



**Integration of Women in Rural  
Areas.  
Copa Women Committee**

# Copa Women's Committee

## ESTABLISHED IN 1968

- Copa-Cogeca represents 23 million European farmers and family members
- The Women's Committee is composed by Women farmers and delegates of Copa member organisations
- Women's Committee is Member of the **European Women's Lobby**

# Copa Women's Committee

## Objectives

- To **represent women in agriculture** at the European Institutions
- To analyse the **problems faced by women in agriculture** and to propose appropriate solutions
- To maintain regular **contact with the European Commission** (DG Agri and DG Empl) and the **European Parliament**, as well as the Economic and Social Committee

## Gender equality at the international level:

The world's most powerful framework for international and national gender equality and practices is the Beijing Declaration (1995) and its Platform for Action

- It was implemented by the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC);
- It's discussing, from 14<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> of March 2016 "the women's empowerment and its links to sustainable development" in New York in its 60th session.

# Copa Women's Committee

The **women's empowerment** is essential for:

- respecting human rights
- economic, social and environmental sustainability .

Also the **Lisbon Treaty** calls the EU for “**equality between women and men**” (Article 2(3))

# Copa Women's Committee

The **rural development policies: 6<sup>th</sup> priority** refers to the gender issues via the promotion of social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas, focusing in particular the:

- Diversification, creation and development of small enterprises and job creation;
- Fostering local development in rural areas
- Enhancing accessibility to, and use and quality of ICT in rural areas.

**In general, it's requested to Member States address the gender aspect by:**

- Adequately analyse women's situation in rural areas;
- And design programmes in accordance with women's situation in rural areas.

# Copa Women's Committee

**But**

a lot still needs to be done.

No more Advisory Group on Women in Rural Areas  
(representing them at EU level)

... the Rural Women's participation at the EU level has to be done by "lobbying" in special the Rural Development Civil dialogue group and the European Institutions directly.

... and the gender equality policies are also suffering from an aggravated underinvestment due to austerity measures.

# Copa Women's Committee

## Regulation on support the rural development (Reg. 1305/2013)

**Thematic sub programmes for women in rural areas (Article 7 (e))**

**Training and knowledge transfer measures (Article 14)**

**Farm relief services (Article 15)**

**Investments in physical assets (Article 17)**

**Farm and business development (Article 19)**

**Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (Article 20)**

**Co-operation (Article 35)**

**LEADER local groups (Article 42-44)**



# Copa Women's Committee

## More action needed from the Commission, the national, regional and local authorities (I) :

- Support projects and offer advice on creating **innovative agricultural activities** in rural areas;
- Promote the concept of **multi-functionality**, which refers to extra activities developed on or outside of the farm, in addition to the farm's production role;
- Encourage and support entrepreneurial **networks** (ex: women national organisations) **to improve and promote new skills, education and training**;
- Encourage and support the women's participation in **decision-making**;
- Encourage and support the **access to credit**;

# Copa Women's Committee

## More action needed from the Commission, the national, regional and local authorities (II):

- Women national organisations can also **influence the national and regional network action plan and can share best practices** . Example: the Women's Committee of COPA is promoting an Innovation Award for Women Farmers to improve the visibility of the central role of women involved in farming and to better acknowledge the many innovative approaches that women take towards agriculture and diversification through the EU.
- Secure **social protection** measures based in equal rights for men and women;

# Copa Women's Committee

## More action needed from the Commission, the national, regional and local authorities (III) :

- Develop information **databases and networks** at Member State level in order to register and raise awareness about the economic and social situation of women in rural areas;
- Improving the quality and **accessibility of infrastructure, facilities and services** for everyday life in rural areas;

# Copa Women's Committee

## More action needed from the Commission, the national, regional and local authorities (IV) :

- LEADER can have **dedicated topics** for action related to women involved in farming: women represent slightly less than 50% of the total population in rural areas but only around 61% are employed; only 30.15 % of farm holders were women in 2013. **Bigger representation of women in LEADER projects?**
- **Young women farmers** ought to have a central role in all the discussion of the condition of women and the **link** between women farmers and the young women farmers has to be done.

# Copa Women's Committee

## Conclusion:

The agriculture has a central role in the social cohesion, in the economic growth and diversification but also to fix population in rural areas and empowering women involved in farming, promoting their power and control over their own lives on economic, socio-cultural and political spheres, will stimulate the important process in reaching gender equality – that is when “rights, responsibilities and opportunities of individuals will not depend on whether they are born male or female” .





**Copa-Cogeca:**

**Defending and developing the  
European Model of Agriculture**

**[www.copa-cogeca.eu](http://www.copa-cogeca.eu)**