

# New legislation on Plant Reproductive Material

**Maria Zintl,  
Policy officer  
IFOAM Organics Europe**



# What has happened so far?

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- 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)

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- 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

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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

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- 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

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- 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

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