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## Press Release

### **Copa launches applications for European Innovation Award for Women Farmers**

The European Farmers Organisation Copa urged European women farmers to submit applications for the 2018 European Innovation Award.

Chairwoman of Copa's Women's Working Party Lotta Folkesson said "The theme of this year's innovation award for women farmers is "Innovative solutions for farming sustainability". Women farmers are drivers of innovation and represent 42% of the EU's agricultural workforce, with 30% of them farm managers. They contribute to a more economic, environmental and socially sustainable farm sector and to viable rural areas by implementing innovative solutions. They promote agriculture and forestry sectors that are able to adapt to challenges and that benefit from various opportunities. This Award aims to highlight the innovative activities and projects carried out by women involved in farming and forestry throughout the EU".

Copa and Cogeca Secretary-General Pekka Pesonen urged applicants to submit their projects by 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018, in preparation for the Award Ceremony in the week of 15<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> October 2018 in Brussels, during celebrations for the International Day of Rural Women.

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