



PRESS RELEASE

Code of Conduct on agricultural data sharing sets the scene for digital farming

Brussels, 23 of April 2018 - A coalition of associations from the EU agri-food chain launched a joint EU Code of Conduct on agricultural data sharing in Brussels today. The Code promotes the benefits of sharing data and enables agri-business models, including agri-cooperatives and other agri-businesses, to swiftly move into an era of digitally enhanced farming. The Code sheds greater light on contractual relations and provides guidance on the use of agricultural data, particularly the rights to access and use the data.

The signatories of the Code believe that access to accurate agricultural data is vital to develop digital farming enabling farmers and cooperatives to produce more using less resources. In order to fully reap the benefits of digital farming, sharing Data between different partners in the agro-food chain must be conducted in a fair and transparent way. This EU Code of Conduct on Agricultural Data Sharing by Contractual Arrangement agreed by Copa and Cogeca, CEMA, Fertilizers Europe, CEETAR, CEJA, ECPA, EFFAB, FEFAC, ESA, aims to set transparent principles, clarifying responsibilities and creating trust among partners. It sets out key guidelines for operators to follow, combined with a check list. Granting access to the necessary data will facilitate and accelerate data driven business models.

The Code recognises the need to grant the data originator (the one who has created/collected the data either by technical means or by himself or who has commissioned data providers for this purpose) a leading role in controlling the access to and use of data from their business and to benefit from sharing the data with any partner that wishes to use their data. The guidelines underline that the right to determine who can access and use the data is attributed to the data originator. In practice this means that for instance, the rights on data produced on the farm or during farming operations is attributed to the farmer and may be used exclusively by him.

"I welcome the EU Code of conduct on agricultural data sharing initiated by the stakeholders of the agro-food sector. As Europe is moving towards a more modern and more sustainable CAP, technological solutions will be more important than ever, giving precision agriculture and data-driven solutions a crucial role to play," **EU Agriculture Commissioner Phil Hogan said.**

"As we move towards completing the European data economy by making more data available and flow freely, I am happy to see the agri-food sector joining forces to tackle an important bottleneck on the journey towards digital agriculture," **Commissioner Gabriel said.**

[Click HERE](#) for more details of this EU Code of Conduct on Agricultural Data Sharing by Contractual Arrangement to reap the benefits of digital agriculture.

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COPA AND COGECA

Copa and Cogeca are the united voice of farmers and agri-cooperatives in the EU. Together, they ensure that EU agriculture is sustainable, innovative and competitive, guaranteeing food security to half a billion people throughout Europe. Copa represents over 13 million farmers and their families whilst Cogeca represents the interests of 22,000 agricultural cooperatives. They have 66 member organisations from the EU member states.

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CEMA

CEMA (www.cema-agri.org) is the European association representing the agricultural machinery industry. With 10 national member associations, the CEMA network represents both large multinational companies and numerous European SMEs active in this sector.

CEMA includes 4,500 manufacturers of agricultural equipment producing 450 different types of machines, and generating an aggregated annual turnover of more than EUR 28 billion. 135,000 people are directly employed in the sector, with a further 125,000 people working in distribution and maintenance.

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Fertilizers Europe

Fertilizers Europe represents the majority of fertilizer producers in Europe and is recognized as the dedicated industry source of information on mineral fertilizers. The association communicates with a wide variety of institutions, legislators, stakeholders and members of the public who seek information on fertilizer technology and topics relating to today's agricultural, environmental and economic challenges.

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CEJA

The European Council of Young Farmers (CEJA) represents the interests of young farmers to the EU institutions and other stakeholders. Now in its 60th year, CEJA's membership is composed of 31 national organisations and around 2 million young farmers from across Europe.

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CEETTAR

The European Organisation of Agricultural, Rural and Forestry Contractors (CEETTAR), created in 1961, represents 150,000 independent enterprises and 600,000 employees, affiliated to 19 national organisations in 17 Member States.

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ESA

ESA European Seed Association is the voice of the European seed industry, representing the interests of those active in research, breeding, production and marketing of seeds of agricultural, horticultural and ornamental plant species. Today, ESA has more than 35 national member associations, from EU Members States and beyond, representing several thousand seed businesses, as well as more than 70 direct company members, including from seed related industries.

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FEFAC

FEFAC, the European Compound Feed Manufacturers' Federation, represents 23 national Associations in 23 EU Member States as well as Associations in Switzerland, Turkey, Serbia, Russia and Norway with observer/associate member status. The European compound feed industry employs over 100,000 persons on app. 3,500 production sites often in rural areas, which offer few employment opportunities. For more information see our web site (www.fefac.eu) or please contact Alexander Döring, Secretary General Tel. +32-2-285.00.50, Fax +32-2-230.57.22, e-mail: fefac@fefac.eu

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ECPA

ECPA represents the crop protection industry in Europe; innovative and science-based, our solutions keep crops healthy and contribute to providing Europeans with a safe, affordable, healthy, and sustainable food supply. We promote modern farming practices and champion the use of crop protection technology important for the sustainable intensification of agriculture. Our awareness raising and stewardship activities further the safe and sustainable use of pesticides in Europe, encouraging management practices that safeguard harvests, human health, and the environment.

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EFFAB

EFFAB stands for European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders. It is a branch organisation for Breeding and Reproduction Associations and Companies. Currently EFFAB has 42 members (associations and companies) from Finland to Spain and from Iceland to Slovenia. EFFAB covers cattle and other ruminants, pigs, poultry and aquaculture species.

EFFAB is promoting the interests of its members regarding breeding and reproduction issues. In this respects EFFAB is involved in relevant EU Legislation (zoo technical, new breeding and reproduction techniques, animal health, animal welfare, Nagoya Protocol etc.), research funding (agenda setting), Code EFABAR (code of good breeding and reproduction practice), Patent watch and EU research projects. Data collecting and data processing are key activities of EFFAB members.

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