

European Consortium for Organic Plant Breeding



20
Years



www.eco-pb.org

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**Organic World
Congress 2021**

Pre-conference
6-7th September 2021

- › **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.

➤ **Already in 2002 Organic Breeding was put on the political agenda**

- ECO-PB position paper on conservation varieties → EU regulation
- ECO-PB with support of Louise Lutikholt 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



2001 - 2011



- › 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 European 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' privilege
- Natural crossing barriers are respected
- Promotion of open pollinated varieties as alternative to F1 hybrids to enable farm saved seed
- Transparency
- https://www.eco-pb.org/fileadmin/eco-pb/documents/discussion_paper/ECO-PB_Postition_paper_2012_Translated2019_French_Version.pdf



IFOAM International: Position Paper on New Breeding Techniques 2017

Draft February 2017, consultation and final approval on General Assembly of IFOAM in November 2017 <https://www.ifoam.bio/compatibility-breeding-techniques-organic-systems>

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>

A screenshot of the ECO-PB website's 'Trainings' page. The top navigation bar is orange with white text for 'ABOUT ECO-PB', 'MEMBERS', 'EVENTS', 'RESOURCES', 'CULTIVARS', and 'TRAININGS'. Below this, a sub-header 'YOUNG BREEDER' is also in orange. The main content area has a heading 'Training & teaching materials' and a search bar with the placeholder 'Full text search'. Below the search bar are filter options: 'Filter' with a close icon, and four dropdown menus for 'Category', 'Type', 'Language', and 'Crop group', all currently set to 'All'. On the right side, there is a light orange box with the text 'Join our network "Young Professionals in Organic Plant Breeding"' and a button labeled 'YOUNG BREEDER' with a right arrow.

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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