European Consortium for Organic Plant Breeding

20 Years

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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 practices 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 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
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

IFOAM International: Position Paper on New Breeding Techniques 2017

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

www.fibl.org
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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