

How to become a producer of certified organic seed in Romania

Problems

In Romania many farmers are also seed producers. A bottleneck is the lack of certified organic seed on the market. Organic farmers are not motivated to become a registered seed producer.

Solutions

Organic seeds are the basis of organic farming

Using organic seed is part of a fair trade for organic consumers. Conventional untreated seed use in organic farming reveals, that organic agriculture is not independent yet. This is a temporary solution that will not exist after 2035.

Organic certified seed is a simple way to add value to farmer's product

Organic growers already have the most important resource to become seed producer: organic seed! In addition, seed conditioning equipment, storage, extra labour and time, also learning about seed certification rules are essential. In Romania, in order to become an official seed producer, processor or depositor, one has to take an exam on current seed legislation¹, at the local national agricultural authority. When a farmer is registered as a seed producer, the field is inspected, the seed quality is tested and the seeds are certified.

Organic seed database

The organic seed database² is the official marketplace for organic seeds, where organic seed producers have the opportunity to list their seed offer.

Practical recommendations

- Plan and negotiate your contracts in advance – most organic seed companies contract farmers to produce seeds 2 years in advance.
- Start producing seeds of crops that you are familiar with.
- Keep fields clean of weeds.

Further information

1. Romanian seed legislation: <http://www.incs.ro/incshome.htm>
2. <https://www.madr.ro/agricultura-ecologica/baza-de-date-seminte-ecologice.html>
3. LIVESEED Cross visit at organic French seed producers: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XEpbyDjrn80>

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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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