

Marketing of heterogeneous material: EU experiences

Problems

A temporary experiment on the marketing of genetically diverse populations of wheat, barley, oats and maize was granted under the EU implementing decision 2014/150/EU. This has allowed EU countries to register populations and market their seed to determine how identification and traceability requirements may need to be adapted for seed production of populations. What happened?

Solutions

We identified which countries have registered populations as part of the experiment and collated their experiences in a report. In summary:

31 populations have been registered across Europe

Four European countries have marketed populations for barley, bread wheat (winter and spring), durum wheat and maize. Trials are also underway in Denmark and the Netherlands.

Seed certification is possible in collaboration with the national authorities

By following the official seed certification process within each country, traceability and seed safety have been possible regardless of the ability to identify individual batches of seed following DUS protocols.

100 ton of heterogeneous material has been successfully marketed

Seed companies have facilitated the sale of seed to farmers. The largest volumes have been sold in Italy (65T of bread wheat from three populations) and the UK (12T of bread wheat from one population).

Innovation within the cereal value chain

The variable nature of population grain has led to innovations by end-users. Alternative routes to market have been key to the success of initiatives marketing heterogeneous material.

Table 1: Overview of the crops with populations registered as of December 2017

Crop	Country	Number of registered populations	Contact organisation
Barley	Italy	1	University of Perugia
Durum wheat	Italy	4	Rete Semi Rurali and University of Florence
Maize	Germany	5	Dottenfelderhof and GZPK
Spring wheat	Germany	8	Dottenfelderhof and GZPK
Winter wheat	France	2	UBIOS
	Germany	7	Dottenfelderhof and GZPK
	Italy	3	Arcoiris and Rete Semi Rurali
	United Kingdom	1	The Organic Research Centre

Further information

- [Text of the Commission Implementing Decision 2014/150/EU](#)
- [Liveseed report on the Marketing of Heterogeneous Material](#)
- [Liveseed booklet 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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