




## Seed and plants for organic farming in the context of EU policy frameworks

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7th European Workshop on Organic Seed Regulation of the European Consortium for Organic Plant Breeding




- IFOAM EU
- Revision of the **Plant Reproductive Material Legislation**
- Revision of the **Organic Regulation**
- Making use of **other policies**



### IFOAM EU Operations and organisation


160 members in all 28 EU member states, EFTA and EU candidate countries:

- Organic farming associations
- Organic food processors, retailers, traders
- Organic food and farming advisors and researchers
- Organic certifiers

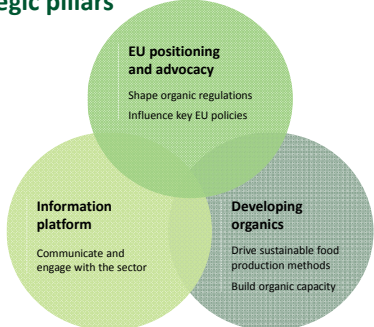


### IFOAM EU Working and interest groups


<p><b>General policy &amp; regulation committee</b></p> <p><b>Policy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CAP &amp; rural development</li> <li>• Seed</li> <li>• GMO</li> <li>• Water</li> <li>• Labelling</li> <li>• Plant protection products</li> </ul> <p><b>Interest Groups</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organic processing/trade</li> <li>• Organic farming</li> </ul>	<p><b>Organic Regulation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organic Wine</li> <li>• Greenhouses</li> <li>• Poultry</li> <li>• Aquaculture</li> <li>• Flexibility</li> <li>• Import &amp; control</li> <li>• Group certification</li> </ul> <p><b>Research</b></p> <p>Host the secretariat of the TP Organics research platform</p>
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### IFOAM EU Strategic pillars



- EU positioning and advocacy**  
 Shape organic regulations  
 Influence key EU policies
- Information platform**  
 Communicate and engage with the sector
- Developing organics**  
 Drive sustainable food production methods  
 Build organic capacity



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## Plant Reproductive Material Legislation Towards more crop diversity: IFOAM EU core demands

*Adapting market rules for future food security, biodiversity and food culture*

- Market access for niche varieties and populations on the basis of a simplified description procedure
- Adapted evaluation criteria (uniformity) for open pollinated varieties
- Adapted testing must be available for varieties targeted for organic farming or specific local conditions
- Registration of varieties and the control of the quality of seeds must remain a public service

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## Plant Reproductive Material Legislation Towards more crop diversity: IFOAM EU core demands

- Exchange and direct sale by farmers, gardeners and conservation networks must be out of scope
- Enable registration of Composite Cross Populations
- Transparency of breeding methods and the origins of the basic varieties in a publicly accessible database
- GMO-free seed must remain available
- Varieties whose variety protection right has expired should remain available

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## Organic regulation Current situation concerning seed

*Commission Regulation 834/2007*

Article 12:

"[...] only organically produced seed and propagating material shall be used."

Article 22:

"Exceptions [...] shall be kept to a minimum and, where appropriate, limited in time[...]"

(b) "where it is necessary in order to ensure access to feed, seed and vegetative propagating material, live animals and other farm inputs, where such inputs are not available on the market in organic form."

*Commission Regulation 889/2008*

Article 45:

"[...] Member States may authorise the use of non-organic seed or vegetative propagating material if not available from organic production."

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## Organic regulation Derogations: yes or no? Things to consider

- Where the problem lies: implementation vs. regulation
- Access:
  - "Niche" markets (e.g. new member states)
  - Small farmers / rural areas / availability of information
  - Language and price barriers
- Sustainability: Transport of organic vs. use of conventional untreated seeds
- Biodiversity: Locally adapted seed preference, rare species or varieties
- Removing derogations could mean excluding many (smaller!) players from the organic markets
- Permanent derogations could halt efforts to improve
- Evolution of derogations can help show progress

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## Organic regulation Current review process: IFOAM EU core demands


We need to develop the sector and encourage sustainable growth along the organic principles

- Better implementation of derogation/exemption rules
- Increase efficiency of controls
- Introduce environmental performance requirements in processing
- Harmonise organic regulations with horizontal legislation (fertilisers, plant protection products, food information, origin labelling)
- Harmonise pesticide residue management
- Facilitate international trade
- Extend the protection of the term organic to other new areas (textile, cosmetics, mass catering)
- Encourage organic pioneers (private labels, member states that go for stricter requirements)


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### Organic regulation & Plant Reproductive Material Legislation

- Organic seed only in organic = end to exchange?
- "Diversity" seed, non-registered varieties
- Exchange and direct sale by farmers, gardeners and conservation networks



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### Other policy opportunities European Innovation Partnerships (EIP) for Agriculture

**Horizon 2020** (EU research framework 2014-2020)  
Multi-actor projects: favours practitioner – researcher cooperation  
*Apply for European projects*

**Rural Development Programmes** (CAP, Pillar 2)  
Operational Groups: different actors along food chain work together  
Article 29: "Support may be provided for the conservation and for the sustainable use and development of genetic resources in agriculture"  
*Ask your member states and Regions to apply the EIP measure and put a focus on progress towards agro-ecology*





### Other policy opportunities New organic action plan

Needed for consistent policy approach to support organic farming, incl. regulation, CAP, research, ....

- Use organic as tool to reach EU objectives
  - Biodiversity
  - Soil
  - Animal welfare
  - Development of rural areas & local food chains
  - Multifunctional agriculture
  - Long term food security
- Profile the long standing certified organic label against other food systems & labels
- Expand organic area and market by 20% in 2020

**Organic is too good to be left to the market alone!**



## Thank you and See you in Brussels on 6-8 November!

### Making Europe More Organic

Celebrate 10 years of IFOAM EU in Brussels

European organic political and legal framework

6 November Excursion & Reception  
7 November Conference & Networking dinner

Organic 2030 & Birthday celebration  
8 November Conference & Workshops

Look forward to seeing you there  
The IFOAM EU team













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