



Copa-Cogeca: European Farming and GM Crops

Who are Copa and Cogeca?

Two organisations...

- representing 30 million farmers and their families
- as well as around 40,000 cooperatives
- with strong links to other European countries

Who are Copa and Cogeca?

The Praesidium

- Composed of the Presidents of the Member Organisations (76)
- Copa and Cogeca each have a Praesidium, Presidency and a President:



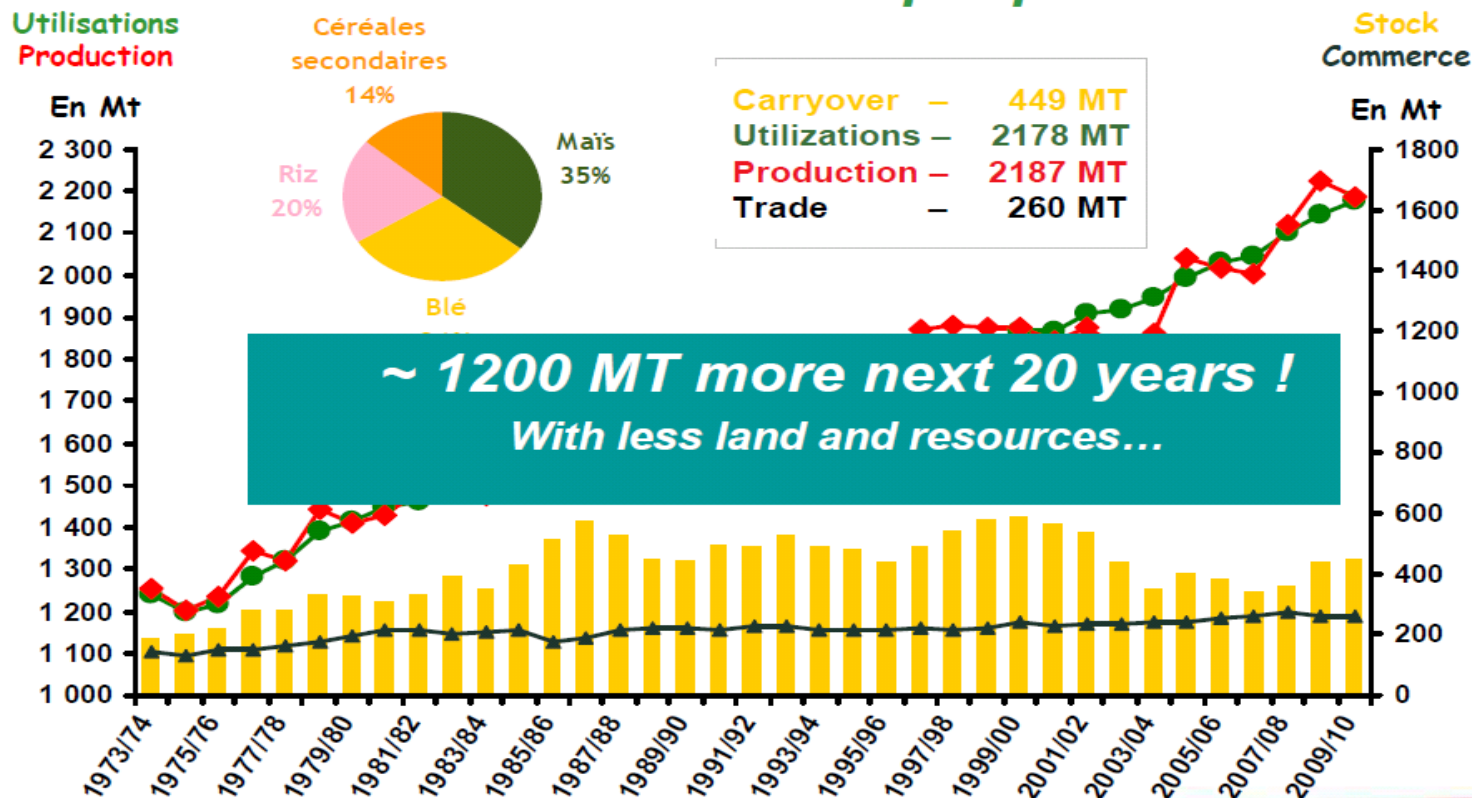
Gerd Sonnleitner (DE)
Current Copa President



Paolo BRUNI (IT)
Current Cogeca President

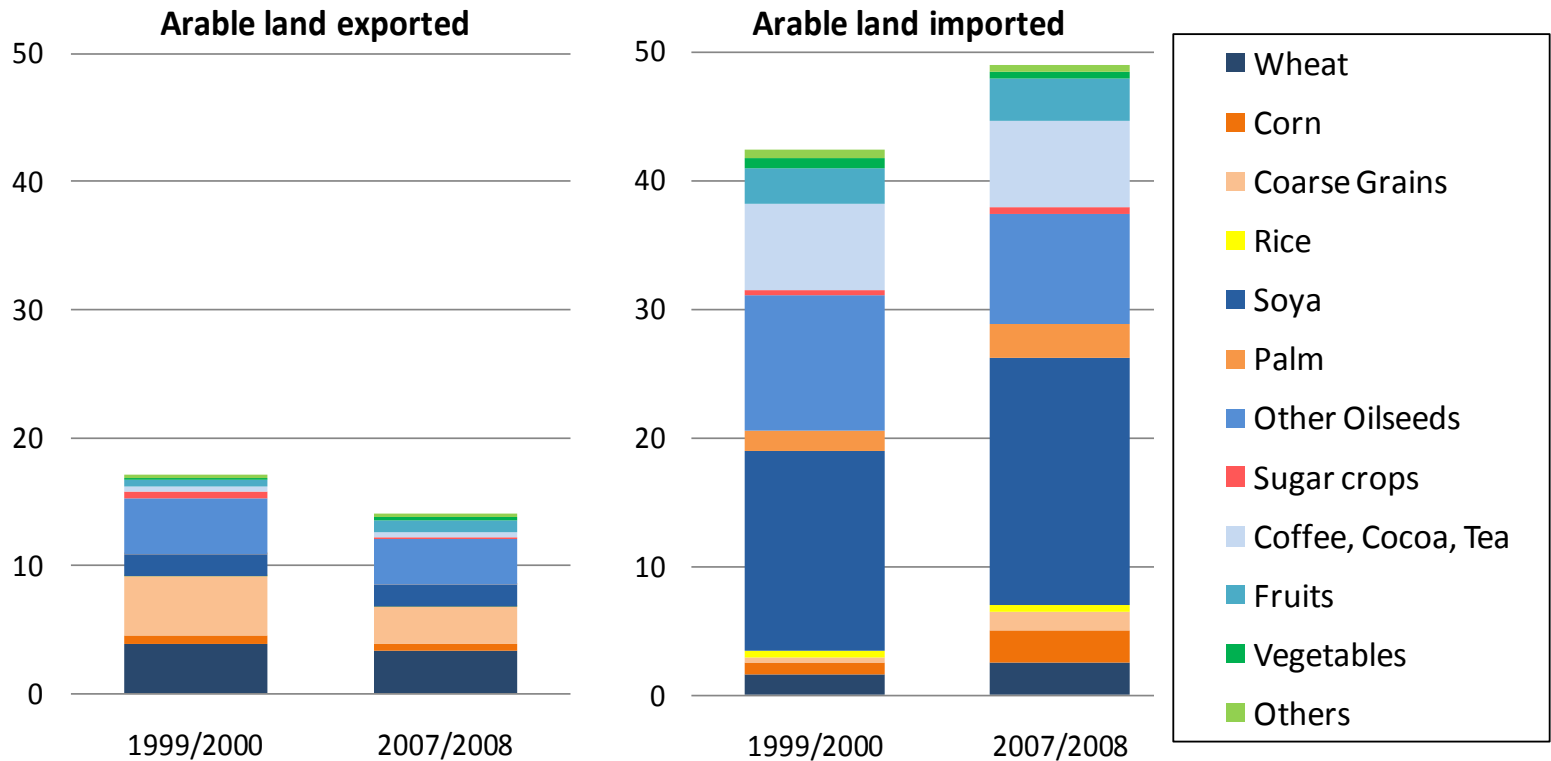
Which task for Agriculture ?

Cereals : 70% world food & feed ! 2030 : 9 Billion people ?



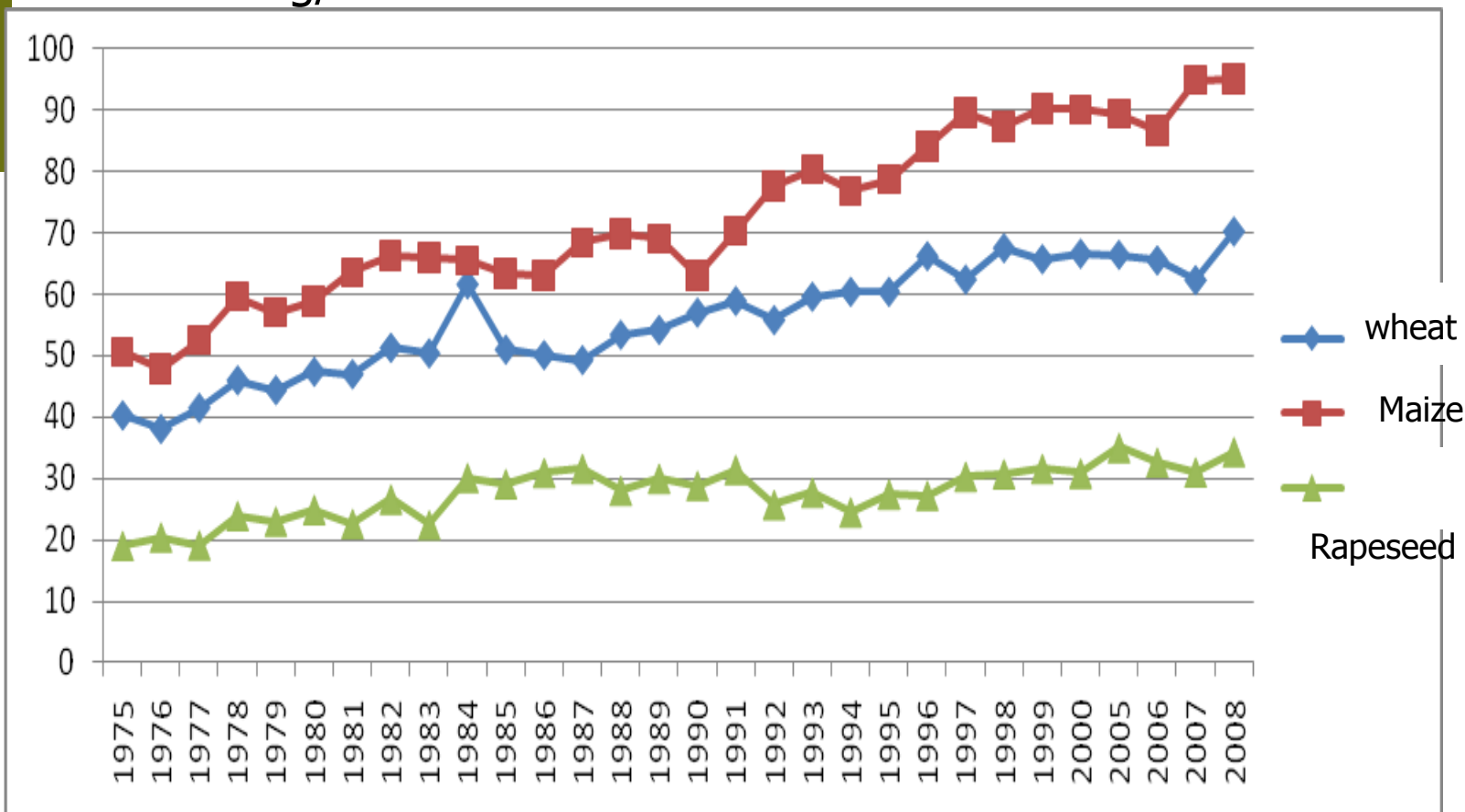
Source : WASDE Mai 2009

But EU already use 35 millions Ha of arable land out side EU to feed its consumers



A low trend in productivity by ha

Yield: 100 kg/ha

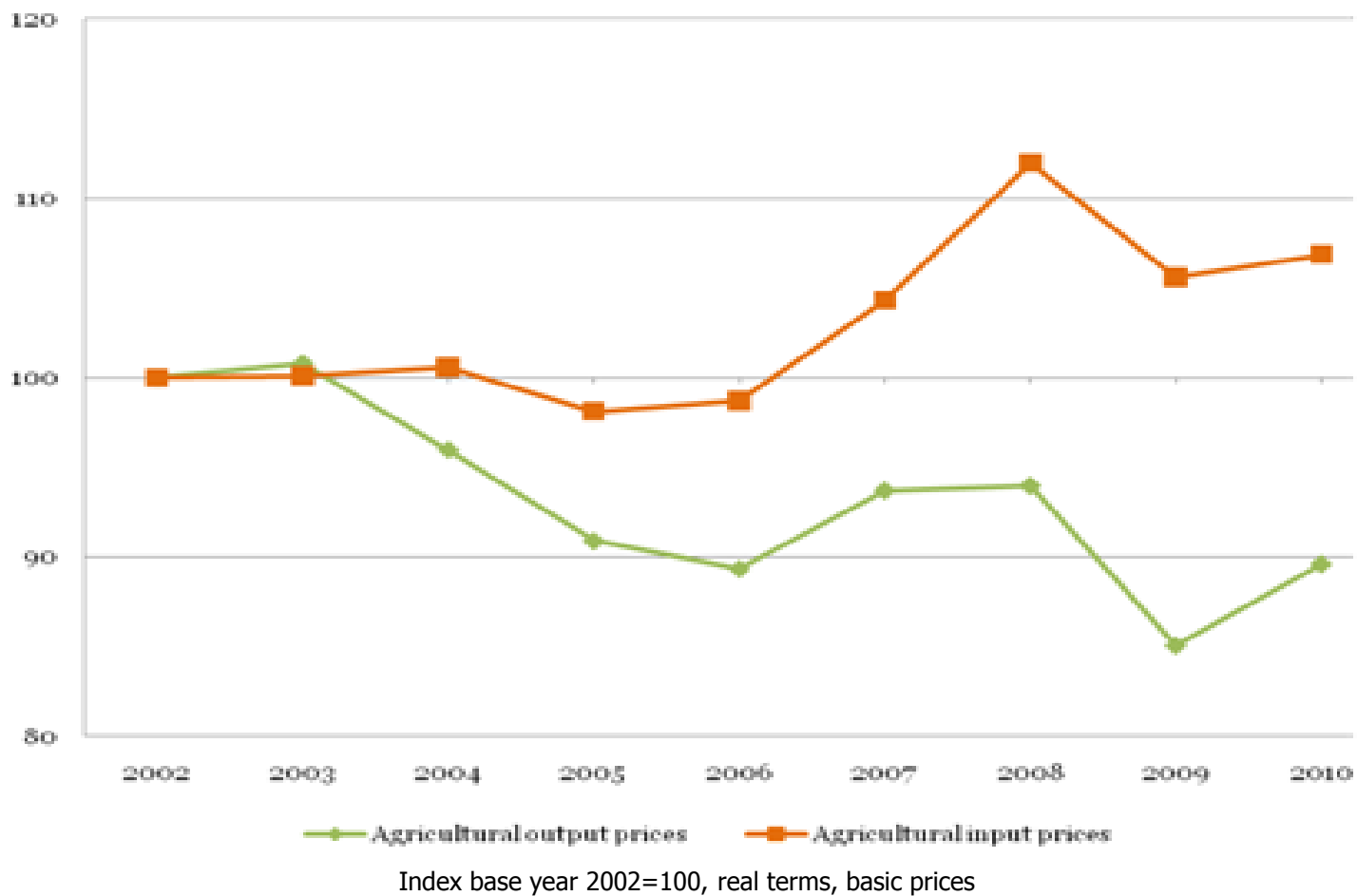


For
UE 15

EU Agriculture

- Agricultural outputs represent 326 billion euros in 2009, 30 millions of farmers + 15 million people working for the farming sector;
- in which Crop sector represent 175 billion euros; value stable compare to 2001 (cereals production = $\frac{1}{4}$)
- EU Farm income still 50% lower than the EU average;
- Cost – Price squeeze is the becoming the first problem;

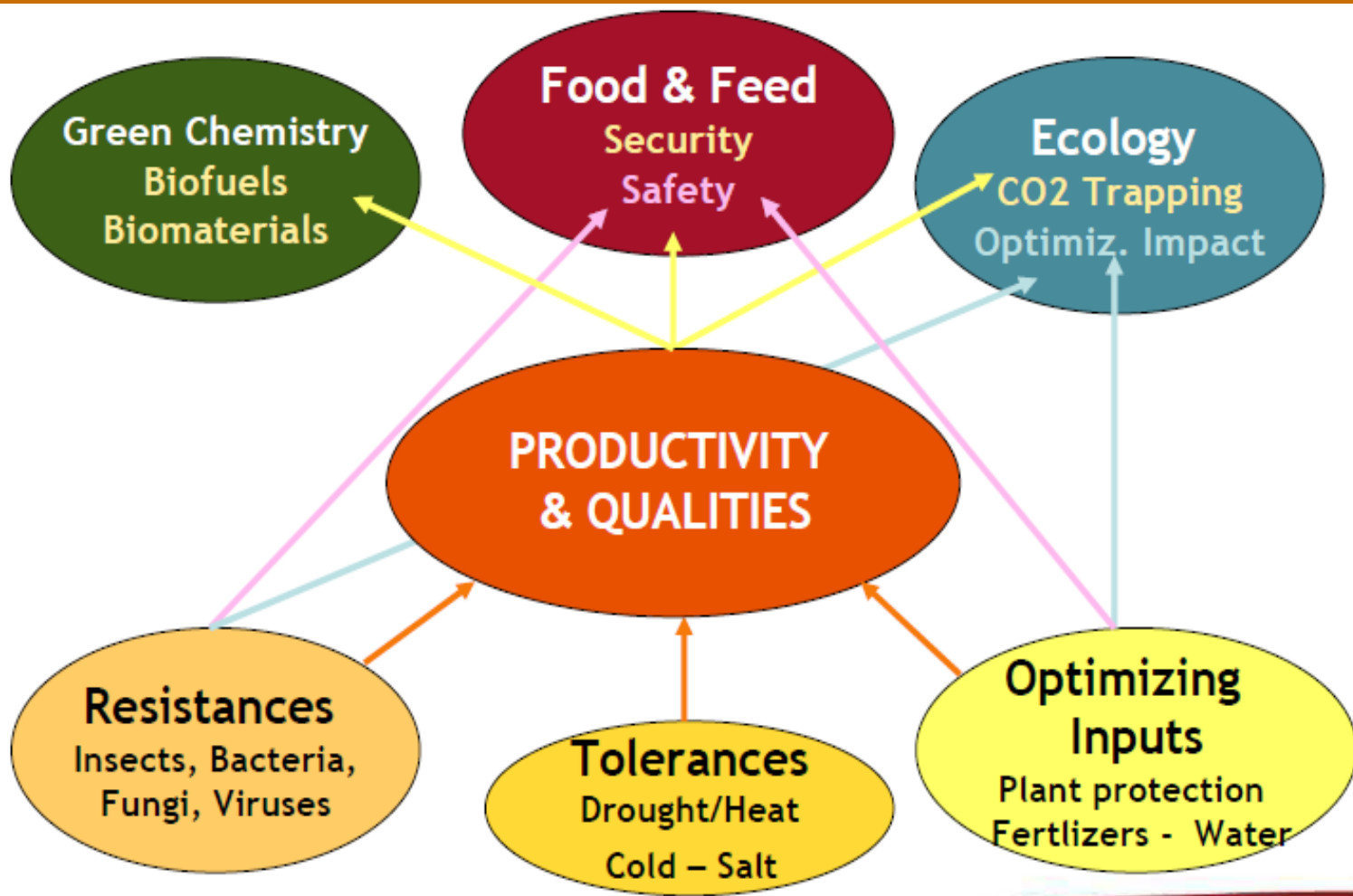
Cost-price squeeze in the EU-27



GM and EU Agriculture

- **In livestock sector:**
 - EU imports 80% of vegetable protein for its livestock sector
 - 85% of the imports contain GM material
- **In crops sector:**
 - **Few experiences** in EU (except Spain and Romania, less than 100 000 ha);
 - farm income higher by 15% (example in Spain);
 - Productivity is higher in US than in EU using GM
 - Increase the reluctance of seed breeding companies to invest in the EU also in conventional breeding

A Challenge: Producing more and Better



Farmers: to be part of the process



ESA

“Plants for the Future”

copa*cogeca
european farmers european agri-cooperatives

European Technology
Platform

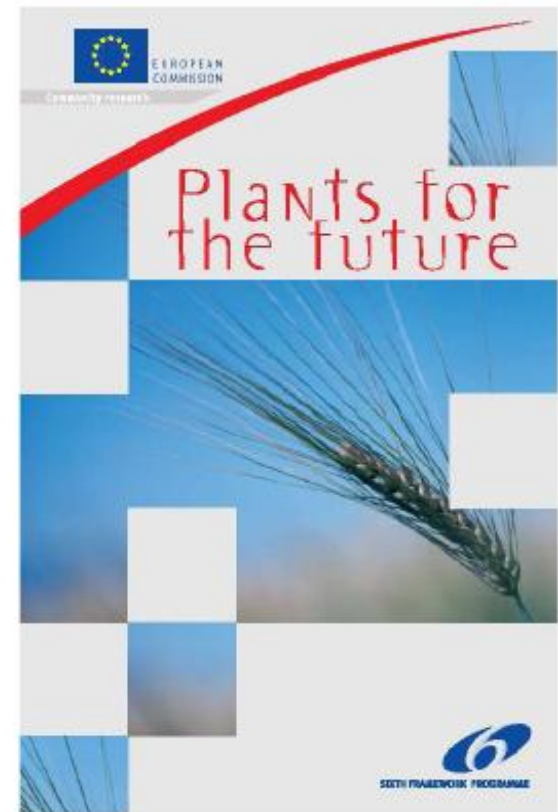
« Plants for the
Future ».

2025

*A European vision
for genomics and
plant biotechnologies*

SRA 2007

www.plantetp.org



COPA-COGECA and GM

- **The coexistence** of the various type of agriculture is our priority: organic – conventional and GM
- The European Farmer's point of view is based on **2 guidelines: Freedom of choice** for consumers and the farmers
- Separation between **risk assessment** and **risk management** should be the cornerstone of the European legislation

Precautionary principle !!!



GM and future

- **Food security** is back on the top of the agenda of EU policies: “produce more and better”;
- **The key areas for farmers** in relation with GM in the future:
 - Competitiveness;
 - Choice of consumers;
 - Environmental regulation.
- EU Farmers want to see investment in Biotechnology that fits Europe's crop growing areas and climate
- Agricultural production needs to increase at the same time as we need to improve the use of inputs.

Thank you!
www.copa-cogeca.eu