



The interface between patents and plant variety rights

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Thor Kofoed

Who are Copa and Cogeca?

Two organisations

Copa

Created in 1958, Copa represents 23 million European farmers and family members

Cogeca

Created in 1959, Cogeca represents 22,000 European agricultural cooperatives

Copa and Cogeca

In 1962, a joint Secretariat was created, making Copa-Cogeca one of the largest and most active lobby organisations in Brussels



Copa-Cogeca: The united voice of farmers and their cooperatives in the European Union



Tomato and broccoli EPO cases



Risks linked with the increasing number of patents on plants

For farmers

- **Less innovation**
- **Less progress in breeding**
- **Less variety on offer**
- **Higher cost of seeds**

For consumers

- **Choices dictated by an increasingly consolidated seed industry**
- **Higher price for foodstuffs**

Thank you for your attention

