

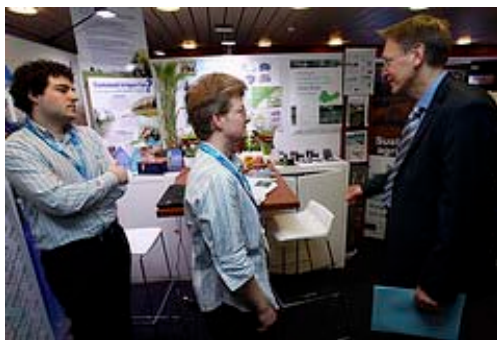
**Debriefing on Copa-Cogeca participation to the Green Week
22-25 May 2012 , Brussels
“Every drop counts”**

Tania Runge, Copa-Cogeca Secretariat



Copa-Cogeca stand at the Green Week

Great participation by our members with a lot of interesting material and good presence at the stand!



Copa-Cogeca press meeting at the Green Week



With participation of:

- Sara Stjernholm (LRF) presenting « Baltic Deal »
- Christian Hick (FWA) presenting « Nitrawal »
- Cristian Maretti (Legacoop), presenting Life project Aqua
- Denis le Chatelier (COOP de France) informing about alfalfa and water

Press release available under:
CDP(12)3766

Speakers on behalf of Copa-Cogeca at the Green Week

Paulo Gouveia, Director General Affairs, speaker in the session “How blue is the CAP?” on 22 May

Presentation available under: EN(12)4628



Christian Pès, vice-president Cogeca, speaker in the 3rd European Water Conference on 24 May



Copa-Cogeca messages on water prepared for the Green Week

Messages
in 6 languages
available under:
EN(12)2894

copa*cogeca
european farmers european agri-cooperatives

Water: an irreplaceable part of agricultural production

■ *Water remains critical to the viability of farming businesses*

Farmers need water for their livestock and for their crops. Water demand in European agriculture varies significantly according to the season and by geographic location - most areas are exclusively supplied by rainwater.

■ *'Every drop counts' for farmers as sustainable water management is key to the future of farming*

To cope with rising demand for food, feed and renewable energy, efficient use of water will become even more important in future. There is a need for measures encouraging green growth i.e. to integrate environmental protection and the production process in a way which maintains production capacity whilst contributing to efficient and productive water use.

■ *Water is already addressed in EU agriculture policy*

Farmers have to comply with a number of obligations regarding water to get support from the Common Agricultural Policy. Requirements under cross-compliance ensure that farmers respect plant protection and nitrate legislation in order to protect water quality.

■ *Farming practices have been adapted to protect water resources*

The agriculture sector would like to reiterate the importance of constructive dialogue between political decision-makers and farmers at all levels of decisions if the implementation of water legislation is to be successful. Significant progress has been made in the agriculture sector in relation to water protection with the Water Framework Directive, requiring considerable effort from farmers in terms of improving and protecting water resources.

■ *Voluntary measures and partnerships are essential for further improving water management across the EU*

Achieving sustainable water management as a common goal depends on the involvement of the sector at all levels of decision-making. Solutions tailored to local circumstances will be most effective. Further progress and positive results can best be achieved through cooperative approaches, for example in agricultural areas used for drinking water provision.

■ *Front-line farming activities bear the full impact of climate change*

The impact of climate change on water is a concern for farmers and adaptation is essential. Dealing with extreme conditions, whether drought or flood, will be necessary through cost-effective measures to ensure farming viability. Improvements to the water retention capacity of agricultural soils in arid regions, complemented by water storage reservoirs and the use of modern irrigation infrastructures, are crucial.

■ *Farming practices have become more environmentally friendly*

Significant progress has been made on water protection in the agriculture sector. This has to be acknowledged and valued in order to support farmers' efforts in this area.

■ *An effective set of risk management tools will be very important*

Farmers need access to these tools to help them face up to yield losses resulting from an excessive lack or surplus of water. Without targeted support, unpredictable financial losses may lead to farmers leaving the sector.

■ *Innovation is fundamental if we are to produce more while using less water and managing nutrients in a sustainable manner*

Investing in research to better understand the relationship between agricultural production and water management will be vital. It is necessary to improve and adjust resources for agricultural innovation in order to strengthen farmers' access to new technologies and farming practices.

■ *Advice and knowledge exchange on water-friendly practices is an important factor for success*

Farmers must be supported through professional training and advisory services in order to broaden their knowledge of environmental issues and build on their experience of using natural resources efficiently. There is a need for financial support in order to facilitate the exchange of best practices and farmers' experiences both within regions and across the EU.

Copa - Cogeca
61, Rue de Trèves
B-1040 Bruxelles
Tél 00 32 (0) 2 287 27 11
Fax 00 32 (0) 2 287 27 00
www.copa-cogeca.eu

“Side event” workshop on EIP on Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability – how could it work in practice?



Presentations available under:
RES(12)3958 - 69