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The EU legal framework

Update on Seeds in the New EU Organic Regulation

Martin Sommer, IFOAM EU
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Current situation in Europe regarding organic seed

Current organic Regulation 834/2007: use of **organic seed is mandatory** (art. 12).

But: regulation allows **some flexibility** (art. 22 and art. 45 Regulation 889/2208).

- Situation is different from country to country – but overall **untreated conventional seeds are still used.**



The new Organic Regulation 2018/848

- Scheduled to enter into force 1 January 2021.
- IFOAM EU: new regulation is an important step towards the increase and diversification of the seeds/plant reproductive material available for organic farmers.



The new Organic Regulation 2018/848

- Article 53 Regulation 2018/848:
 - ✓ derogations should be phased out
 - ✓ only organic seed should be used by 2036 (decision to limit or extend possible from 1 January 2028)
- The implementation of the new provisions:
 - Commission (delegated & implementing acts, interpretation notes or guidelines, report by 31 December 2025)
 - Member States (e.g. collection of data and setting up of the database)
 - Seed producers (to produce more organic seed)
 - Farmers (to use organic seed)
- Current state of play:
 - ✓ Basic act agreed
 - ✓ DA & IA in the process of finalization



New Organic Regulation - Content

The new Organic Regulation defines different options for Plant Reproductive Material (PRM) available for organic farmers:

- **Organic Plant Reproductive Material (PRM)/seeds & vegetative material**
 - organic seeds
 - organic varieties suitable for organic production
 - organic heterogeneous material
 - Farm-saved seed
- **In-conversion Plant Reproductive Material**, if conversion period of 12 months respected (not after 2035).
- **Untreated non-organic Plant Reproductive Material**, if a derogation is granted & no in-conversion material available (not after 2035).



Seed Article 12 (incl. Annex)

- **Database** for organic and in-conversion plant reproductive material-> decisive for derogation request.
 - ✓ Lists available species/varieties
 - ✓ Marketplace functionality
- **Workshop on Database:**
 - ✓ Tomorrow, 26 June 8:30 – 9:45h



Seed Article 12 (incl. Annex)

- **Farm-saved** in-conversion and organic PRM allowed
- **Simplified process:** list of species and varieties for which suitable organic/in-conv PRM is available in sufficient quality
 - MS may grant **general authorisation** annually for non-organic PRM (list regularly updated)
 - **Derogation** for one year/planting season
- Non-organic PRM shall not be treated with unauthorized plant protection products after harvest



Production & Marketing of OHM

- Introduction of a new category of PRM:
 - bred and developed under certified organic conditions
 - Crossing different parental material
 - On farm management practices
 - High level of phenotypic & genotypic diversity
 - Adapt to certain growing conditions and stresses due to natural and human selection -> change over time



Production & Marketing of OHM



Not a variety: adapted characterization as est. methods of uniformity & stability testing not appropriate

- Production method, parental material
- Phenotypic & agronomic characteristics (e.g. yield, suitability for low input systems).



Quality standards: Sanitary quality, analytical purity & germination specified



Transparency: List of notified OHM on territory published by MS

Use of in-conversion & non-organic PRM

- **New category:** marketing as 'in-conversion' if conversion period at least 12 months before harvest
- To be listed in database, together with organic PRM
- Use of in-conversion to be prioritised over non-organic
- Authorization for non-organic PRM can only be requested if
 - ✓ No variety of species that one intends to use is registered as organic or in-conversion (in database)
 - ✓ No supplier able to deliver in time (while order placed in time)
 - ✓ None of the registered alternatives of the same species are appropriate to agronomic & pedo-climatic conditions
 - ✓ Research & field trials



Use of in-conversion & non-organic PRM

- Seed mixtures
 - Authorization applies for non-organic components
 - Currently, only 100% organic mixtures are guaranteed to be tradable with in EU



Temporary Experiment

- **Organic varieties suitable for organic production**

Contribution to the preparation of the 7 years experiment with technical input from organic breeders and research outcomes from the H2020 LIVESEED project.

Relevance:

- Lower market-access barriers for organic varieties
- Increase availability of organic varieties
- Test under organic conditions

IFOAM EU recommendations:

- For DUS registration, reduce *mandatory* parameters for uniformity and stability
- Include parameters relevant for organic agriculture
- Set up a network of testing sites managed under organic conditions -> assess VCU for organic varieties of arable crops in their target environment

Scheduled to start in April 2021, led by DG SANTE





Thank you!

Questions?



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