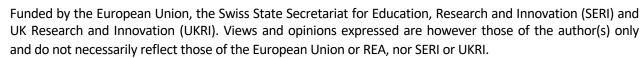
New legislation on Plant Reproductive Material Maria Zintl,

Maria Zintl,
Policy officer
IFOAM Organics Europe











What has happened so far?

 Proposal for a new Plant Reproductive Material regulation by European Commission in July 2023

Ongoing: work in the Council of the European Union and in the European Parliament

-> so, original proposal can still change – this is work in progress!



Production and marketing of plant reproductive material (PRM)



- PRM regulation will replace directives
- PRM regulation will maintain basic principles of the current legislation that varieties have to be registered and PRM certified before that PRM can be placed on the market



Good things to come for organic

Simpler rules for conservation varieties

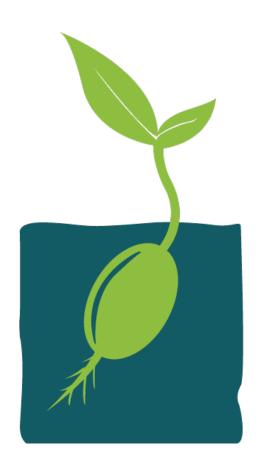
Derogations for seed conservation networks and exchange of seeds in kind between farmers

adapted rules for testing organic varieties

Testing under organic conditions



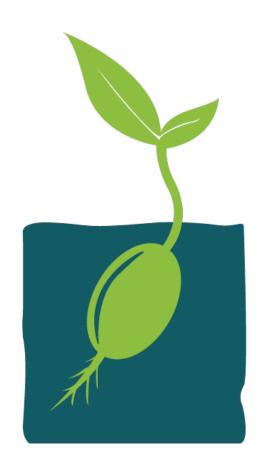
There are also challenges for organic breeders



- Amendments of the organic regulation 2018/848
 - Deleting provisions on Organic Heterogeneous Material,
 - and instead regulate Heterogeneous Material in the new PRM regulation
 - Adding techniques that will not be carried out under organic conditions to the multiplication of organic varieties
 - currently, all except for meristems shall be carried out under organic management



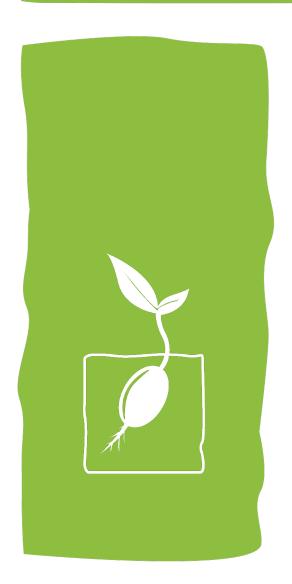
There are also challenges for organic breeders



Intention to extend VSCU testing to all crops
 – also fruit / vegetables/ vine



What are we currently trying to achieve for organic?



- Heterogeneous material should be possible for all crops, also open pollinated and forage crops
- Organic regulation should not be changed keep OHM and definition of organic breeding
- What is sustainability? VSCU should be done for all cultivars under sustainable farming systems (testing sites under organic, agroecological, conservation farming)
- VSCU should **not** be mandatory and not extended for vegetables and fruit trees
- Instead, post registration on farm cultivar testing should be financially supported
- Genetic engineering (GMO, NGT1, NGT2) and patents should be excluded from heterogeneous material, conservation varieties and organic varieties
- In kind exchange of farmers for all types of PRM
- Reduction of administrative burdens
- Involvement of multi-actor expert groups for delegated and implementing acts
- Transparency of breeding techniques and patents disclosed in EU variety portal

















































































Funded by the European Union, the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) and UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or REA, nor SERI or UKRI.





