



Innovation prize
for women farmers

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Introduction

The Copa Women's Committee is introducing a European prize for innovation, entitled the "innovation prize for women farmers".

The aim of this prize is to promote a positive image of women farmers and to identify the activities of women farmers which constitute innovation and meet certain criteria.

This prize will be awarded every two years and the inaugural award will be presented on 15 October 2009 on the World Rural Women's Day.

The role that women farmers play is fundamental in the life of rural areas and on farms. According to the statistics, women farmers represent 43% of the European Union's agricultural workforce and 20% of women are farm managers, without accounting for spouses and the family workforce whose work is often overlooked and frequently goes unnoticed.

Criteria

The prize will be awarded according to the following criteria:

1. The use of new know-how, new methods or new forms of technology in a sector or on the land:

- sector-based innovation may include working or organisational methods, the introduction of new forms of technology which bring about change with regard to existing technology. Innovation may also consist of adapting or modernising existing technology,

- or on the land: the use of new tools (technical or organisational) in a geographical area where they were previously lacking
- fostering the creation or provision of services which make it easier to strike a balance between professional and family life
- innovation in the diversification of on-farm activities

2. Transferring innovation:

Innovation must not be limited to one single farm but should have an impact or an effect:

- on all holdings in the same sector of production;
- on the surrounding area;
- on an area's relations with the outside world;
- innovation does not only affect production on the farm, but also the packaging of products;
- channels of distribution;
- and exporting agricultural products.

3. Sustainability of innovation:

Innovation must have a certain longevity and should stand the test of time in order to have an effect instead of appearing and disappearing in a short space of time.

Some activity categories could be covered by the prize, for example:

- Projects for promoting female entrepreneurship for promoting and offering advice on good commercial practices for agricultural products
- Supplying new products, new ways of evaluating endogenous resources

- Supplying new services
- Using new manufacturing/production processes
- Researching new markets, new clientele
- New forms of partnership and organisation

Submitting a candidate's nomination

The entry form is available in all of the Copa-Cogeca working languages in electronic format and can be downloaded from the Copa-Cogeca website (www.copa-cogeca.eu).

To that end, a link to all of the prize information will appear on the Copa-Cogeca website.

The application should include the following elements:

- Name, details of the organisation putting the candidate forward
- Information on the organisation
- Declaration form
- A description of the example of innovation (using video, photos, CD, etc) and any other useful material for assessing the innovation submitted
- The impact and effects on the sector, existing technology and (or) the land
- Justification for the innovation's existence (transferring it to other farms or areas, sustainability)

The application form must be completed in one of the official Copa-Cogeca languages and if possible with a copy in English. The presentation must not exceed 3 pages. Audio-visual material may be submitted in the candidate's mother tongue.

The jury

- Secretary General of Copa
- Chairwoman of the Women's Committee
- A representative from the European Commission
- A member of the EP
- A member of the Economic and Social Committee

The Secretary General of Copa will chair the Jury

Nature of the prize

- The prize consists of a certificate and a trophy, symbolising the objectives pursued by the Women's Committee.

Publicity

- Announcement on the Copa-Cogeca website and those of various agricultural organisations affiliated with the women's

committee.

- Communication with European Institutions and national and regional authorities. Article for the agricultural press, publication, use of internet, video technology, etc.

Relevant dates in 2009:

- All applications must be sent by registered mail, by courier or delivered by hand to the Copa-Cogeca secretariat (rue de Trèves 61, B-1040 Brussels) at the very latest by **16 March 2009**
- Compilation of the list of eligible candidates **27 March 2009**
- Analysis, screening and selection of applications **April – May 2009**
- Examination and jury decision **11th to 29th June 2009**
- Prizewinners notified of the jury's decision **July 2009**
- Prizewinners' presentation **15 October 2009**



PRESENTATION OF COPA:
THE VOICE OF EUROPEAN FARMERS

Copa (Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations in the European Union) is the organisation which represents the vast majority of farmers in the European Union. It represents 15 million people working either full-time or part-time on EU farm holdings and has 60 member organisations from the EU Member States. Its aim is to defend the general interests of agriculture.

Copa
European Farmers

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