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## Press Release

### **Copa and Cogeca launch the Innovation awards for women farmers and agri-cooperatives**

Copa and Cogeca have launched two calls for application for the 6th edition of the Innovation award for Women farmers and 5th edition of the European Award for the Agri-Cooperatives Innovation. Both awards aim to promote and reward some of the most innovative projects from the agriculture sector.

**Innovation award for Women farmers** - showcasing women's role as key players in the future of agriculture and rural areas. Since its creation, each edition of the award has focused on a specific theme, and this year is no different! As 2020 will be the year of the Green Deal, this year's topic is "Women Farmers in the driver's seat of climate innovation". Climate action can take various forms on farms, and Copa and Cogeca would like to acknowledge the change initiated by women farmers and the positive impact (economic, social, environmental) on rural areas. All type of innovative actions, measures and projects will be considered within our 2020 awards. Each project will be assessed according to the following non-cumulative criteria: Innovative solutions, Innovation transfer, Sustainability of innovation and Communication methods. This year, for the first time, the award will feature a cash prize for the winner and the jury's special mention project. For more info about the award and application criteria, please check: <https://womenfarmersaward.eu/>

**European Award for Cooperative Innovation** – The award celebrates outstanding innovations and excellence in the agri-food, fishery and forestry sectors. The 2020 edition will focus on "Sustainability-driven' innovation" and thus on the creation of new products and services, market space, processes and business models driven by economic, social or environmental objectives. The award will be granted to those European agri-cooperatives with the most innovative projects, with significant contributions in Economic Value Creation, Social Value Creation and Environmental Value Creation. For more info about the award and application criteria, please check: <https://agricoperativesaward.eu/>

On the occasion of the launch Pekka Pesonen, Copa and Cogeca Secretary General underlined: "Innovation in the agriculture and forestry sectors is key for allowing them to make a bigger and better contribution to our society and help us achieve the ambitions set out by the European Green Deal. We look forward to receiving and promoting some of the most innovative and sustainable practices of European women farmers and agri-cooperatives later this year."

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