



Sustainability and productivity in the phytosanitary dossier: the issue of plant protection products

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Why should we take more care for agriculture ?

Food and agriculture is gaining more and more attention from governments worldwide

because :

- food demand is rising**
- production capacity is in decline due to climate change and land resources**
- result: market volatility is on the increase and therefore**

It is essential for EU to maintain a strong agricultural sector

Our response to these challenges

For COPA – COGECA it is crystal clear

Our main goal is :

- make full use of all production potential**
- whilst ensuring environmental sustainability**

As farmers and growers we do think that :

Sustainability and productivity are two sides of the same coin

We need to extend our focus

**Over past 20 years EU focus has been mainly focused
in the way food was produced**

We have developed and implemented the:

- Highest food safety standards**
- Highest environmental standards**

But :

Food production itself has been taken for granted

What are we looking for :

Now it is time to refocus as follows :

- we need to reinforce production role of farmers
- make EU-Agriculture a dynamic, innovative and profitable sector
- while maintaining high safety standards, it is crucial to make the sector better equipped with right and appropriate tools to protect their plants (e.g. specialty crops and minor uses still an issue !)
- to ensure food security through stability of production

Sustainability needs profitability

Sustainability is a 3 pillar construction:

- people: providing food for people**
- planet: taking environmental concerns into account**
- profit: farmers should have the tools to build economically sustainable future**

Nr 1 : is in place but on the increase (EU net importer of agricultural products)

Nr 2 : strongly captured in legislation

Nr 3 : should be put back in focus

Everything starts with communication

- **The high level of sustainability of the EU policy in the area of food safety and environmental protection should be explained to our society**
- **More transparency and science based discussions are needed**
- **Especially in view of the balance between needs and benefits of PPPs and the potential risks**
- **Consumers have often perception of danger**
- **We need better communication :**
where we came from, where we are , where we are going too;
e.g. : - loss of hundreds of actives
 - **new legislation on IPM**
 - **legal requirements and safety of MRL's**

Coordination and credibility

Legislation is set in place but :

- **EU Harmonization of MRL's is overruled by private secondary standards:**
 - * **this is a very confusing message to the consumer**
 - * **not helping farmers to comply with GAP**
 - * **undermining competency and credibility of public authorities as safeguards of public health**
- **SUD implementation is under construction but not in a very coordinated way (no overview on EU level) with a risk of distorting competition among EU Member States**
- **Reg. (EC) 1107/2009 will start new ERA but there is no long term plan how to deal with specialty crops and minor uses.**

Work to be done

Our priorities are :

**Harmonize standards and definitions across EU and at global level
(see GMUS Feb, 2012)**

- To avoid distortion of the market and competition**
- To ensure common understanding on food safety**

But most of all :

**we need short term and structural solution for
minor uses and specialty crops**

Our focus is on minor uses and specialty crops

Copa-Cogeca and food chain partners have high expectations of the EC report on minor uses.

We cannot loose this momentum because :

- There is an urgent need both for short term immediate solutions and for a permanent “sustainable” programme for minor uses and specialty crops**
- Food security and competitiveness of whole agri food chain is under threat is at stake ;**
- 10 Brussels based food chain federations are working together to bring this issues under attention of EU and MS**

Why is that so important ?

- **Minor uses and specialty crops represents 20-22% of total value EU-Ag production**
- **Minor Uses and Specialty crops apply to specific uses in common crops such as F&V, cereals (rice), seeds, hops, flowers and plants**
- **Tailor made use for breeding, growing, storage, transportation**
- **EU has to preserve these strategically important sectors**

Summary and conclusions

- **Demand for food is increasing**
- **Specialty crops are fulfilling demand for variation in diet**
- **European farmers and their agri-coops want EU to provide legal tools to do their job**
- **Especially for F&V there is an urgent need for :**
 - * **Immediate solutions for contemporary daily problems**
 - * **Mid and long term strategic and operational programme to provide appropriate tool box**

Bottom line

SUSTAINABILITY AND PRODUCTIVITY

TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN

Ag sector is interested in both of them

Enjoy the benefits of EU agriculture



Thank you for your attention