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## Press Release

### **Copa-Cogeca showcases good soil management practices in Global Soil Week in Berlin in United Nations International year of Soils**

In the UN International year of Soils, Copa-Cogeca showcased good soil management practices and sustainable techniques at Global Soil Week in Berlin.

Copa-Cogeca Secretary-General Pekka Pesonen insisted “I am very pleased with the outcome. It proved a great success. Many people visited our stand to get information about good soil management practices. We also contributed to the debate about food security and the Commission's Communication on Land as a Resource. We underlined the benefits of sustainable intensification as well as about the need to see food production and environmental protection go hand in hand and complement each other”.

Other key Copa-Cogeca messages during the week were about soil sealing. Copa-Cogeca warned that the lack of preservation of soils is a threat to agriculture and the impact of soil sealing has not been adequately addressed yet. Research and innovation also needs to be driven by a bottom-up approach. The organizers as well as the panelists of the final debate agreed with a number of the priorities mentioned by Copa and Cogeca, and this was reflected during the final plenary: no one knows soil better than the farmers.

We thank our member organisations for their support, in particular the UK and German national farmers unions NFU and DBV and the Finish Farmers Union MTK who provided material.

This year's Global Soil Week, which ran from April 19-23, highlighted the importance of land and soil to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in this the United Nations designated International Year of Soils. Web link: <http://globalsoilweek.org/>

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