

The expectation from a farmers perspective of monitoring tools

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Who are Copa and Cogeca?

Copa – European farmers

Bringing together 60 EU farmers' organisations

Cogeca – European agri-cooperatives

Bringing together 35 EU agricultural cooperative organisations



Who are Copa and Cogeca ?

Two organisations...

- representing 12 million farms full-time or part-time
- as well as around 23,000 cooperatives
- with strong links to other European countries
- among the biggest and most active interest representations in Brussels



What is European agriculture

- Only abt. 100.000 farms are specialized in grain production out of the total of 12 million Farms in EU 28
- Average size of farms in EU 28 is 18 ha
- But: cereals represent the main export of Ag.-products after wine → more or less a value of 6 airbus 380 planes a month.
- This has an impact on full EU scale, not only the Ag. Sector
- The main exported cereals are, (milling) wheat and barley



World food demand is growing fast

- It will increase by 40% by 2040 → due to the change in consumption more towards meat
 - Protein in the feed will be needed
- The middle class would eat more bread
 - Same level of consumption than in EU today
 - Quality will be as important as yeald.
- Nitrogen is needed both for yeald and quality
 - 70% of the yeald is correlated to Nitrogen
 - 40% of the production cost are represented by N
- Presition farming allow farmers to increase level of Protein



The drivers and demands for the farmers

- Productivity
- Profitability
- Positive and secure farm income
- Competitiveness in the market (world market)

- Produce more with less (the same)
- Produce (better) quality
- More sustainable production

- Here we have the drivers/expectations on the Tool from a farmers perspective



From the farmers perspective

- Farmers are looking at the same time for yield and quality.
- If the farmers have no access to the food market, the management of N will not have any economic interest → new varieties need more fertilizer
- The approach of the Tool is interesting if more flexibility can be integrated in N use, as the current limit of the nitrogen directive is not a smart approach
- The use of N is also linked to the climate conditions here the tool can come in handy.
- Can the use of the Tool help to get better understanding from the big public in environment perspective.
- As the Tool will be used by the big feed/food companies world wide, what will it do to the market ?



From the farmers perspective

- The use of the Tool should be voluntary
- It can/should not be incorporated in the legislation
- The data collected and its use should be clarified → rules on Big Data in EU and the rest of the world.
- The farmers need to be ensured that the data from the Tool is NOT used for anticipating market positions on the cereals or fertilizers market.

- The Tool IS VERY interesting as long as the rules on use and ownership of the data is in place.

Thank you!

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