

7th European Workshop on Organic Seed Regulation - 9th & 10th October 2013 - Brussels

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Welcome!

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Organic Seeds in Belgium

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Organic Seeds in Belgium : introduction

- Agricultural area under organic production in 2012 = 4,5 % of total UAA
- 3 regional competent authorities
- Seed database = **organicXseeds**
- Currently no national annex
- List of species with possible derogation if justified
- General authorisation ("notification") for all the rest
- Management of seed derogation system delegated to control bodies

Organic Seeds in practice : cereal (triticale)

- Triticale = most important cereal (surface)
 - 1000 ha pure at 180 kg / ha
 - 500 ha intercropped with other cereal / legume crop at 140 kg / ha
 - Estimated needed seed amount : 242.000 kg
- Current offer on www.organicxseeds.be
 - 1 supplier (Fayt Carlier SA)
 - 2 varieties (Dublet & Grandval)
- Derogation 2012
 - 117 derogations given, 108.000 kg
 - Grandval (42 T), Sequenz (26 T) Vuka (11 T)


⇒ > 50 % organic seed is used
 ⇒ Problem of seed availability
 ⇒ Quantity (Grandval)
 ⇒ Varieties (organically available in neighbouring countries)
 ⇒ Seedsuppliers

Organic Seeds in practice : vegetables







- Expertgroup 2012 for greenhouse vegetables and outdoor vegetables
- Very open discussion between seed suppliers and vegetable growers
- Unanimous support for national annex
- Concrete proposal
 - Greenhouse: paprika (some), red beet, lettuce (some), tomato (some), endive, winter purslane
 - Outdoor: onion, leaf beet, white cabbage, white kohlrabi, endive, turnip tops, winter purslane, lettuce (most), pumpkin (Red Hokkaido)
- Remarks
 - Sometimes difficult to follow clear criteria
 - Need for flexibility
 - Problem of availability
 - Diseases
 - New market with specific needs
 - Conservation varieties
 - Experimentation with new varieties
 - ...

Organic Seeds in practice : strawberries

- Discussion about the use of conventional vegetative planting material
 - that are conserved in a coldstore during winter
 - and transplanted in early spring
 - Having fruits 6 weeks after 'conversion'
 - ≠ 'organic'

Conclusions 

- If appropriated varieties are available, the use of organic seed becomes evident in Belgium
- Continuous sensibilisation and communication >> legislation
- Nevertheless, legislation is important
 - 1st step: general authorization, each use of conventional seed has to be notified.
 - National annex list makes the commitment clear
- Stakeholders can facilitate progress directly
 - Seed suppliers: availability of seed + communication
 - Farmers: trying organic seeds + exchange experiences
 - Retail: awareness of organic seed (price, quality,...)
 - Scientific research: breeding techniques, seed health,...
 - Dissemination: variety trials to show organic varieties
 - Government:
 - www.organicseeds.be
 - Legislation that permits space for movement

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Thank you for your attention!










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