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Open Science and access to technologies and solutions – the importance of access to agricultural technologies and of building partnerships between scientists and farmers.

We (Copa-Cogeca, European farmers, European agri-cooperatives) desperately need better, more sustainable solutions for farming (better genetic material for seeds and livestock, PPPs, veterinary pharmaceuticals, machinery, data processing capabilities, digital solutions, networks...). The European public opinion has had some reservations when it comes to the use of certain technologies in food production. However, farming community is struggling between the international market realities and the European consumer preferences. All too often, EU farmers face higher input costs that the consumer market is not able or willing to cover. However, we remain optimistic. For instance, New Breeding Techniques will provide some opportunities for the EU farming, provided that each of these technologies is assessed on their own merits. Furthermore, the use of modern machinery, equipped with GPS, supported by EU systems such as Galileo and Copernicus (to which farming community contributed with some funds) and BIG DATA can help farmers to achieve ambitious objectives. We support our European businesses and research bodies to develop new, innovative solutions for farming, in particular taking into account our European conditions. Europe has been the leading region in improving agricultural productivity by better genetic material. Plant breeders' open access to existing gene pool is essential. Survival of European agriculture requires superior knowledge and use of the latest innovative technologies, in line with consumer market expectations. It's therefore of European farmers interest that Europe remains a global leader in research and innovation to ensure farmers reap the benefits of new technologies and solutions adapted to our farmer's needs.