Seeds in the new organic regulation

What will change the new organic regulation regarding seed?

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Current situation in Europe regarding organic seed

According to the current organic Regulation 834/2007, the use of organic seed is mandatory (art. 12). But the regulation allowed some flexibility (art. 22 and art. 45 Regulation 889/2008).

Current state of play: untreated conventional seed is still used in different countries.

- Derogation policy implemented in different ways by Member States
- Not sufficient organic seed available
- Not the suited varieties in organic available
- Not real functioning databases in some Member States
- No data on organic seed produced or used
Aim of LIVESEED project

- Boosting organic plant breeding across Europe and reach 100% organic seed of adapted cultivars
LIVESEED consortium

49 partners
18 countries

23 breeding & research institutes
7 breeding companies
8 seed companies
11 org. associations
LIVESEED activities to boost organic seed

• National visits in 8 different countries
• Seed supplier survey to estimate organic seed production (autumn 2018)
• Farmers survey to get insights in their motivations and needs (winter 2018/19)
• 8 national workshops to discuss the issue of organic seed in Baltics, Hungary, Spain, Bulgaria, Romania, Greece, Poland, Italy (2019)
• Business modelling for organic seed systems
The New Organic Regulation 2018/848

- This new regulation is an important step towards the increase and diversification of the seeds/plant reproductive material available for organic farmers.

- Article 53 Regulation 2018/848:
  - derogations should be phased out
  - only organic seed should be used by 2036 (extension possible)

- but all depends on the implementations of the new provisions (delegated & implementing acts, interpretation notes or guidelines).
The new Organic Regulation defines different options for Plant Reproductive Material (PRM) available for organic farmers:

- **Organic Plant Reproductive Material (PRM)/seeds & vegetative material**
  - organic varieties suitable for organic production multiplied under organic conditions
  - organic heterogeneous material
  - farm saved seed for own use
  - conventional varieties multiplied under organic conditions

- **In-conversion Plant Reproductive Material**, when derogation is granted (not after 2035).

- **Untreated conventional Plant Reproductive Material**, when a derogation is granted (not after 2035).
New Organic Regulation – IFOAM EU’s advocacy work

- Organic Heterogeneous Material
- Organic varieties suitable for organic production
- Breeding techniques
- Organic seed database for plant reproductive material
- Derogation process
Your involvement

Follow our activities on:

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Participate in:

- Surveys
- Interviews
- Workshops
- Events
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