

Seed treatments allowed in organic farming in certain countries (Input list)

Problems

Seed treatments are not regulated in the EU-regulation 834/2007 and 889/2008. Still there are several treatments that are promoted and used in organic farming. Farmers don't have the security that the treatments they use are in compliance with the EU-regulation and if the control body or control authority will accept it.



Figure 1. Source: oekolandbau.de ©BLE, Bonn/ picture: Thomas Stephan

Solutions

Inputs list for Seed treatments

The Inputs List for organic farming in Germany is published by FiBL every year. All inputs such as fertilisers, plant protection agents, feed and seed treatments that are allowed to use in organic farming in Germany are listed in there. Farmers can use the list to check if the product they want to buy and use on their farm is in compliance with the EU regulation and further criteria. Those further criteria are developed in coordination with German organic associations and umbrella organisations and define criteria that are not clearly regulated in the EU regulation.

For seed treatments the criteria for fertilisers are applied because the treatments are directly applied into the soil and support the seed in the first growth stage.

Practical recommendations

- The Inputs List in Germany lists the products that can be used for seed treatment
- A common list for all EU member states should be established to ensure farmers what they can use and buy in this context
- In other countries where such lists do not exist yet, farmers must ask their control bodies to clarify if a product can be used for seed treatment or not.

Further information

1. Inputs list for organic farming in Germany: <https://www.betriebsmittelliste.de/en/home.html>
2. Inputs list for organic farming: <https://www.inputs.eu/>
3. Handbook on „[How to implement the organic regulation to increase production & use of organic seed](#)”

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LIVESEED: Boosting organic seed and plant breeding across Europe. LIVESEED is based on the concept that cultivars adapted to organic systems are key for realising the full potential of organic agriculture in Europe. Research project 2017-2021.

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