



WHEN SPACE MEETS AGRICULTURE

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THE POSITION OF EUROPEAN FARMERS AND
COOPERATIVES ON THE USE OF REMOTELY PILOTED
AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (RPAS) IN AGRICULTURE
(Drones)

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Three topics

1. Copa and Cogeca
2. Major challenges
3. What do farmers need from technology?
4. The use of RPAs in agriculture
5. What is missing to close the gap?



Who are Copa and Cogeca?

Two organisations....

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 it one of the biggest and most active lobby organisations in Brussels

How is Copa and Cogeca organised?

The Praesidium

- Composed of the Presidents of the Member Organisations (66)
- Copa and Cogeca each have a Praesidium, Presidency and a President:



Martin Merrild (DK)
Current Copa President



Thomas Magnusson (SE)
Current Cogeca President

Main Challenges

- **One CAP – great variety of farm sizes and farming systems**
- **Agri-food chain as a driver of the EU economy:**
 - ✓ 40 million jobs in the EU and 3.5% of EU GDP
 - ✓ EU world's number one exporter of agricultural and food products. €130 billion in 2015
- We need to produce **more food** (but also feed, fiber and fuel) **for more people** with less land available due to urbanization but productivity growth is stagnating



**Agricultural
production growth
rates**
(source: FAO)

Main Challenges

Technological and Digital Transformation

Disruptive potential – What will happen to the agri-food value chain?

- ✓ Farming processes will become increasingly automated, connected, combined and integrated
- ✓ Increasing sharing of data between devices and operators – creation of value
- ✓ Traceability, Transparency;
- ✓ Farm Management (e.g.) inputs & outputs & role of the farmer
- ✓ Data Management - US model, cooperative, private, voluntary or open model?

What do farmers need technology & innovation to deliver?

Technological innovations must help farmers to...

- ...tackle higher prices volatility ... and income volatility!
- ...improve resource efficiency!
- ...improve productivity!
- ...deliver better public services!
- ...provide tools that increase the knowledge of measures to mitigate climate change and environmental processes!
- ...decrease red tape and bureaucracy!
- ...maintain high quality of EU products!

Technological innovations must deliver...

- ...more environmentally friendly machines!
- ...more targeted applications!
- ...better and more prosperous living conditions for our members!

Innovation needs to provide solutions and farmers need to access latest technology in order to respond to dynamic markets!



Complementary technology for agriculture

In **combination** with other “smart” techniques (e.g. satellite services),

- enhanced resource efficiency, productivity and profitability
- help **ease hard work**, reduce working time
- involve young entrepreneurs in agriculture.

Advantages: Drones provide a precise alternative of **intervention** in the field, flexibility, high resolution. Major (potential) use:

- ✓ **Monitoring** of production (e.g. nitrogen) and health status; Herd monitoring
- ✓ **Precision Spraying**, tracking and assets management, field mapping
- ✓ **Distribution of goods to remote areas**, Assistance in search & rescue, and conservation (e.g. wildlife);



Copa and Cogeca position on Drones

- ✓ Strong **EU market & provide regulatory** clarity
- ✓ Maintaining public **safety and privacy, cyber security**
- ✓ **Privacy & safety** measures proportional to the complexity of the operation
- ✓ **Spraying** – adjust distance requirements
- ✓ **Autonomous flying, precision navigation systems (GNSS)**
- ✓ Guarantee **access & control of data** by farmers
- ✓ **No weight limitations**
- ✓ **Data processing capabilities**
- ✓ Training



What is missing to close the gap?



- Infrastructure, solve issues of connectivity and interoperability (e.g. Broadband, Cloud)
- Easy to use technology with EU standards, with affordable prices
- On farm and multi-actor research that brings added value to farmers and cooperatives
- Training (e.g. digital skills)
- Data ownership
- Coherent strategy to promote a digital & technological transformation of EU agriculture (e.g. needs space technology)



MANY THANKS!

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