Boosting organic seed and plant breeding across Europe
2017 - 2021

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Aiming for 100% organic seed of adapted cultivars

Approach & impact
LIVESEED in a nutshell

- Budget: 7.4 M EUR EU funding & 1.5 M EUR Swiss funding
- Duration: 4 years
- Coordinator: IFOAM EU
- Scientific coordinator: FiBL (Switzerland)
- Goal: Boosting organic seed and plant breeding in order to improve the performance, sustainability and competitiveness of the organic sector
- Approach:
  - Inter- and transdisciplinary
  - Policy – economy – science interface
  - Multi-actor & stakeholder involvement
  - Wide geographic representation
Multi-actor consortium

- 35 partners
- 14 linked parties
- 18 countries

- 23 breeding & research institutes
- 7 breeding companies
- 8 seed companies
- 11 organic associations
Aim: 100% organic seed of adapted cultivars by 2037

Figure 1. Schematic time line to reach the goal of 100% organically propagated seed of suitable cultivars (light green) in short term and to foster cultivars specifically bred for organic farming systems (bright green) in the long term.
Main objectives

**Policy & regulation**
Provide a level playing field for the use of organic seed and variety registration across Europe

**Research & development**
Develop innovative approaches in organic plant breeding and improve quality of organic seeds

**Socio-economics**
Increase access to organic seed and promote use of adapted cultivars

**Economy & market**
Improve the competitiveness of the organic seed supply chain

**Communication & network**
Enhance knowledge exchange & rise awareness on the benefits of organic seed and plant breeding
LIVESEEED ambitions

• Co-development of knowledge by transdisciplinary multi-actor approach

• Holistic approaches for breeding and seed production
  o Plant – Plant interaction
  o Plant – Soil microbiome interaction
  o Plant – Seed microbiome interaction

• Enabling more sustainable food production systems
  o Mitigate risks of crop failure through breeding for diversity
  o Safeguard genetic resources for future generations
Crop categories

Research activities of LIVESEED will cover five main crop categories:

• Legumes (lupin)
• Vegetables (carrot, tomato, broccoli)
• Fruit trees (apple)
• Cereals (winter wheat)
• Fodder crops (grasses)

considering different farming systems (mixed cropping, agroforestry) pedoclimatic zones across Europe
What LIVESEED will do:

- Foster harmonised implementation of the EU organic regulation on organic seed. Strengthen organic seed databases in the whole EU.
- Widen the choice of organic cultivars meeting the demand of farmers, processors, retailers and consumers.
- Investigate socio-economic aspects related to production and use of organic seed.
- Improve availability and quality of organic seed. Develop guidelines for organic cultivar testing and registration.
Your involvement

Follow our activities on

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Participate in:

• Surveys
• Interviews
• Workshops
• Events

Our official homepage [www.liveseed.eu](http://www.liveseed.eu) will be available soon!
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