

How to access organic seeds in Hungary

Problems

In Hungary organic seeds are scarcely available, thus derogation for the use of conventional untreated seeds is still a major practice¹.

Solutions

Database

The organic seed database (<http://portal.nebih.gov.hu/oko-vetomag>) is a tool for farmers to look for organic seeds available on the market. To increase the availability and transparency of seeds, farmers and seed companies should regularly use the database.

National seed companies

Certified Hungarian companies are willing to produce organic seeds, but only on explicit demand. Clear commitment of farmers to use organic seed will encourage them to invest in organic seed business.

International seed companies

Organic vegetable farmers ensure their seed supply mostly from international seed companies, that offer a broad range of organic seeds via on-line marketing.

Farm-saved seeds

Farm-saved seeds are commonly used by organic cereal farmers (>90%) to reduce input costs and to use locally adapted material. However, the quality of farm-saved seeds often poses a major risk. Training courses, visits to best practice examples could help farmers to tackle these problems.

Practical recommendations

1. Researchers, breeders with the national authority should organise organic variety trials with farmer field days to showcase the advantages of organically produced seeds adapted to organic conditions, triggering organic seed production and use
2. With the coordination of the Organic Agriculture Research Institute ÖMKi, involving all relevant stakeholders of the sector, a working group on organic seed should be established to facilitate strategic planning and harmonise actions.
3. Researchers should organise farmer trainings and capacity building in producing high quality seed.
4. Policy makers should establish incentives for organic seed use and organic seed production.

Further information

- [ECO-PB Workshop report \(2013\)](#)
- [A Seed Saving Guide for Gardeners and Farmers \(2010\)](#)

Authors: Dóra Drexler, Tina Kovács, Korinna Varga (ÖMKi)

Contact: dora.drexler@biokutatas.hu

Publisher: ÖMKi Hungarian Research Institute of Organic Agriculture

Date: April 2018

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.

Social Media: Facebook [[LIVESEED](#)] & Twitter [[@LIVESEEDeu](#)]

