COPA/COGECAs perspective on the notions of propagating material and harvested material

Thor G. Kofoed,
Chairman of the COPA/COGECA Seeds WP
Danish Seed Council

If you ask Farmers

- Farmers from 28 different countries will give more than 50 different answers!
- Majority of farmers want new and better varieties, but do they want to pay?
- Different from country to country have focus farmers are on new varieties.
- Different from country to country what farmers demand from a new varieties.
- The larger the farm the greater knowledge of the relationship between new varieties and improved yields
Who are Copa and Cogeca? (1)

Copa
Created in 1958, Copa represents 23 million European farmers and family members

Cogeca
Created in 1959, Cogeca represents 22,000 European agricultural cooperatives

Copa and Cogeca
In 1962, a joint Secretariat was created, making Copa-Cogeca one of the largest and most active lobby organisations in Brussels

Better Varieties needed more than ever!

- Climate Change
- Pesticide resistant
- Special Industry demands
- Feed the world!
- Political movements!
European Farms and their production

The modern farmer's key decision
The perfect Variety list

Looking back

### Overview for winter wheat (varieties in National trials 2015, latest state)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Yield (kg/ha)</th>
<th>Grain yield (kg/ha)</th>
<th>Grains %</th>
<th>Flag leaf %</th>
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### Season detail of the characteristic 'Grain yield index' in winter wheat (varieties in National trials 2015)

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### Danish Variety info Cereals regions

Location detail of the characteristic "grain yield index" in winter wheat (varieties in National trials 2015, data from 2016)

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Danish input of Nitrogen pr. Hectar

Danish Reductions in environmental impact

Nitrogen surplus, 1,000 tonnes

Greenhouse gasses, 1,000 tonnes CO2

Ammonia emissions, 1,000 tonnes
## Treatment Index in Denmark and Germany

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Kilde: FAO

### Yield per hectares

![Graph showing yield per hectares from 1960 to 2010 for Denmark, Germany, Holland, Sweden, and England.](image-url)
Percentage Certified cereal seed

European Farms and their production
Family Farmers are many thing

- Like Modern high tech farmers
- Old traditional farmer like generations
- Part-time farming of distress
- Part-time farming for fun
- Neighbor manage the land as his own, but still my farm
- More or less operating jointly with other farmers
- Storytelling agriculture
- “Urban new farmers back to basic”

European Farms and their production

![Graph showing number of farms and production by hectares]
Small Farmers more than 8 millions

Let then ............

• Of course we have all these small farms with high quality special crop production, they know all the rules and have to follow them.

Breeders rights, farmers rights and so what?

• Can breeders forcing farmers with rules ?
• Do farmers know about the rules?
• Is it a good idea to take farmers in court?

• No way!
What is needed?
Only a few ideas

- Tell farmers about the benefit of good new varieties
- The best is if impartial bodies tell about the good new varieties
- There must be a responsible distribution of new varieties
- How about a cheap certified C2 to reduce the interest in FSS

EU Main producers /USA
COPA/CEGEC is a supporter of UPOV 91

- We need rules for protection
- We need Breeders exception
- Without that, we will have no innovation.

Thank you