



Agriculture and technology – challenges and opportunities

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Topics for today

- ✳ Technological innovation with the example of the role of new plant breeding techniques (NBTs) in adapting food systems to climate change
- ✳ Challenges and opportunities for the agri-food industry around data sharing
- ✳ Innovation and agri-cooperatives



Who are we?

copa*cogeca

european farmers

european agri-cooperatives



Cogeca: The voice of European agri-cooperatives



Mission

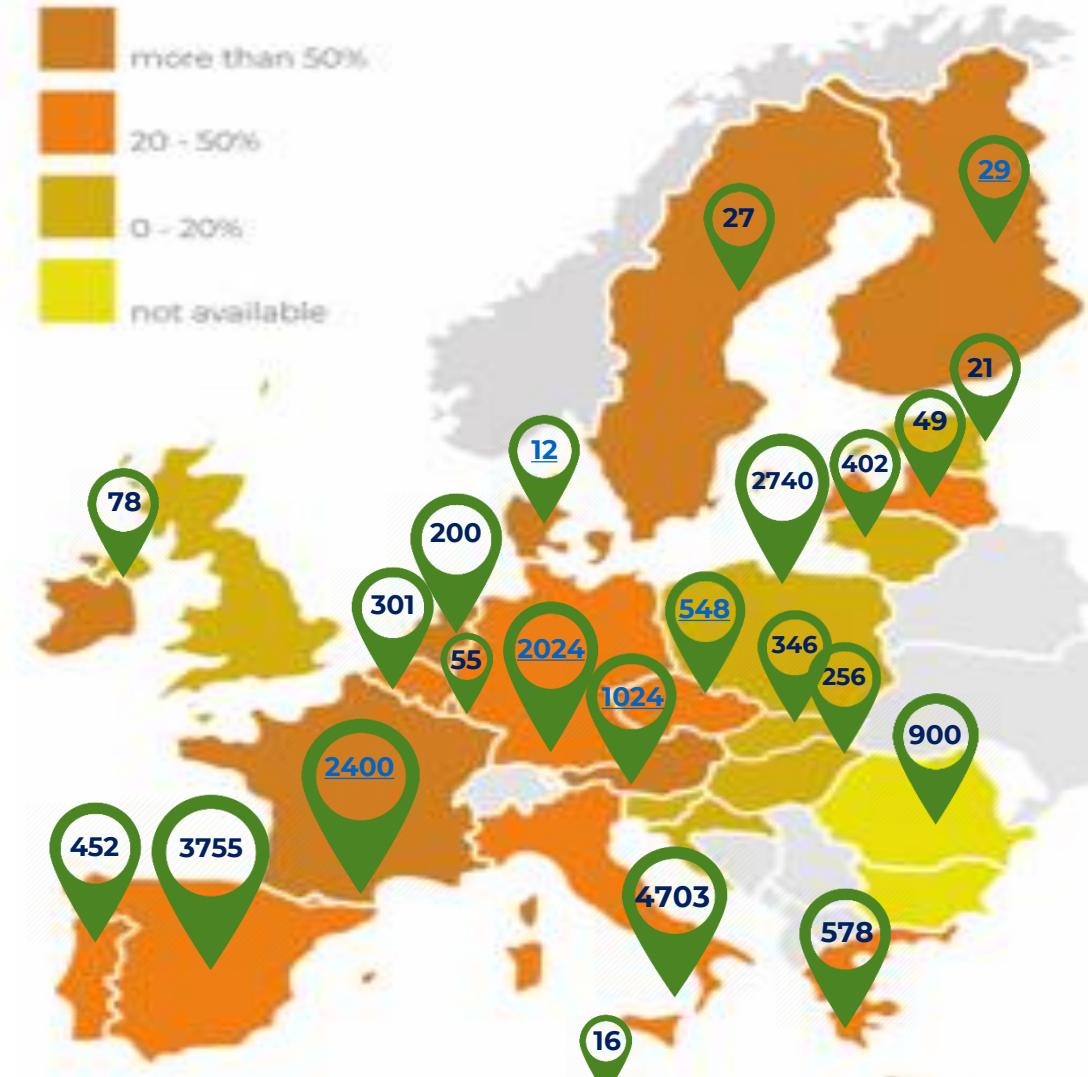
To ensure a viable, innovative, competitive EU agriculture and agri-food sector guaranteeing food security to half a billion people throughout Europe.



Objective

Promoting the view of European agri-cooperatives to **influence** the EU decision-making process.

Overview on agri-cooperatives across the EU



Why is agricultural innovation important?

- ❖ Farmers are confronted with the immensely challenging task of producing more nutrition and biomass on continuously shrinking arable land with lower environmental impacts while facing the effects of climate change.
- ❖ The COVID-19 crisis and the war in Ukraine have placed food security and nutrition back to the forefront of European citizens' minds.
- ❖ Players in the EU agricultural value chain need to respond to needs of sustainability while maintaining competitiveness



European Agriculture's challenges

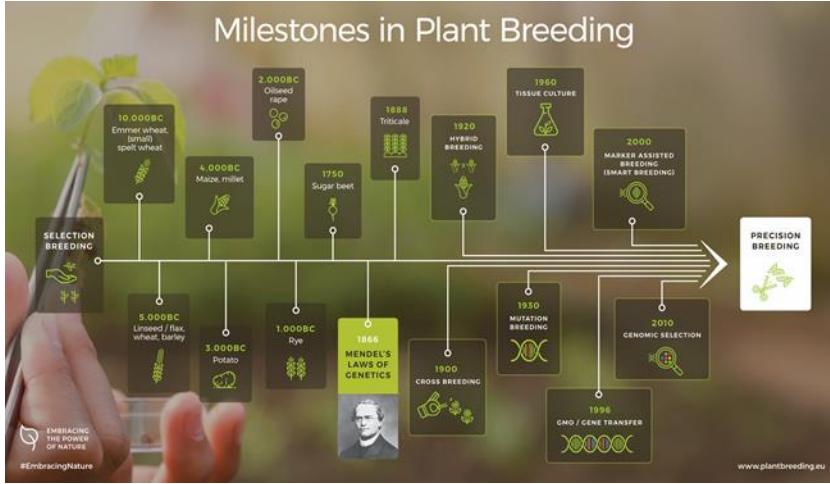
- ＊ It is important to consider the three pillars of sustainability – environmental as well as economic and social sustainability
- ＊ We support a type of European agriculture that is both productive and sustainable. The new CAP and the Green Deal must set a production objective for the European Union to guarantee food for everyone.



1: Technological innovation with the example of the role of new plant breeding techniques (NBTs) in adapting food systems to climate change



Technological innovation is the answer



- Crop production starts with high-quality seeds that meet farmers' and consumers' needs.
- In Europe and North America, 70% of the increase in productivity stems from better genetic material
- Many NBTs, with mutagenesis techniques as a good example, generate mutations that are indistinguishable from those arising spontaneously in nature or through some forms of conventional breeding.



Non-regulation of NBTs also has negative effects

- ＊ The EU is at a competitive disadvantage vis-à-vis third countries.
- ＊ The use of these techniques cannot be detected at border controls.
- ＊ Innovation, and therefore businesses and jobs, will migrate from Europe to third countries.



Key Priorities (1/3)

- ＊ Supporting science-based decision making and promoting policies based on the principle of innovation.
- ＊ Increasing farmers' use of the prospective and the proven potential offered by precision farming and precision breeding, including biotech and gene edited crops, because farmers need a tool box that can provide solutions for
 - adaptation and mitigation of climate change
 - protection against (new) pests and diseases
 - optimising the use of inputs
 - enabling more sustainable farming



Key Priorities (2/3)

- ＊ Freedom of choice
- ＊ Smart agriculture



Key Priorities (3/3)

- ✿ Putting innovation at the centre of the renewed CAP=
- ✿ These policies should include the support of precision farming and the promotion of an enabling regulatory environment for the development of new breeding techniques.



Conclusions

- ＊ In order to overcome specific challenges linked to climate change, to meet society's expectations concerning the reduction in the use of plant protection and fertilising products, and to ensure that European farmers are not left behind, European farmers need access to research, innovation and technical advancements.
- ＊ Farmers also require legal certainty and a well-functioning European single market to be able to make new investments.
- ＊ They cannot afford to lose time by refraining from cutting-edge technologies such as new breeding techniques.



2 Challenges and opportunities for the agri-food industry around data sharing



The complex agri-food landscape for data

- ❖ Agri-cooperatives and farmers collect, process and use data. This facilitates their interactions with different parts of the food supply chain (input, seeds, breeding, customers etc)
- ❖ Contractors providing specialised equipment, machinery or services
- ❖ Industry players involved in food processing, antibiotics, animal health
- ❖ Public administrations
- ❖ At the EU level, Galileo and Copernicus work with the Commission to provide environmental monitoring, helping farmers comply with regulations and standards



This complex data landscape in agriculture means good governance is needed

- ❖ Discussions took place between actors in the value chain over ownership and usage of data
- ❖ Common understanding that partners sharing data need to come together as they face the same challenges. The Question was, how can we establish governance rules?
- ❖ We are not an EU institution or regulator so, in the end, the result was a Code of Conduct on data sharing, with common principles.
- ❖ The code was signed by:



The EU Code of conduct on agricultural data sharing by contractual agreement



- Voluntary approach driven by the agri-food sector – create trust, create value
- Rights to data produced on the farm or during farming operations is attributed to the farmer and may be used extensively by him/her
- Farmers have a leading role in controlling the access to and use of data from their business
- Sensitive data
- Compatible with the GDPR. Revising the Commission data strategy proposal tbc



Conclusions from an agri-cooperative perspective

- ★ Agri-cooperatives have a key role to play due to their ability to pool resources (including data) of farmers and create infrastructure to facilitate data sharing among farmers
- ★ Farmers need to have control of access to the data and consent to sharing of their data to third parties
- ★ Data can create value throughout the food value chain but this requires trust among players

As member-owned, democratically run organisations, we believe that democratic data governance may be boosted by cooperatives



3 Innovation and agri-cooperatives



Innovation challenges for agri-cooperatives

- ❖ Demographics: Today, only 11% of all European farmers are under 40 years of age. For each farmer younger than 35 there are over 5 farmers older than 65 in Europe.
- ❖ Technologies are not yet fully accessible to our farmers and cooperatives.
- ❖ Our farmers and our enterprises in our territories are under-connected. This is a major problem and that must be addressed quickly.

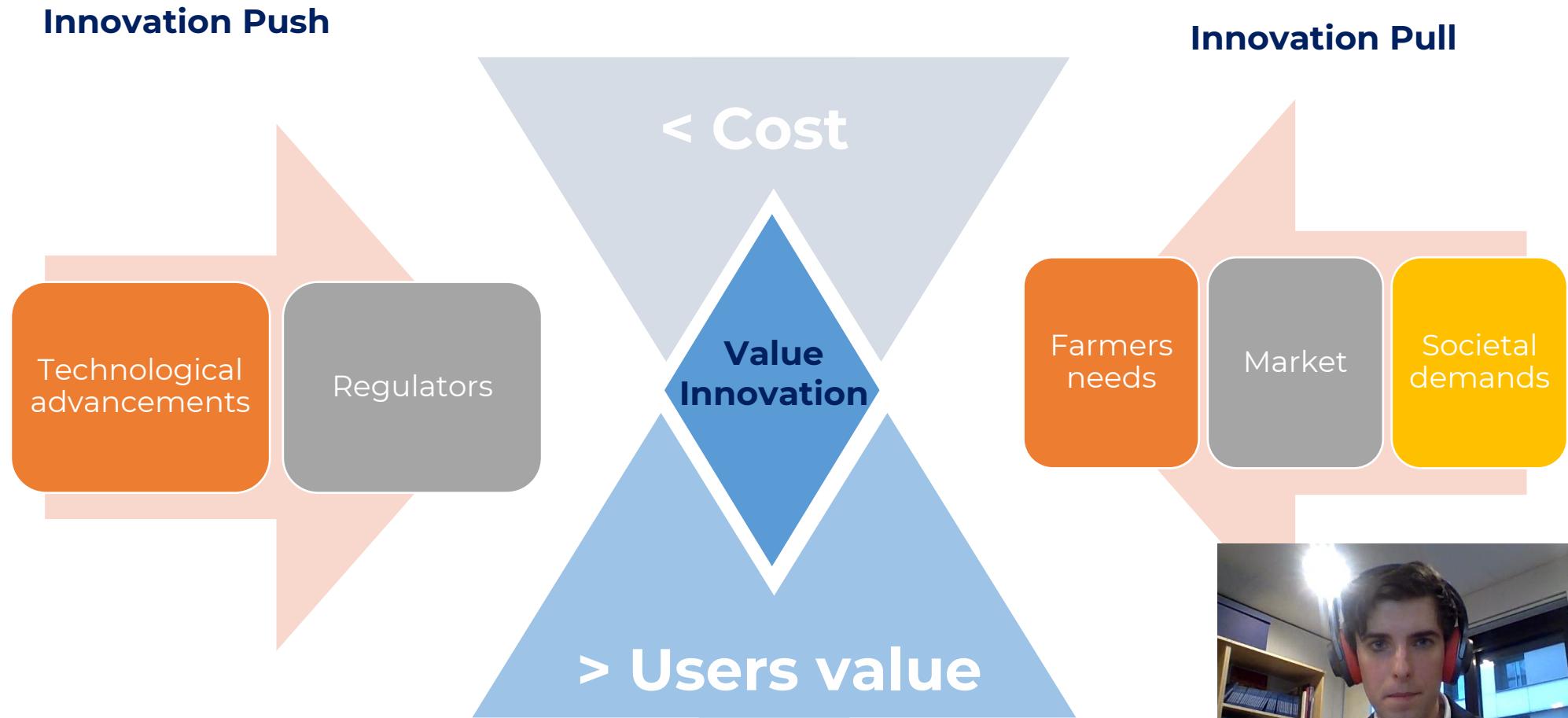


Innovation as a key priority for Cogeca

- Advocacy activities in the Copa-Cogeca research & Innovation Working Party
- Promotion agri-cooperative best practices and innovative strategies (Cogeca Presidency Business Fora)
- Champion agri-cooperatives as catalysts for the uptake of innovative solutions to achieve the 17 UN SDGs
- Focus on the skills gap of the sectors.
- Foster the participation of Agri-cooperatives in European projects and investment opportunities
- Participation in the EIPAgri and European Technologies Platforms.
- Cogeca's European Award for Cooperative Innovation



Agri-cooperatives: catalysts for Value Innovation



Innovation & the economic, social and environmental elements of Sustainability are part of our DNA

Being a leader in sustainability and innovation is not only one of the core strategies of agri-food cooperatives.

It represents a cooperative vision that encompasses all aspects of their business development.



How do we address the UN SDGs?



We offer to farmers and their families opportunity to increase standards of living, education, participation in cultural activities, wellbeing and happiness.



We produce fresh and processed foods and deliver vital proteins, nutrients and tasty food products to people all over the world.



We are at the forefront of consumer led nutrition trends and contributing to solutions to improve health, livelihoods and sustainable food production.



We invest in education and training programmers, to build a community of passionate farmers, directors, employees



How do we address the UN SDGs?



We actively promote women's participation in the labour market and governance life of our cooperatives.



We invest to cope with water resources and water scarcity challenges



We actively address the challenge of reducing energy consumption and are increase the contribution the sector makes towards renewable energy production.



The talent and commitment of the people working for agri-cooperatives are fundamental to the long-term success of our enterprises.



How do we address the UN SDGs?



For innovation, we create new products for consumers and our research, digital and innovation teams push the boundaries of science and technology to build a bright and sustainable future for agriculture.



We implement initiatives to improve the position of farmers in the food supply chain and their standards of living, and support the local and often disadvantaged communities where our coops operate.



Minimising resource consumption is an integral part of the daily work of all European agri-cooperatives . Our efforts are driven by a common goal: to build sustainable communities.



We reduce food waste by optimising the food value chain in its entirety and shifting from linear use of resources to circular use.

How do we address the UN SDGs?



We are investing in technologies and adopting targeted programmes that will allow our cooperatives to take climate actions.



We prevent and significantly reduce all forms of marine pollution also through the selection of suppliers who adhere to marine pollution reduction programs, especially that resulting from activities carried out on land.



We enhance both the land and water quality embedded in Goal 15, which as they interpret it also includes the health and welfare of their livestock and biodiversity.



We put in place participatory stakeholder consultation processes on economic, environmental and social issues to ensure an inclusive decision-making approach.



We strengthen partnerships to support and achieve the ambitious targets of the agenda of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Conclusions

- ★ Agri-cooperatives face significant challenges when faced with the need for innovation, including demographic realities of rural areas, access to technology and lack of internet connectivity
- ★ Innovation is a key priority for Cogeca and we respond to this through our own initiatives as well as our collaboration with external partners
- ★ Agri-cooperatives by their nature and DNA are well-placed to meet sustainability needs, and innovation is a key part of this action





Thank you for your attention!

