



**COPA-COGECA**

**COEXISTENCE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED,  
CONVENTIONAL AND ORGANIC CROPS**

**FREEDOM OF CHOICE**

**VIENNA 4-6 April 2006**

**PANEL ON CONSUMER ATTITUDE AND MARKET RESPONSES TO GMOs,  
VIEWPOINT OF STAKEHOLDERS**

**COEXISTENCE: COPA-COGECA's VIEWS**

**PRESENTATION BY RICARDO SERRA-ARIAS, VICE-PRESIDENT OF COPA**



# FARMERS CANNOT JUST IGNORE INNOVATION...

➔ CONSUMER DEMAND FOR HIGH QUALITY

➔ SAFE FOOD RESPECTING THE ENVIRONMENT



**... AS A WORLD WITHOUT INNOVATION  
IS A DECLINING WORLD**

➔ GENE TECHNOLOGY IS PART OF IT

➔ GENE TECHNOLOGY IS NOT RESTRICTED  
TO GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS



# PRINCIPLES FOR THE USE OF GENE TECHNOLOGY

## CONSUMER CONFIDENCE PARAMOUNT

➔ RESPECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

➔ COMPREHENSIVE SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENT



# PRINCIPLES FOR THE USE OF GENE TECHNOLOGY

➔ POSSIBILITY OF CHOICE FOR ALL TYPES OF PRODUCTION

➔ CLEAR, INFORMATIVE LABELLING SYSTEM



## PRINCIPLES FOR THE USE OF GENE TECHNOLOGY

➡ IMPORTS MUST BE COVERED: KEY ISSUE, COMPETITION AT STAKE

➡ “GMO” OR “GM-FREE” PRODUCTION ZONES: ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS



# COEXISTENCE IS POSSIBLE TO MANAGE

➔ MAIZE EXAMPLE

➔ RAPESEED: WE SHOULD MOVE AHEAD  
ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS



## COEXISTENCE IS POSSIBLE TO MANAGE

- ➔ COEXISTENCE IN CROP PRODUCTION AT A 0.9% THRESHOLD IS FEASIBLE WITH FEW CHANGES OR NO CHANGES IN AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES (LATEST JRC STUDY)
  
- ➔ NO EXTRA COSTS WITHOUT FINANCIAL RETURN



## COEXISTENCE IS POSSIBLE TO MANAGE

- ➔ SUBSTANCE OF THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION IS OK
- ➔ COMMISSION SHOULD HAVE THE COMPETENCE TO TAKE ACTION VIS-A-VIS MEMBER STATES – EU ISSUE



**COPA-COGECA**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION**

