The importance of new plant varieties for farmers and growers,
FARMERS’ POINT OF VIEW

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Chairman Working party on Seed
Seminar on Farm Saved Seed 04/03/2020
In 1962, a joint Secretariat was created, making it one of the largest and most active organisations in Brussels for the past 60 years.
If you ask Farmers
Benefits of protection ????

- Farmers from 28 different countries will give more than 50 different answers!
- Majority of farmers want new and better varieties, but do they want to pay?
- Different from country to country hove focus farmers are on new varieties.
- Different from country to country what farmers demand from a new varieties.
- The larger the farm the greater knowledge of the relationship between new varieties and improved yields
Better Varieties needed more than ever!

- Climate Change
- Pesticide resistant
- Special Industry demands
- Feed the world!
- Political movements!
What is interesting for the farmers

• To know all about the variety and the possible benefit
• It is the VCU
The modern farmer's key decision
EU Main producers /USA

The increase is due to only CPVR, free competition.

Here they have the patent system.
EU Main producers /USA

Barley Yield in tons per hectare

- France
- Germany
- United Kingdom
- United States of America
EU Main producers /USA

Oats
Yield in tons per hectare

- France
- Germany
- United Kingdom
- United States of America
Danish input of Nitrogen pr. Hectar
Danish Reductions in environmental impact

Nitrogen surplus, 1,000 tonnes

Greenhouse gases, 1,000 tonnes CO2

Ammonia emissions, 1,000 tonnes

1985 1987 1989 1991 1993 1995 1997 1999 2001 2003 2005 2007

0 100 200 300 400

1985 1987 1989 1991 1993 1995 1997 1999 2001 2003 2005 2007

0 20 40 60 80 100 120


15,000 14,000 13,000 12,000 11,000 10,000 9,000 8,000


140 120 100 80 60 40 20 0
## Treatment Index in Denmark and Germany

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>DK 2014</th>
<th>Gernay 2011-13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>W. Rape</td>
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<tr>
<td>Herbac.</td>
<td>1.44</td>
<td>1.71</td>
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<tr>
<td>Growsreg.</td>
<td>0.26</td>
<td>0.02</td>
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<td>Fungi</td>
<td>1.22</td>
<td>0.63</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insect</td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td>0.83</td>
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<tr>
<td>TI in total</td>
<td>3.25</td>
<td>3.18</td>
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</table>
The private and non-commercial use exemption? FSS

- Farmers use their own seed, if they can't see the benefit in using a new variety.
- 3 farmers work together, and they want to use their own seed, or save money on good seed.
- A more simple system to pay the FSS remuneration.
- Example from a good system.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total DK</th>
<th>Winter Cereals</th>
<th>Spring Cereals</th>
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<tr>
<td>Certified Seed</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>94%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Percentage Certified cereal seed

Index

Denmark, France, Germany, Nederland, Sweden, UK

Index
# The perfect Variety list

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Grain yield Index</th>
<th>Grain yield, kg per ha</th>
<th>Starch, % in dry matter</th>
<th>Specific weight, Tested variety</th>
<th>Crude protein in dry matter, Tested variety</th>
<th>Mildew coverage (%)</th>
<th>Septoria coverage (%)</th>
<th>Yellow rust coverage (%)</th>
<th>Ripening date (cm)</th>
<th>Straw length (cm)</th>
<th>Lodging score (0-20)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basmati</td>
<td>100 (2 g)</td>
<td>105.3 (1 g)</td>
<td>76.9 (2 kg)</td>
<td>75.1 (0 kg)</td>
<td>10.4 (2 kg)</td>
<td>0.90 (0)</td>
<td>3.8 (1)</td>
<td>45.0 (3)</td>
<td>19.5 (kg)</td>
<td>89 (cm)</td>
<td>0.0 (20)</td>
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<td>75.0 (2 kg)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0.0 (3)</td>
<td>39.5 (kg)</td>
<td>78 (cm)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Yield trends average of the top 20 varieties in DK

Top variety in 2011-2016
European Farms and their production

FAMILY TRADITIONAL FARMERS

HIGH TECH PRODUCTION FARMERS

- Number of farms
- Production %

- 5.5 mio. farms
- 2.5 mio. farms
- 1.5 mio.

- 0-2 hectares
- 2-5 hectares
- 5-50 hectares
- More than 50 hectares

Total 

10%
Family Farmers are many thing

- Like Modern high tech farmers
- Old traditional farmer like generations
- Part-time farming of distress
- Part-time farming for fun
- Neighbour manage the land as his own, but still my farm
- More or less operating jointly with other farmers
- Storytelling agriculture
- “Urban new farmers back to basic”
Breeders rights, farmers rights and so what?

- Can breeders forcing farmers with rules?
- Do farmers know about the rules?
- Is it a good idea to take farmers in court?

• No!
What is needed?
Only a few ideas

- Tell farmers about the benefit of good new varieties
- The best is if impartial bodies tells about the good new varieties
- There must be a responsible distribution of new varieties
- How about a cheap certified C2 to reduce the interest in FSS
- Farmers don’t like patents in plants.
COPA/CEGEC is a supporter of CPVR

- We need rules for protection
- We need Breeders exception
- Without that, we will have no innovation.

- We need better varieties every year in every corner of EU
Thank you