

Get registered: Eco-PB-Symposium 'Organic Seed Production and Plant Breeding – strategies, problems and perspectives'

In the Newsletter August 2002 the program was published for the international Symposium on organic seed production and plant breeding taking place at the Humboldt University in Berlin on 21st and 22nd of November 2002 (<http://www.eco-pb.org/07/programsymposium.pdf>).

This first international symposium on organic seed production and plant breeding is taking place right in heart of the city Berlin close to the Brandenburger Tor at the known Humboldt University. In the late afternoon of November 21st it starts with an opening ceremony with keynote speaker and a organic buffet afterwards. On November 22nd oral as well as poster presentations on the matter of organic seed production and plant breeding are given and discussed among the participants.

Participants can now register by using the form that is displayed on the Eco-PB web site under www.eco-pb.org/07/registration.htm The number of participants is limited: First come first served. Therefore, it is recommended not to wait too long with the registration. Registrations exceeding the limit of participants must be rejected. The participation fee amounts 50 Euros and is to be paid cash at the entrance.

Those who want to take part can book accommodation either by using the list with a selection of hotels and pension (www.eco-pb.org/07/hotelberlin.pdf) or the internet booking service of the city of Berlin under (<http://w3.berlin.de/TouristCenter/TouristInformation/english/unterkunft/index.html>). For making the way from the station or airport to the Humboldt University (Address: Unter den Linden 6) a map can be found under <http://www.stadtplan.net/brd/berlin/berlin/home.html>.
Contact: Klaus-Peter Wilbois

IFOAM General Assembly has adopted draft rules on organic plant breeding

The IFOAM General Assembly has adopted draft standards in the Basic Standards for organic plant breeding during its meeting in Victoria, Canada. Eco-PB altogether with 10 IFOAM members had send in motions on the matter of organic plant breeding draft standards which were taken into account by the Standards Committee as well as the General assembly. The minutes of the General Assembly as well as the revised Basic Standards will be published presumably in November this year.

By Klaus-Peter Wilbois

ESA presented study on availability of organic vegetable seeds

With regard to the revision of the provisions on organic seed use in EU-Regulation 2092/91 the European seed industry represented by ESA (European Seed Association) demands that the current system of derogations from the obligatory use of organic seed for organic farming should not be prolonged after 31.12.2003.

The seed industry lobby is challenging the assumption as contained in a current Commission draft proposal on the future obligatory use of organic seed that no sufficient amounts of organic seed will be available to farmers on the basis of an internal study on the availability of organic vegetable and herb seeds from all species. According to the data assembled, for a large majority of vegetable species, already today sufficient organic seed is available to satisfy the certified organic production market.

By Klaus-Peter Wilbois

FiBL Berlin

Klaus-Peter Wilbois

fon: ++49 (0)69-7137699-6

fax: ++49 (0)69-7137699-9

e-mail: FiBL@Berlin.de

ECO-PB

fon: ++49 (0)6257-505489

fax: ++49 (0)6257-505498

e-mail: mail@eco-pb.org

FiBL Frick

Christine Arncken

fon: ++41 (0)62-8657272

fax: ++49 (0) 62-8657273

e-mail: admin@fi-bl.de