## **European Consortium for Organic Plant Breeding**





www.eco-pb.org

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#### European Consortium for Organic Plant Breeding History

- > First idea to establish a consortium was discussed by Martin Wolfe (ORC), Urs Niggli (FiBL) and Edith Lammerts van Bueren (LBI) during a FAO workshop on research methodology for organic agriculture
- Officially founded by LBI, ITAB, FiBL, Elm Farm Research, Danish Research Center, AG Ökologischer Landbau and Vitalis on 12 April 2001 in Dierbergen aiming at:
  - **>** initiate, establish, support and maintain organic plant breeding programmes,
  - develop and investigate the concepts and scientific basis of organic plant breeding
  - develop and promote appropriate standards and practises as well as an appropriate legal framework for organic plant breeding.
  - provide for exchange of knowledge and thoughts among its members, for the information of the public, and for representation in parliamentary and administrative rule making.





#### European Consortium for Organic Plant Breeding History

#### > Already in 2002 Organic Breeding was put on the political agende

- **>** ECO-PB position paper on conservation varieties → EU regulation
- **>** ECO-PB with support of Louise Luttikholt promoted Definition of organic plant breeding to be added to IFOAM standard
- Letter to EU Commission to move organic seed not wait till end of derogation in 2004 (now 2036)
- > ECO-PB and LBI organized a workshop on breeding techniques

**Symposium** on Organic Seed Production and Plant Breeding – strategies, problems and

perspectives







#### European Consortium for Organic Plant Breeding Activities

- > Today ECO-PB has 15 full member organisations and 29 associated members
- Member of IFOAM Organics Europe and International, co-founder of the IFOAM Seeds Platform in 2014, development of motions
- > Promoting organic seed and plant breeding on EU research agenda and participating EU projects like LIVESEED, DIVERSIFOOD, Dynaversity
- > Organizing or co-organizing workshops and conferences
- Participating in consultations on EU regulations with respect to seed and organic plant breeding, like the Organic regulation, Plant health regulation, Seed directives, Regulation of new genetic engineering techniques, IPR issue
- > Official observer of CPVO (European variety protection office)
- Developing position papers
- Promotion of young breeders

### Criteria for Organic Plant Breeding

# Ethical issues of position paper of Eurpean Consortium for Organic Plant Breeding (ECO-PB) 2013

 Genom and cell is respected as indivisible entity, no technical/physical intervention (e.g. isolated DNA) → no technical/physical intervention (e.g. cell fusion)



- Maintain reproducibility in species specific manner
- No legal or technical barriers to restrict breeders' privelige
- Natural crossing barriers are respected
- Promotion of open pollinated varieties as alternative to F1 hybrids to enable farm saved seed
- Transparency
- <a href="https://www.eco-pb.org/fileadmin/eco-pb/documents/discussion\_paper/ECO-pb\_Pb\_Postition\_paper\_2012\_Translated2019\_French\_Version.pdf">https://www.eco-pb.org/fileadmin/eco-pb/documents/discussion\_paper/ECO-pb\_Pb\_Postition\_paper\_2012\_Translated2019\_French\_Version.pdf</a>

IFOAM International: Position Paper on New Breeding Techniques 2017 Draft February 2017, consultation and final approval on General Assembly of IFOAM in November 2017 <a href="https://www.ifoam.bio/compatibility-breeding-techniques-organic-systems">https://www.ifoam.bio/compatibility-breeding-techniques-organic-systems</a>

Transparency & traceability to allow freedom of choice for farmers & consumers

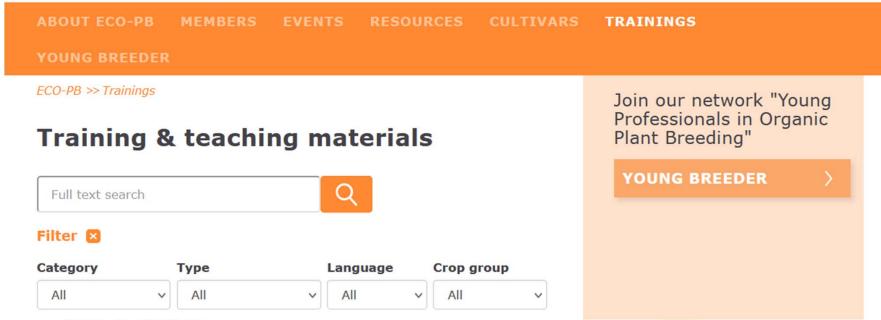




# Young breeders network and collection of training material



https://www.eco-pb.org/trainings.html





If you want to join the young breeders network or volunteer be become mentor for the young breeders please contact Kaja or Teresa

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