

Impact of GM crops on environment: Farmer's point of view



What are Copa and Cogeca ?

Copa – European farmers

Representing 60 farmers' organisations from EU27

Cogeca – European Agri Cooperatives

Representing 35 national organisations of agri-coops from EU27

What are Copa and Cogeca?

Two organisations...

- Representing 30 million farmers and their families;
- As well as around 40,000 cooperatives;
- We take care about the concerns as well as of conventional, organic and biotech agriculture.

COPA-COGECA and GM

- **Few experiences** in EU (except Spain and Roumania)
- European Farmer's point of view is based on **2 guidelines**:
 - **freedom of choice** for the farmers and consumers;
 - **Liability** of the scheme ;
- **The coexistence** of the various type of Agriculture is our priority;
- **The mainstream for farmers** in relation with GM in the future:
 - Competitiveness;
 - Choice of consumers;
 - Environmental regulation.

Impact of GM crops on environment

- **Decrease of pesticide used** and impact on environment:
 - In Spain cut by 26 to 36% for insecticide;
 - Concerning herbicide (not used in UE) but possibility of cut by 10%.
- The GM could also open an opportunity to shift from conventional tillage to a **more simplify tillage**
- More knowledge is necessary concerning **saving carbon emission** ?
 - less input needed;
 - less fuel due to the simplify till;
 - the sequestration capacity of the soil ?

Questions for the future ?

- A European risk assessment, also for environmental aspect, should be manage only at European level;
- The impact of climate change on the various strategies to fight again new pests or virus should be assess;
- The coexistence measures are in the field of risk management but farmers need more science evidence also to implement properly G.M. (work of JRC).



Merci!

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