

COPA-COGECA/ECPA/FERTILIZERS EUROPE/CEMA/ESA WORKSHOP ON PRODUCTIVITY AND GROWTH IN EUROPEAN AGRICULTURE

Presentation of the workshop

Productivity growth is a key driver for the competitiveness of agriculture and its contribution to the general economy and the employment. Domestically, a more competitive, profitable and resilient farming sector is needed to seize EU and global market opportunities, especially in a more trade-liberalised economy, and meet society's needs.

Over the past sixty years, productivity growth has been a major factor for boosting EU agricultural production, providing consumers with abundant food supplies at affordable prices, but it has slowed down since 2000. Recent prospects of rising world demand for food, feed, fuel and fibres, limited natural resources and climate change have raised again in international fora (G20, FAO, World Bank...) the need to increase production while improving agriculture's environmental footprint. The time has come to develop the concept of "green growth" in Europe: win-win solutions which contribute to a more efficient and greener production.

Given the challenges and opportunities that European agriculture will be facing in the coming decades, it is necessary to develop a good framework to incentivise productivity growth, in a way which also has an environmental benefit. To do so, we need to identify the current constraints to productivity growth and establish a strategic agenda on actions which might have the greatest potential to increase productivity, for instance through efficiency improvements and technical changes, also taking into account the possible impact on the environment. For the full effect and benefit of improvements in productivity to be seen, everyone from the upstream sector until the farm gate needs to commit, in the context of a supportive policy and sound scientific research. This requires complex and extensive discussions to agree on this common strategic agenda.

The workshop aims to put agricultural productivity in the political agenda for the EU by stimulating greater levels of awareness and interest in productivity growth. Representatives from across the farming sector, the agricultural input industry and EU Institutions should discuss together how to make sustainable progress in agriculture and thus contributing to economic growth. Consequently, the workshop looks for a coordinated work on the targets of productivity improvement of the European agriculture and the key areas and steps needed to reach them in the context of a strategic agenda on productivity and innovation in the farming sector.

Location: Copa-Cogeca Secretariat, 61 Rue de Trèves, 1040 Brussels.

Languages: Simultaneous interpretation into DE, EN, ES, FR, IT, PL and RO will be provided.

Date: 25th September 2013, from 10.00 am until 5.00 pm. Registration of participants opens at 9.00 am.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

10.00-10.15 WELCOME ADDRESS

Context of the workshop: new challenges and opportunities for agriculture.

Purpose of the workshop: put agricultural productivity in the political agenda for the EU, agree on a common strategic framework and launch coordinated work in this area.

10.15-11.00 SESSION I: SETTING THE SCENE

This session will present the underlying concepts and economic situation for the following sessions.

- ***Understanding agricultural productivity and its developments, by Catherine Moreddu, OECD***

How can productivity be defined and estimated? What are the determinants of productivity growth? Why productivity level and growth are important for the agri-food sector? What have been the recent trends of agricultural productivity growth at global level and for some selected economies? What is the future potential?

- ***Understanding the future of European agriculture, by MOMAGRI***

How will future demand and supply for agricultural products (food, feed, fuel and fibres) look like? What will be the consequent demand for agricultural inputs? Which potentially radical developments will affect the situation in the coming decades? What are the likely uncertainties, challenges but also opportunities for European farmers and their input suppliers?

- ***Debate with the audience***

11.00-12.30 SESSION II: POLICY CONTEXT AND INITIATIVES TO FOSTER SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTIVITY

This session will address the role of policies and private sector in fostering productivity in agriculture and initiatives which have been put in place both internationally and in the EU will be presented.

How do policies in Third countries and the EU address the issue of productivity in agriculture? How is a coherent policy framework ensured? What are the concrete initiatives put in place to improve the sector performance? What are their objectives and results? Can we identify best practices and learn policy recommendations?

- ***G20 initiatives***

Following the Action Plan on food price volatility and agriculture in June 2011 and the recommendations submitted by 12 international organisations to the G20 Mexican presidency in June 2012, what are the commitments of the G20 Russian presidency? What are the G20 countries' initiatives to support a more productive and sustainable global food and agriculture system? How do these initiatives work and how are they coordinated?

- ***Canada, by Clyde Graham, Canadian Fertilizer Institute***

- ***The European Union***

- *Evidence on productivity trends in the EU, the factors behind and the impact on the performance of EU agriculture and implication for the EU policy, by Tassos Haniotis, DG AGRI*

- *National initiatives: United Kingdom*, by Phil Bicknell, National Farmers' Union
- *National initiatives: Poland*, by Ph.D Mariusz Matyka, State Research Institute in Puławy

Debate with the audience

*** Lunch break ***

14.00-16.30 SESSION III: FOSTERING A SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY GROWTH IN THE EU

- ***The industry response***

This panel will look at the future challenges the European agricultural and upstream sectors identify and their strategy to improve productivity. The panel will also identify the current constraints to reach these objectives. For instance, some of the issues to be tackled are: increased resource efficiency, economies of scale, productivity impact on global trade, uptake of new technologies and innovative agricultural practices by farmers which also have an environmental benefit, contribution of factors of production, etc.

- *Developments in crop protection innovation*, by Euros Jones, European Crop Protection Association
- *The potential of smart equipment and precision farming*, by Gilles Dryancour, European Agricultural Machinery
- *Planting innovation - how the new EU seed law may boost sustainability and competitiveness of Europe's agri-food chain*, by Garlich v. Essen, European Seed Association
- *Infinite Fertilizer - Increasing productivity to continuing feeding the world*, by Christian Pallière, Fertilizers Europe
- *Green growth*, by Pekka Pesonen, Copa-Cogeca

- ***The policy response***

Which initiatives are needed to unlock European agriculture's potential and at what level (European/national, public/private)? How can they be better coordinated? What should be the specific role for governments? What kind of framework/structures can facilitate the development of solutions and their adoption by the sector? What kind of scientific support and systematic monitoring of productivity growth can be provided by the European Commission?

- European Commission, by Tassos Haniotis, DG AGRI
- European Commission, DG ESTAT
- European Commission, by Antonio Di Giulio, DG RESEARCH
- European Commission, DG SANCO
- European Parliament, COMAGRI

- ***Debate with the audience***

16.30-17.00 CONCLUSIONS

Key messages emerged from the discussions at the workshop and launch of a strategic agenda on productivity and innovation in the farming sector, on which actors of the agricultural and upstream sectors and EU Institutions should further reflect and develop.

Organisers



CEMA – EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY

CEMA is the association representing the European agricultural machinery industry. With 10 national member associations, the CEMA network represents both large multinational companies as well as the numerous European SMEs active in this sector. CEMA represents more than 4,500 manufacturers, producing more than 450 different machine types and generating an aggregated annual turnover of more than EUR 28 billion. 135,000 people are directly employed in the sector, with a further 125,000 people working in distribution and maintenance.

COPA-COGECA – THE VOICE OF EUROPEAN FARMERS AND THEIR COOPERATIVES



Copa (European farmers) and Cogeca (European agri-cooperatives) are the organisations which represent the vast majority of farmers and their cooperatives in the European Union. These organisations represent almost 26 million people working either full-time or part-time on EU farm holdings and 38,000 cooperatives. They have 70 member organisations from the EU Member States. Their aim is to defend the general interests of agriculture.



ECPA – EUROPEAN CROP PROTECTION

ECPA acts as the ambassador of the crop protection industry in Europe and represents the industry's European regional network. We promote modern agricultural technology in the context of sustainable development, one which protects the health of humans and the environment, and, in doing so, seek to build understanding of our role on why pesticides are needed, recognition of our contribution towards an affordable healthy diet, competitive agriculture and high quality of life, and uphold informed dialogue about our views, values and beliefs.



ESA – EUROPEAN SEED ASSOCIATION

ESA is the voice of the European seed industry, representing those active in research, breeding, production and marketing of seeds of agricultural and ornamental plant species. It represents more than 35 national seed associations (and with that more than 7000 seed businesses in the EU) and more than 70 direct company members.



FERTILIZERS EUROPE

Fertilizers Europe is the new name of the European Fertilizer Manufacturers Association, previously known as EFMA. As the single largest representative of mineral fertilizer manufacturers in Europe, we communicate with a broad range of legislators, experts and individual members of the public seeking information on fertilizer technology, as well as a diversity of topics relating to today's environmental, safety and economic challenges. The fertilizer has a vital role in feeding the world. Without mineral fertilizers human life is unsustainable.