ECO·PB

European Consortium for Organic Plant Breeding

Report on the ECO-PB Workshop on the proposed EC Organic Seed Regime 2004

Frankfurt am Main
10 - 11 April 2003

By
E. T. Lammerts van Bueren & K.-P. Wilbois

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April 10 - 11, 2003

Introduction as given in the invitation letter

The European Consortium for Organic Plant Breeding (ECO-PB) is an active network supporting the production and use of organic seeds. It sees the European Union's Organic Seed Regime as potentially a great step forward for in the development of organic seed but is concerned about the latest discussions regarding implementation per January 1st 2004.

Current European Commission proposals seem to allow a great deal of room for derogation. Seed companies are indicating that this year (2003) their organic seed sales have already dropped. Growers are aware that the probable new rules will allow derogation even for those crops for which there is sufficient, appropriate organic seeds. A number of key seed companies have announced they will definitely stop their organic programmes should the criteria for derogation remain unclear and if derogation remains possible for all crops irrespective of availability, as it becomes financially unviable. That is a real threat and would be a great setback for ongoing efforts to build up a healthy organic seed sector and hence further close the organic production chain.
Furthermore, we have received much feedback about national authorities which are tentative about how to tackle the national implementation of the new seed regulation.

ECO-PB has therefore decided to organise at short notice a WORKSHOP on the ORGANIC SEED Regime 2004 to help clarify the above issues. We aim to facilitate an international discussion with key national players to exchange valuable information and concerns, and to establish common points of view on the organic seed regime in the organic sector on international level. The workshop will tie into discussions held and decisions made in the Article 14 Committee of the European Commission on April 4-6.

Target participants:
In order to allow plenary discussion we have invited only two participants per country:

- One on behalf of national authorities, this person to be assigned to the implementation of the new organic seed regime and involved with the development of the derogation procedure for the use of non-organic seeds.
- And one on behalf of decision makers of national organic agriculture movements, concerned with the implementation of new organic seed guidelines.
- Additionally, ECO-PB will invite several specialists from the seed industry and the OrganicXseeds database

Aims:

- to exchange information on actual implementation processes in EU member states
- to develop a proposal for common derogation criteria and application procedures
- to develop a proposal for common database with national authoritative variety lists
- to develop a proposal for data collection regarding the annual national organic seeds reports

Thursday, 10th April 2003

Mrs. Edith Lammerts van Bueren, president of ECO-PB, welcomes the 20 participants who together represent the following 10 European countries: Austria, Belgium, Germany, Denmark, Spain, France, Italy, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Switzerland. Participants are actively involved at the national level with the organic seed regulation, see participants list.

Current information on EU Organic Seed Regulation

ECO-PB discussed the workshop with Mr. P. Ahle and Mme. D. Tissot Boireau of the Commissions Agriculture Section in Brussels. As neither was able to attend, Mr Joost Guijt of the Netherlands gave an overview of the latest circulated draft of the Commission's Organic Seed Regulation: AGRI/02/61449-seed rev 5a. This draft was circulated by the Commission a few days prior to the ECO-PB workshop and will probably be voted on in May 2003. See Appendix 1 for the overview, which is agreed on by the participants.

Mr Guijt ends his presentation by naming the main points left open by the draft regulation text and which need to be addressed during this meeting. These are:

- Which species can be placed on the Annex or which procedure is necessary to be able to do so?
- What is an "appropriate" variety?
- How could a (national) seed database work and who could use a common database?

Most probably there will be no species placed on the Annex of the EC Organic Seed Regulation when the regulation first comes into force by January the 1st 2004. No deadline is mentioned for adding species but the hope is that some will be named before the seed regulations' review in mid-2006.

Developing production and usage of organic seed – the UK approach

Mr. Rob Haward of the Soil Association, UK, presents UK work on enforcing the desire to maximise the use of organic seed in the UK. See Appendix 2 for the transparencies shown.

In the plenary discussion that followed it was noted that the presentation showed that the UK is very committed to closing the organic chain. This stresses the aspect that organic farmers - despite all resultant problems - want to use organic seed in their organic farming systems. The Soil Association feels that by requiring as much use of organic seed as is possible, it has greatly boosted the availability of organic seeds. The SA system is based on the use of the organicXseeds database. His experience is that it took 3 months to contact the national suppliers, sign contracts and fill the national database.

Its now or never: Organic seed trade on the edge

Mr. Roland Peerenboom, chair of the Organic Committee Vegetable Seed within the European Seed Association (ESA), explains in the first part of his presentation the seed industry's point of view on the steps necessary to close the organic production chain. In the second part he comments on one of the most recent draft regulations, version 4. Appendix 3 contains the transparencies shown.

In the following discussion it becomes clear that currently in Europe only four or five major seed companies are engaged in organic vegetable seed production. If, with regard to the coming EC Organic Seed Regulation, no clear signal of stringent regulations is sent to the seed producers, these companies might lose interest and no other companies will enter this market. This should be taken into consideration. A problem related to the different national databases is the fact that seed producers may only be interested in registering their seed supplies in those countries that are financially interesting due to the expected high registration costs. Accordingly, the existence of many independent national databases could lead to very different seed choice between countries. This situation must be avoided to limit distortions of competition.

Another problem discussed is the term 'appropriate' in the draft regulation text. According to the seed companies, the most appropriate varieties are those that are extensively demanded by the market. Here, the 80/20 rule holds true: 20% of the varieties account for 80% of the turnover. That means most of the business relies on only a few varieties of a given species.

In this context the bureaucracy resulting from derogation granted on the basis of 'variety' is mentioned. Therefore, a grouping of varieties is considered to be necessary. Derogations are usually given by the personnel of certification bodies. This personnel is usually not familiar with differences between varieties and is therefore generally unable to make competent decision on granting authorisations. Hence, some kind of expert group should be employed by member states in order to give guidance on these issues.

A common database

Mr. Andreas Thommen of FiBL, Switzerland, presented ideas on a common database with attached national databases which could be achieved by revising the current set-up of organicXseeds. The transparencies shown are found in Appendix 4.

Most of the participants found that a common database has advantages over many national ones. OrganicXseeds is currently the most advanced and integrated tool for displaying the national and international supply of seed. It can be used on a national scale as well as on an international one. Currently OrganicXseeds is in six different European languages, more languages can be added. OrganicXseeds is designed as an international framework that can be tailored to suit national needs. In order to be comprehensive the aim is to cover about 90% of national organic seed supply.

To develop organicXseeds to where it is now has cost about € 200,000 and 18 months of work, a further €100,000 will need to be invested. The fee for employing the database is not yet clear but will not need to cover all development costs. For growers the access to the information is for free. A fee shall be charged to seed companies and perhaps to certification bodies, as they will be able to use the service for granting authorisations. Since the seed companies only have to cover the costs of registering their data, the authorities of the member states should also pay a certain amount, since it is their duty to implement the new seed regulation.

Mrs. Inger Bertelsen of Denmark mentions that the Danish seed database charges a general fee and a fee based on 'variety' and amount sold. She points out that only the smallest companies are not prepared to pay the fee for displaying their supply on the Danish database. This is mainly because small companies can sell their seed directly to farmers without needing to display it on the database.

Participants agreed that a database is a tool for presenting information on availability. It cannot automatically generate authorisations. That is the job of certification bodies. Of utmost importance

is the accuracy with which the information given in the database is handled. The information displayed must be up-to-date at all times. This is also in the interest of seed companies.

If desired it will be possible for EU Member States to lease the database. FiBL is interested in developing this tool but may not in due course maintain it itself but sell it on. The database development so far has been supported by private foundations. Therefore, the selling need not cover total investments. Cost might also be split according to where the necessary database maintenance is done. Currently Switzerland and the UK are using OrganicXseeds. Germany, Belgium and Netherlands expressed interest to use it. Many seed suppliers have recently joined OrganicXseeds.

A key issue discussed is the problem of what will happen if Member States do not have a functioning database in time. The establishment of a database and the gathering of information may last years, according to experiences from the UK. Article 14 representatives indicate that if there is no database in place by Jan. 2004 the relevant member state will not be able to make use of derogations, since the coming derogation system is fully based on a running database.

Christina Micheloni, AIAB-Italy, states that in Italy there is a national database but it doesn't work well and is definitely not workable for farmers. A major problem is that there are no regular updates on seed availability. The problem, therefore, cannot be considered as tackled in Italy.

In Denmark the evaluation of varieties for cultivation in organic agriculture for important crops is done by independent experts on the basis of variety field trials under organic and conventional conditions. The results are made public and forwarded to the ministry for decision making about whether varieties are considered "appropriate".

National approaches

Mr. Rob Haward, Soil Association-UK, gives his presentation on the *'Centre of Organic Seed Information'*. This electronic centre aims at giving information on variety trials, preferred varieties, etc. See **www.cosi.org.uk**

Mr. Rasmus Ørnberg Eriksen, Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, gives his presentation on the *Danish database model*. For potatoes, grass, and cereals nearly 100% of the organic seed requirement is available and subsequently virtually no authorisations are granted for these crop groups. Fodder crops have 50% coverage and the vegetable crops only 25-50%. The transparencies and his handout are attached in Appendix 5.

Mr. Jean Wohrer, GNIS-F, gives his presentation on the *French initiatives,* see Appendix 6. He stresses that there is no French database but it is an ongoing project. There is much concern about the ability to develop a working system in time. Many, mostly small companies are involved in organic seed production, ITAB and FNAB are involved in technical trials.

The participants agreed that an important issue in organic agriculture is to have a wide range of varieties in order to support biodiversity. It might happen that the push to widespread use organic seeds, is accompanied by a (temporary) narrowing in genetic diversity. After a detailed discussion the participants agreed that given the small percentage of organic agricultural land the possible loss of variety diversity during a transition period may be acceptable given the goal of using as much organic seed as possible. On the other hand it must be clear that the use of conservation/local varieties in order to maintain biodiversity must be a reason for granting derogations. It was mentioned that the EU is working on legislation for legal trading of conservation varieties.

Friday, 11th April 2003.

Mrs. Edith Lammerts van Bueren welcomes the participants for this second session of the ECO-PB Workshop on Organic Seed by giving a summary of the first meeting day and an overview for today's discussions.

Organic farming systems need biodiversity for a sound self-regulating ability of their agro-ecosystems. Therefore, organic farmers need a divers range of varieties and also better adapted varieties to further optimise the organic farming system. This requires breeding programmes for organic varieties! The organic sector also needs to close its production chain for credibility and transparency to the consumers. Therefore, it needs organically produced seed as organic seed is available. Organic seed is thus the first step towards breeding programmes for organic varieties. The presentations given yesterday made clear that to achieve enough range and quantity of organic seed a guided process has to be encouraged. Yesterday, different approaches were shown how to achieve this aim at a national level. Part of the process is a database on the availability of organically produced seed and strict rules as well. However, placing species as quickly as possible on the Annex is the most powerful tool. As was said, "we want to create a system to get rid of that system!" So the period with derogations for the use of non-organic seed, an Annex of the Organic Seed Regulation, etc was considered to be a transition period. This could be made more explicit in the drafted text of the EU Organic Seed Regulation, with perhaps also a fixed end date mentioned, after which no derogation in principle will be given, e. g. as was done with plantlets. As a suggestion, Edith Lammerts mentions the possibility of two years for annual crops and four years for biennial crops, or dates mentioned for different crop groups such as potatoes, cereals, vegetables. However, it might be necessary to accept that some crop groups like ornamentals will never reach 100% coverage.

Edith Lammerts recaps the following points:

1. We acknowledge that the EU commission was not able to fill the Annex until now, but we should ask the European Commission to move forward and to be strict in having up and running, computerised databases, appropriate for derogations and reports.
2. We should encourage national authorities to choose not to slow down but actively work at reducing national derogation and drawing up national recommendations for the European Annex. A possibility might be to follow the Swiss 3-step model (see Appendix 4) or with required percentages of organic seed per crop group, like in the UK.
3. Following this line combining databases and registered derogations means that proper statistics shall be available for the national reports, and that the figures of the different countries can be put together to fill the EU-Annex by 2005.

To support the further process on national levels a few key points from yesterday's presentations and discussion need further detailed discussion in this meeting:

- Criteria for a proper running database
- Criteria for composing an expert group
- Criteria for appropriate grouping of crops and criteria for derogation
- How can a common database be introduced
- Dealing with conservation varieties/local varieties

After a thorough discussion these points are all agreed by the participants to be discussed in the today's meeting.

Beforehand, Christina Micheloni, AIAB-I, gives a presentation on an applied EU-project in the Framework 6 Programme. One of the objectives is to **evaluate the organic farming dependency on conventional seeds and propagation materials**. In this sub-project AIAB and nine other organisations and institutions take part. The points given in the presentation are to be considered when preparing the declaration (see next point).

During the discussion of the above points the results were recorded and displayed simultaneously by means of a beamer. The results are agreed upon by all participants and given in extra document as a declaration.

Declaration on organic seeds

Drawn up at the ECO-PB workshop
Frankfurt, April 10-11th 2003

Preamble

The organic sector wishes to use organic seed in order to close the production chain. This is to improve the integrity of the organic sector and for credibility towards consumers. Organically produced seed is the first step towards better adapted varieties for organic farming systems. To achieve a sufficient range and quantity of organic seeds efforts are now needed to make real progress.

The ultimate objective is the use of 100% organic seeds throughout the European Community. Until organic seed supplies make this feasible and European legislation enforces this objective, a transition period allowing for some derogation is unavoidable. Therefore, the gradual reduction of the possibilities for derogation and the continually expanding Annex, as currently proposed by the Commission, are cumbersome but necessary legislative tools for a limited period.

Over the last few years seed companies have invested in organic seed production. To fulfil the needs of the organic sector, which requires ensuring the commitment of seed companies to producing organic seed, active steps must be taken by the member states. The process to achieve 100 % organic seed use must be equitable for all involved actors.

Database
The organic seed database required in each member state should have the following functions:

- To be a legal tool showing organic seed availability and to provide a dated proof of availability to farmers and control bodies, and

- To assist national, competent authorities in producing a proper annual report on authorisations granted for the use of non-organic seed.

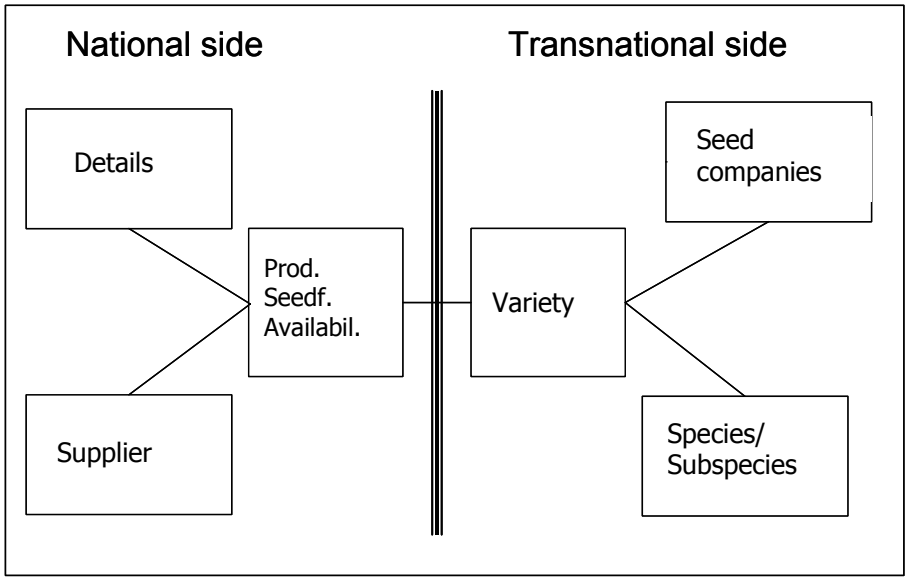
In practice each database should fulfil the following criteria:

- up-to-date
- comprehensive
- provide dated information on availability
- reliable
- easy to use, search in by farmers
- easily filled in by suppliers
- appropriate to the needs of the member states

Individual national databases and national databases linked to a common database are equally valid approaches. An effective common database requires active input at a national level. This national activity will need to be focussed on gaining information from national seed suppliers and ensuring such information is kept up to date. Furthermore, a national telephone service is necessary to make the electronic database accessible to all farmers. Reports on authorisations granted must also be drawn up nationally.

A common database to which national databases can be linked should provide information on each named variety, preferably grouped by species and sub-group/type (see below), and on the seed company producing a

variety. Additional details such as availability, product description, seed forms, supplier, trials, etc. must be provided at the national level. This additional information can be stored on the common database.



Expert Groups

In each member states competent authorities will set up expert groups to advice them on species and subgroups of species for which a derogation could be lifted by the national authorities. The outcome can form the basis for recommendations for the European wide Annex. Advice can also be given on performance of the database, possible general authorisations, possible deadlines for lifting a derogation and to consider local variety issues.

An expert group can consist of any or all of the following relevant parties: farmers, seed suppliers, researchers, certification bodies, advisors, consumers and traders.

Criteria for Derogations

- A grouping system is recommended as suggested below:

Grouping System

Level	**example**
Crop Groups	Vegetables, Cereals, Potatoes, fodder crops....
Crop Species	Lettuce
Sub-Group/Type	Iceberg[1]
Variety Group	grouped by use or yield
Variety	named, e.g. 'Cosmos'

A range of varieties within a certain species or subgroup/type, as recommended by an above-mentioned expert group, must be available organically for it to be possible to lift a derogation nationally and/or to be entered onto the European Annex.

Criteria for "appropriate variety"
In cases where authorisations are requested, the user should provide reasons arguing the absence of any other appropriate varieties within one of the following categories

[1] At a national level ‚local varieties' can be included as a sub-group/type

- agronomic reasons
- market requirements
- ecological and climatic adaptation

Regarding seed quality, it is presumed that organic seed must comply with minimal national seed quality standards. For some diseases, current threshold values for seed-borne diseases may need readjustment for organic production.

For Signatories to the declaration see the participants list (below)

Participants list of the ECO-PB Workshop on Organic Seed Regime 2004, Frankfurt, 11 – 12 April 2003

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Update European Commission Organic Seed Regulation

Joost Guijt, Biologica, the Netherlands
ECO-PB workshop, Frankfurt, April 10-11 2003

Revisions

The most recent proposal drawn up by the Commission is **61449-seed rev 5a**, handed out to A14C members on April 2-3 2003 in Brussels.

Key points in current proposals

1) The derogation allowing for the possibility of using non-organic seed will still be maintained after 31 Dec. 2003.
2) Proposals only apply to seeds and seed potatoes, not vegetative propagating material.
3) Each Member State must ensure that there is a database listing available organic seed and seed potatoes. The database can be managed by a designated body outside the own country.
4) Member States must designate an authority that grants authorisations. These are only allowed if a required variety of a species is not listed on the database and if the user of the seed can demonstrate that there is no other appropriate variety available.
5) A Member State can give a general authorisation for species for which no varieties are listed on the database.
6) An Annex will be drawn up for species of which there are sufficient quantities of sufficient appropriate varieties available throughout the E.U. No authorisations may be given for these species.
7) Seed suppliers must register each variety in the national databases, a database management fee covering expenses may be charged.
8) Each Member State must make an annual report for all other Member States stating which authorisations were granted and why.
9) The organic seed regulation will be revised by mid 2006.

Key discussion points

A. Which species should be placed on the Annex, what procedure is required to place new species on the Annex?
B. What must the criteria for “appropriate” be to determine whether there are any “appropriate varieties” available?
C. How could a database work and how could co-operation between Member States on a common database be possible?

Organic seed - the UK Story

Rob Haward

Horticulture Development Manager

Soil Association

Soil Association activities

- SA Certification Ltd
- Information and advice to the general public
- Campaigns - promoting wider issues
- Policy - influencing Government
- Projects - development of local food initiatives
- Producer Services

Soil Association - producer services

Technical support

- Telephone helplines and OCIS
- Range of technical publications e.g OF magasine
- Organic Food and Farming report
- Training events

Representation and projects

- Support the interests of producers while maintaining the confidence of consumers

Organic seed - the UK story

1998

Low awareness

Low organic seed production and usage

July 98 - Open meeting in Bristol

→ **SA project 'to develop balanced production and usage of organic seed'**

→ **Seed working group**

Organic seed - the UK story

Phase I Raise awareness

Common certification approach

Increased availability of organic seed

- very unwieldy + hard work → 4 groups

phase I recommendations to DEFRA - Dec 2000

lift derogation as planned (Dec 2003) IF :

1. Species by species assessment - volume and range
2. Equivalence
3. Experimentation
4. Recognition of additional costs

Have we made it?

Organic seed - the UK story

Progress and current situation

Common approach

- 40% grass mixes
- 85% potatoes
- high usage for cereals approaching 100% for 2004
- horticulture - complex - discretionary (variety by variety, use of historic records, quality?)

'what is an appropriate variety?'

- Variety availability up from 50 to nearly 1500.

Organic seed availability lists (NIAB, SA and FiBL)

and organicXseeds.com

Organic seed - the UK story

Dilemma - given the nature of the EU draft

Backdrop - import pressures and decreasing margins

Options

1. Push forward toward - disadvantage UK producers
2. Go backwards
3. Maintain status quo and work hard for equivalence and PAN European progress

Focus of March 2003 meeting with government and reps

→ Option 3

In reality?

Organic seed - the UK story

Extended derogation on most horticulture species

100% Potatoes and most cereals

approximately 40% for grass

Other requisites :

- PAN-EU progress
- 1 database
- common certification procedures
- time to address the practical problems :

Organic seed - the UK story

The technical/economic problems :

Confidence 1. Producers

- New varieties
- Equivalence
- Seed health
- Time to delivery
- Formulation of seed

All at > cost and no market recognition

Organic seed - the UK story

2. Seed industry

- Lack of regulatory direction and robustness
- Potential for numerous databases

Organic seed - the UK story

Requisites for achieving 100 % organic seed

'Developing confidence'

A. Research

Seed health, treatments and variety trials

B. Sharing information

COSI, Growers sharing information, Open days, labelling, seed availability

C. Lobbying retailers

D. EU commission commitment in good time

Annex 1, 1 database, common and robust criteria

Appendix 3: Organic Seed – to be or not to be? Roland Peerenboom

Organic Seed:

To be or not to be?

Draft Commission Regulation (Rev. 4b)

Preambles

* 3: Maintaining biodiversity ↔ big range of cultivars
* 4: "It is clear etc. …. Not adequate amounts of organically produced seed"
* 6: "Significant number of varieties" then no more derogations
  "a list of species excluded from the scope of derogation is to be established as soon as possible" How and When?
* 8: Database in each Member State!
* 9: Application of derogations to fall under the discretion of the Member States.
* 10: "Each Member State should ensure the publication of a report on their granting of authorisations"

Draft Commission Regulation (Rev. 4b)

Article 1

Maintenance of the derogation

1. Derogation is maintained for species not listed in the Annex
   → Continuation of present system
2. Procedure for filling the Annex: Art. 14 of EEC no. 2092/91
   → From time to time voting by representatives of all Member States

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Draft Commission Regulation (Rev. 4b)

Article 3

Use of non-organically produced material

For species not listed in the Annex authorization for use may be given by the Member States for all varieties of a given species

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Draft Commission Regulation (Rev. 4b)

Article 4

Competent bodies

Each Member State shall designate one or several authorities or bodies, which shall be under its supervision, for the granting of authorisations

Consistency? Reliability? Bureaucracy!

Draft Commission Regulation (Rev. 4b)

Article 5

Database

1. A computerised database per Member State! (in place by the end of this year!)
2. Management and set-up of database?

Appendix 4: A common database - the basis for granting derogations. Andi Thommen

A common database : the basis for granting derogations

Andreas Thommen, database manager FiBL, Frick

organic X seeds

www.organicXseeds.com - *the database for organic seeds and seedlings*

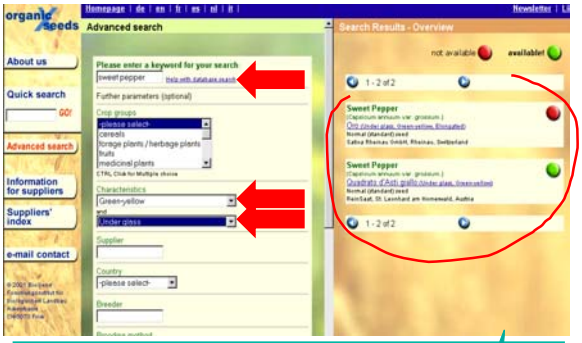
www.organicXseeds.com - **sponsorship/ search**

www.organicXseeds.com - **quick search**

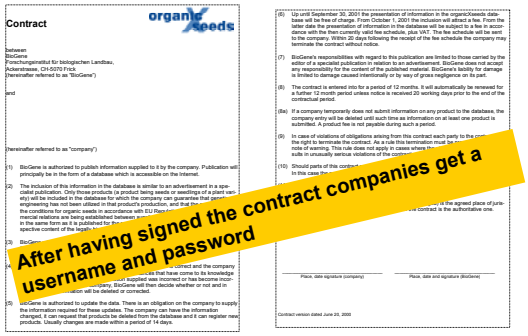
www.organicXseeds.com - **search result**

www.organicXseeds.com - **the supplier**

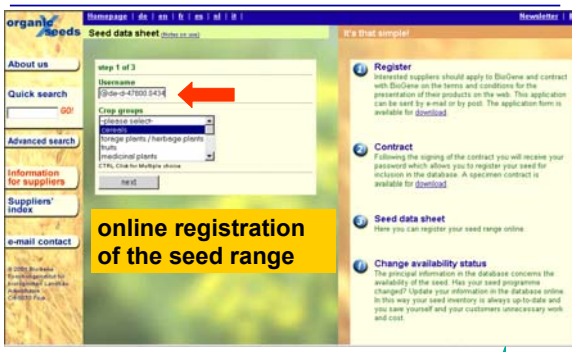
www.organicXseeds.com - advanced search



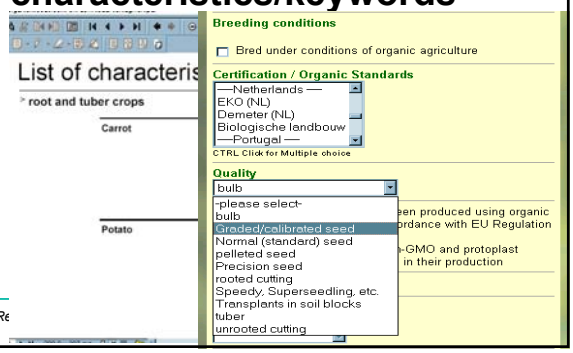
www.organicXseeds.com - the contract



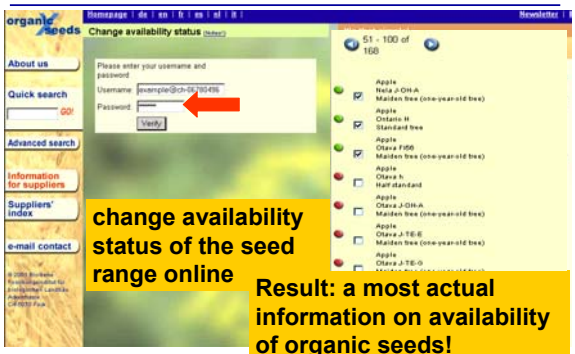
www.organicXseeds.com - the seed data sheet



Online registration characteristics/keywords



www.organicXseeds.com- update your seed offer



Future derogation procedure

1) farmer requests at his usual seed distributor
2) if organic seeds are not available: search on oXs-database
3) if not available on oXs: download pdf confirmation form
4) forward pdf-form to authorisation bodies together with derogation form
5) on farm inspection of: pdf-form, derogation form and invoice of conventional seeds

Availability of organic seeds

(3-step-model of BIO SUISSE)

Step	Criteria for categorisation	Criteria for derogation
positiv-list 1	**sufficient offer** =organic seeds obligatory	variety trials/, basic seeds for organic seed production, conservation purpose **request in writing**
top-list 2	at least one **top variety,** adapted for professional use =recommended varieties	reasons as above additional other reasons, based on agronomic or economic evidence **request in writing**
basic-list 3	**no** variety adapted for professional use	download confirmation sufficient **no request in writing**

effects of the 3-step model

- **species or subgroups of species are clearly indicated on 3 levels**
- **farmers are not forced to use unqualified seed**
- **the use of non organic seed is made more difficult**
- **seed industry is motivated to produce top varieties in organic quality**

Content pdf „availability“

1) **Searched Species:** ***Tomato***
   Subgroup: ***cherry, early***
2) **Desired variety** **Fincalilly F1**
3) **Requested Quantity:** **1000 grain**
4) **Requested Quality :** ***standard seed***
5) **Applicant, Name & Adress:** ……
6) **Date of application:** ……

Output:

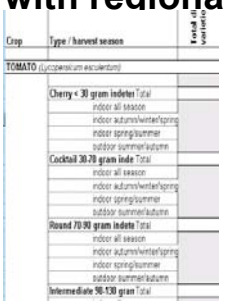
The wanted variety is not registered in oXs.

In this subgroup are available the “*top*” varieties:
“Cherry Supersmak” and “Early Pink F1” .

Reasons to apply for another variety: …….

Applications have to be sent to the national authorisation bodies!

Subspecies according to ESA with regional adaption



a product is defined as
variety X seed form

e.g.
celeriac has to be **primed pellets**

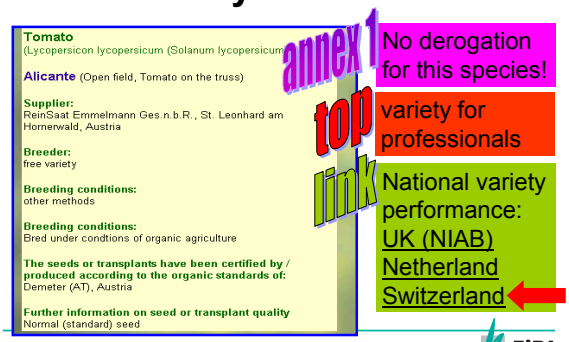
Future database structure

National organic seed information centre — =information about procedure, derogation forms etc.

National organic seed database — =authoritative species list

European organic seed database
=additional voluntary information

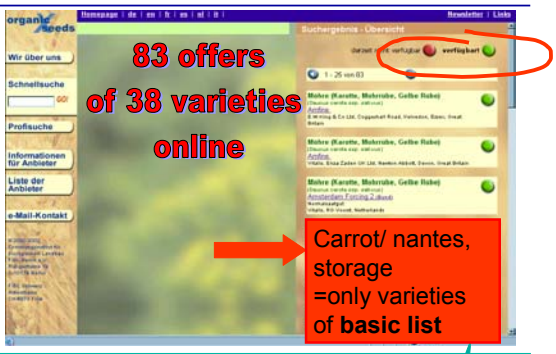
future variety information



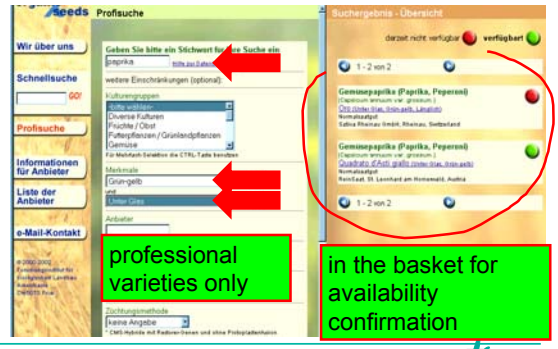
www.organicXseeds.com - direct links to variety trials

www.organicXseeds.com - Search e.g. carrot

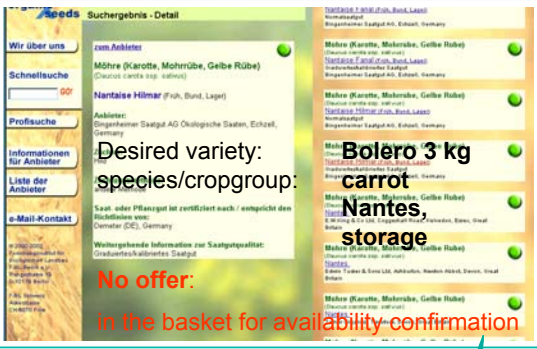
www.organicXseeds.com - Search results carrot



www.organicXseeds.com - Search example sweet pepper



www.organicXseeds.com - search Bolero



top list

organic Seeds

To be sent for derogations to:
Soil Association
COSI Bureau for derogations
4W13R Bristol

Actual Availability of Organic Seeds
download of 23.01.2003 United Kingdom

searched species	sub-species/ growing type	searched variety	planed area/ number of transplants	searched amount	searched seed quality/ seed form
kohlrabi	white spring	Quickstar	50 Ares	250g	potpill
available are					
topvarieties		*Cindy*			*potpill*
basic varieties		*15 Sorten*			
celeriac	summer	Diamant	40 Ares	25'000 grain	primed seed
available are					
topvarieties		*Ibis*			*primed seed*
		Prinz			*primed seed*
basic varieties		*7 varieties*			

Adress of applicant: H-P. Speciman
Vegi Farm
CH-0900 Elwoods

Certification Number: UK 63700

basic list

organic seeds

To be sent for derogations to:
Soil Association
COSI Bureau for derogations
4W13R Bristol

Actual Availability of Organic Seed
download of 23.01.2003 United Kingdom

carrot	nantes spring	Napoli	20 Ares	25'000 grain	pellets
available are					
basic varieties		*12 varieties*			*standard seed*
carrot	nantes storage	Bolero	150 ares	25'000 grain	precision seed
available are					
basic varieties		*34 varieties*			*divers seed forms*

Adress of applicant: H-P. Specimen
Vegi Farm
CH-0900 Elwoods

Certification Number: UK 63700

conclusions

1. transnational (european), one-time variety registration for breeders
2. easy product (variety X seed form) registration on national level for suppliers
3. national access for farmers, national authoritative list
4. fair conditions for farmers, stimulation for suppliers
5. less expenses for authorities and inspection bodies
6. national reports based on common database

Subspecies according to ESA

TOMATO

Crop Type / harvest season

Cherry < 30 gram indeterminate
indoor all season
indoor autumn/winter/spring
indoor spring/summer
outdoor summer/autumn

Cocktail 30-70 gram indeterminate
indoor all season
indoor autumn/winter/spring
indoor spring/summer
outdoor summer/autumn

Round 70-90 gram indeterminate
indoor all season

Appendix 5: The danisch database model. Rasmus Ørnberg Eriksen

Plantedirektoratet

Ministeriet for Fødevarer, Landbrug og Fiskeri

The Danish database model

Active since 1998.

A close cooperation between the Danish Agricultural Advisory Service, The seed supplying companies and the Ministry, for mutual benefits.

22-04-2003

Rasmus Ørnberg Eriksen
DK, Ministry of agriculture

Plantedirektoratet

Ministeriet for Fødevarer, Landbrug og Fiskeri

Why a database

The database is needed in order to insure that all informations on organic seed available in the region are communicated to the users. Organic seed must be used if available in relevant quantities and qualities (appropriate varieties). All varieties are evaluated.

22-04-2003

Rasmus Ørnberg Eriksen
DK, Ministry of agriculture

Plantedirektoratet

Ministeriet for Fødevarer, Landbrug og Fiskeri

Why a (national) database

- Small database, only relevant information.
- Better overview for supplier, farmer and controlling body in your own language.
- Fast changes and personal comminication between all implicated parties.

22-04-2003

Rasmus Ørnberg Eriksen
DK, Ministry of agriculture

Plantedirektoratet

Ministeriet for Fødevarer, Landbrug og Fiskeri

Practical construction

- Divided into three lists

-Cereals and field crop seed

-Vegetable seed

-Vegetative plant material

22-04-2003

Rasmus Ørnberg Eriksen
DK, Ministry of agriculture

Plantedirektoratet

Ministeriet for Fødevarer, Landbrug og Fiskeri

Informations

species/group of varieties, specific variety, quantity available, evaluation (in the region), availability (ready now or date), analysis, seed supplier (name, adress, phone no.)

Updated daily in the season.

22-04-2003

Rasmus Ørnberg Eriksen
DK, Ministry of agriculture

Plantedirektoratet

Ministeriet for Fødevarer, Landbrug og Fiskeri

22-04-2003

Rasmus Ørnberg Eriksen
DK, Ministry of agriculture

ORGANIC SEEDS in France

after 2003 ?

Organic seeds production in France : 2000 to 2002

Species	acreage seed production (hectares) 2000	acreage seed production (hectares) 2001	acreage seed production (hectares) 2002	Number of varieties in the species	Number of seed firms invoided	Observation (1)
Oats	21	43	72	10	6	
Fodder beet	2	0	2	4	2	export
Wheat	251	352	472	34	14	
Durum wheat	7	0	85	5	2	
Spelt	16	14	17	4	3	
Field bean	34	156	276	9	10	export
Lupin	33	63	24	3	4	export
Maize	95	141	187	22	12	export
Mustard			14	2	2	export
Barley	45	50	75	10	8	
Grain pea	24	65	80	4	6	
Buck wheat	35	70	63	1	5	
Rye	7	2	12	3	6	
Soja	41	60	66	3	3	
Sunflower	16	6	58	4	5	export
Triticale	88	165	202	14	11	
TOTAL field crops seeds	713	1187	1705		28	
Lucerne	69	25	72	9	7	export
Field Pea	30	26	34	3	4	
Red and Crimson clover		20	58	5	4	export
Common vetch			54	4	4	export
Grass seeds (rye-grass,…)		8	31	7	4	export
TOTAL fodder crops	115	85	249		10	export
TOTAL seed potatoes	70	61	91	47	11	export
TOTAL vegetable seeds	49	67	86	50 species	15	export
Bulbs (garlic and shallot)		8	4	9	7	export
TOTAL	947	1408	2135		61	

organic seeds in FRANCE = PRODUCTION / DEMAND
EVALUATION FOR 2003

•

NEAR 100 %		MIDDLE SITUATION		BAD SITUATION	
WHEAT	100%	DURUM WHEAT	50%	BARLEY	35%
RYE	94%	OATS	60%	SOJA	30%
BUCK WHEAT	130%	SPELT	55%	FIELD BEAN	43%
TRITICALE	110%	MAIZE	60%	LUPIN	40%
SUNFLOWER	200%				
PEA	110%				
LUCERNE	90%			COLZA	0%
POTATO	100%			SORGHO	0%

source = GNIS

FRENCH PROJET FOR A COMPUTERISED DATABASE BY GNIS – ITAB :
www.semences-biologiques.org

❖ **EASY for the seed supplier :**

- Direct registration by himself on the web-site of all the informations,
- Direct entry when the variety is no longer available.

❖ **EASY for the producers (or for their local suppliers) :**

- Selection of the variety in a group of varieties, and suppliers available in the area,
- Links with the seed supplier website,
- Direct demand for authorisation

❖ **EASY for the certification authorities :**

- Direct transmission of the authorisation demand for granting.

And, **Interesting for all :**

- **Annual registration of the granted authorisations will influence biological seed production.**