



Bringing innovation and tools closer to farmers

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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



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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



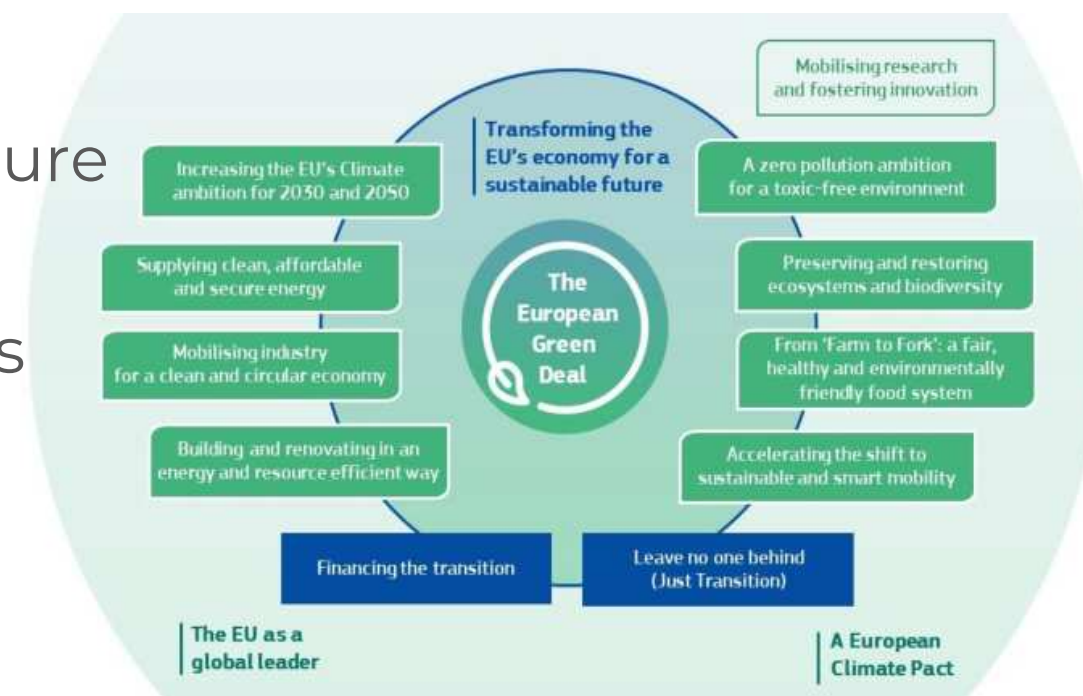
In **1962**, a joint Secretariat was created, making it one of the largest and most active organisations in Brussels for the past **60** years.

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.



A man with a beard, wearing a striped shirt and blue shorts, is smiling while riding a large water buffalo. The buffalo is standing in a dry, grassy field with some trees in the background. The sky is a warm, orange-brown color.

Thank you for your attention !

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