The importance of new plant varieties for farmers and growers,
Thor G. Kofoed, Chairman of WP/Seeds, UPOV Symposium, Geneva, 2nd November 2012

COPA-COGECA are an umbrella organisation which represents at EU-27 level

- National Farmers Unions and National Agriculture Cooperative Federations
- 72 organisation
- 12 million people working on farms and over 36,000 cooperatives
- Organic farmers, Conventional and even farmers who want to grow GMO, seed producers, feed manufacturers, cereal, sugar, oilseed and protein crops growers.
- We deal with environmental issues, food and feed safety and consumer affairs
The EU agriculture challenges

1. Increase world food demand
2. New demand to supply the biobased economy (bioenergy, green chemistry, textiles etc.)
3. Increase risks linked to climate change, price volatility, etc.
4. EU higher standards (mycotoxines)
5. Increase production costs
6. How to feed the 9 billion people in 2050?

World area of arable land growing only marginally

Source: FAO/STAT 2012
Productivity has to increase

Source: World Bank 2010

The case of cereals

Cereals: 70% world food & feed!
2010: 6.8 Billion people

Source: WASDE May 2009

Copa-Cogeca | The voice of European farmers and
The case of cereals

Cereal yield annual growth rate

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<td>2.3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Source: CIRAD - B. Daviron
**Cereals: Top 20**

Blé - Moyenne 2007-2009

Yield
World average
2.95 t/ha

Surrounding countries:
- France
- Egypt
- Ouzbékistan
- Kazakhstan
- Maroc
- Maroc
- Maroc
- Maroc

**Agriculture: World acreage evolution**

1980 → 2008

Growth rate/year
1998-2008

- Vegetables: + 2.9%
- Oil crops: + 2.3%
- Population: + 1.3%
- Pulses: + 0.6%
- Cereals: + 0.5%

Base 100 in 1980

Evolution 1980-2008
- + 110%
- + 80%
- + 50%
- + 20%
- + 0%

Source: FAO, January 2010
The need to improve the cereals yield in the EU

Productivité du blé en T/ha

- European Union: \( y = 2.2464e^{0.0268x} \)
- Northern America: \( y = 1.6444e^{0.0114x} \)
- Asia: \( y = 0.8026e^{0.0273x} \)
- South America: \( y = 1.189e^{0.0172x} \)

Source: Own figure based on FAO (2011C).

Yield pr. hectares

- Denmak
- Germay
- Holland
- Sweden
- England

Source: Own figure based on FAO.
Danish Reductions in environmental impact

Nitrogen surplus, 1,000 tonnes

Greenhouse gases, 1,000 tonnes CO2

Ammonia emissions, 1,000 tonnes

Oversaæng for virkelighed (ærter) / Landbrugsbrug 1980, væsentlig data: Danish Reductions in environmental impact
Strategy for the Copa-Cogeca’s work ahead of the review of the Seed legislation 2011-13

1. CPVR must be maintained instead of the Patent system
2. Maintain the DUS and VCU testing
3. The farmers need better varieties and higher yields
4. Certification system must be modern and competitive
5. New varieties to all regions in EU, not only the big agricultural areas.
6. List of unprotected varieties
7. Strict regulation of conservation varieties
8. FSS must be more simple and fair
9. Small farmers’ exemption must be maintained
10. Maintain the good national systems (FSS)

Why CPVR instead of patents?

- Cereal breeding
- Seed supply
- Production
- Processing
- End-use

IP protection (PBR/UPOV)
Certification + VCU testing
Patent protection

Balance gives innovation

Future demands for a balanced protection

Research and innovation are necessary more than ever

In the MFF, the EC has proposed to double the budget allocated to RTD.

Copa-Cogeca requests that part of it be used to improve agriculture productivity in the arable crops industry.
Analyze of the Cereal Seed Price

It must be simple to find the best seed to my farm.

1. Simple for a farmer to find the best variety in his province
2. Independent testing and advice on the quality of the varieties.
3. Simple for the farmer to find the most profitable seed for his income
4. Simple for the farmer to choose the right seed and variety
5. Simple for the farmer to know and pay for the royalty
6. Simple for the farmer to see that it is practical in his work on the farm
Thank you for your attention!