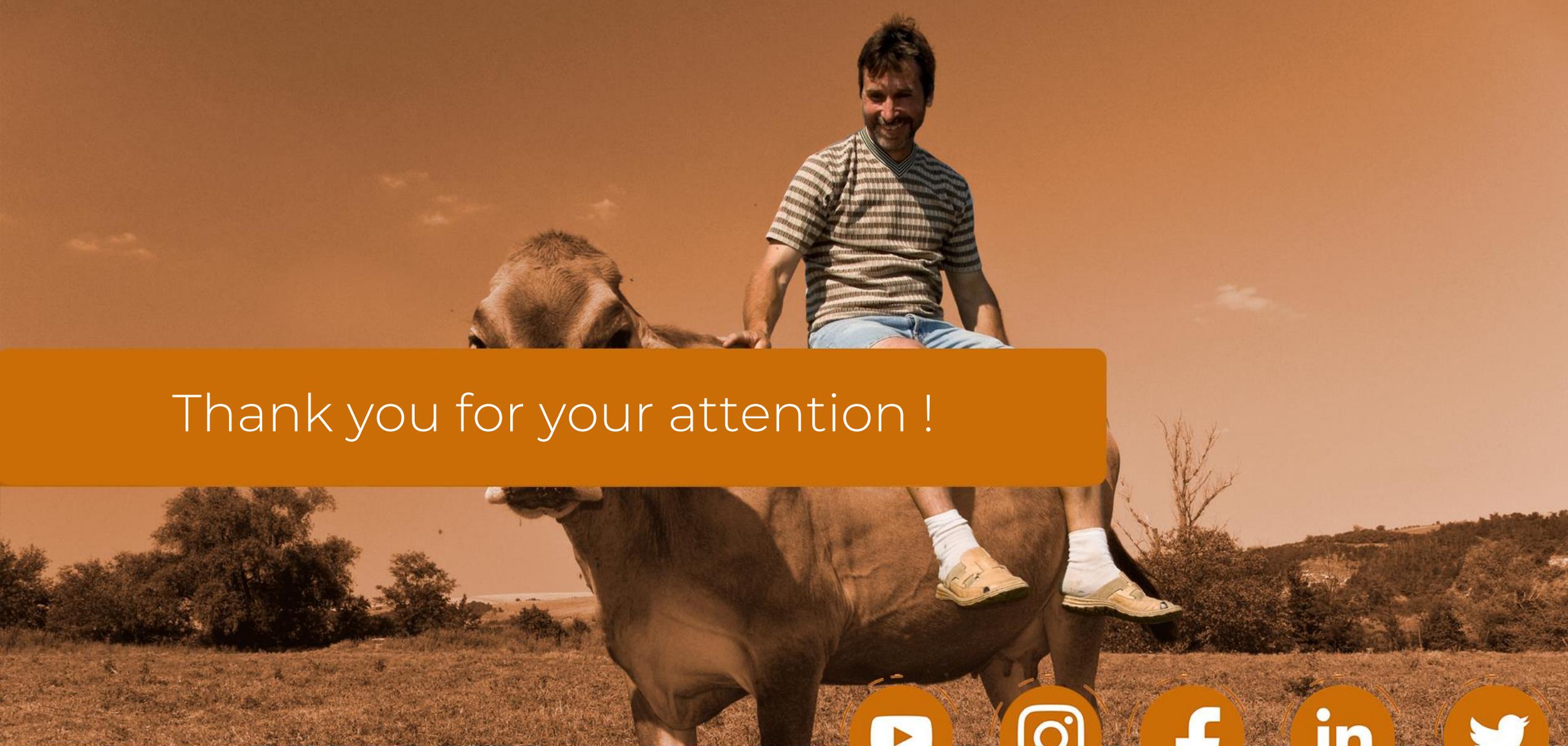
- \* Every farmer needs to have the possibility to access the best adaptation measures tailored to their own needs.
- \* Support to promote the importance of involving farmers from the very beginning of the Research and Innovation activities.
- \* To create practice-oriented projects that have the potential to promote demand-driven agricultural and forestry research and to shape solution orientated innovation



# Conclusion

- \* There is a need to respond to the challenges with bottom-up approach
- \* Importance of involving farmers from the very beginning of Research and Innovation activities.
- \* This enables to address the needs on the ground, as well as foster the uptake of innovative solutions.
- \* It also allows knowledge generation and exchange, the early ownership of innovative practices and ensures that research results are directly applicable.





Thank you for your attention !

Branwen Miles

@BranwenFfion

branwen.miles@copa-cogeca.eu



[www.copa-cogeca.eu](http://www.copa-cogeca.eu)