

How are the rules implemented in the different countries?

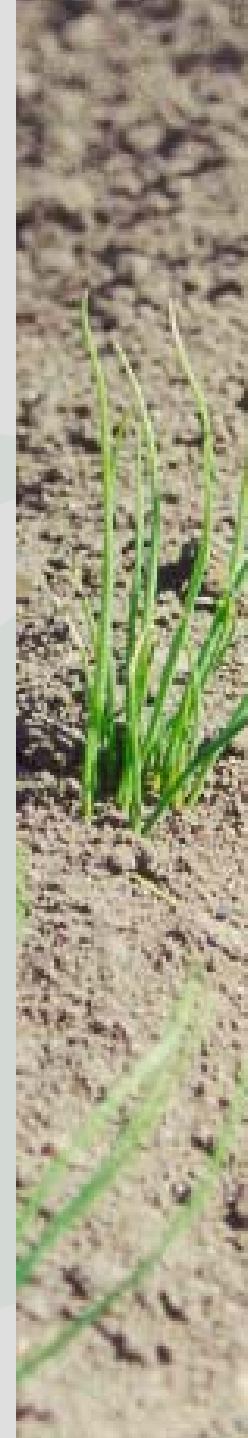
Organic Seed on The Move

28th to 29th of September 2006

Inger Bertelsen

Adviser in Organic Farming

Danish Agricultural Advisory Service, National Centre



The countries included

- United Kingdom
- Sweden
- Germany
- France
- The Netherlands
- Italy
- Denmark
- Switzerland

Answers from a questionnaire



Elements in the implementation

- Database
- General derogations
- Individual derogations
- National “Annex 1”
 - no derogations are possible (Sweden, the Netherlands, Switzerland)
- Use of expert groups
- Import of vegetable seed



Database?

- Yes
 - OrganicXseeds: United Kingdom, Germany and Switzerland
 - Own national database: The Netherlands, France and Denmark
- No
 - But a static excel list: Sweden and Italy



Management of the databases

	UK	DK	S	D	F	NL	I	CH
Company payment	yes	yes	no	yes	no	no	yes	yes
Active search for new suppliers?	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes
The companies can't be forced to publish in the database								
Withdrawal from the database?	yes	yes	yes	no	no	yes	yes	yes
Allow foreign seed suppliers?	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Farmers are not forced to buy seeds abroad								

Vegetable seeds in the databases

	UK	DK	S	D	F	NL	I	CH
Number of species	-	60	79	129	60	80	18	61
Number of varieties	-	151	266	936	680	550	-	386
Number of seed suppliers	14	3	8	-	33	13	-	4
Ex. number of Carrot varieties	28	6	5	15	22	15	-	12
Ex. number of Onion varieties	17	7	4	10	19	18	-	4

Expert/farmer's view on the database

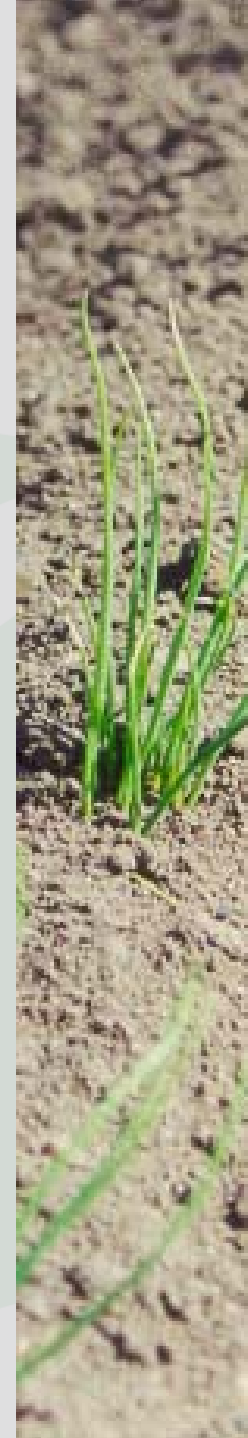
	UK	DK	S	D	F	NL	I	CH
Introduction ok?	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Frequently used by farmers?	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Useful tool to								
- search for seeds	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
- download confirmation	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes
- call for derogations	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Complete?	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no



Database

Species badly represented

- UK: Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Some Herbs, Parsnips, Swedes, Garlic
- DK: All except Iceberg and Onion
- S: Brassica-varieties, Scorzonera, Asparagus, Sugar and Garden Pea, Parsnip, Set Onion of *allium cepa*
- D: e.g. some Cabbages, Rape, Ornamentals
- NL: Biannual crops like Carrot, Cabbage
- CH: Cruciferea, biannual vegetable



National “Annex 1” and derogations

	UK	DK	S	D	F	NL	I	CH
National “Annex 1”	no	no	yes*	no	no	yes	no	yes*
Vegetable species in national “Annex 1”	-	-	23	-	-	49	-	5
General derogations	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes
Number: main	86	0	0	48	12	0	-	103
minor	24	41	6	50%	9	1	-	30
Part of individual derogations denied	10%	4%	11%	low	-	-	-	2%

* It is possible to get derogation for species on “Annex 1”

Expert groups

- All countries that use general derogations also use expert groups
- The composition of the groups vary
- The expert groups are also involved in the making of the National “Annex 1”



Farmers call for derogations

	UK	DK	S	D	F	NL	I	CH
Farmers don't have to pay a fee for calls for derogation. In Switzerland farmers have to pay if the derogation is granted.								
Collect calls for a group of farmers	no	no	yes	yes	yes	no	no	yes
Collect calls for contract producers etc.	no	no	yes	no	no	yes	yes	yes
Authorisation body*	C/P	C/G	C/P	D/P	D/P	C/G	C/G	C/P
Second instance	yes	-	yes	yes	yes	-	-	yes

* C: centralised, D: decentralised, P: private, G: governmental

Importation of seed

- Legal constraints according seed trade laws?
 - Yes in the Netherlands (double fee and control) and Switzerland (threshold values below EU standards)
- The Netherlands is the only country where the authorities make an effort to facilitate import



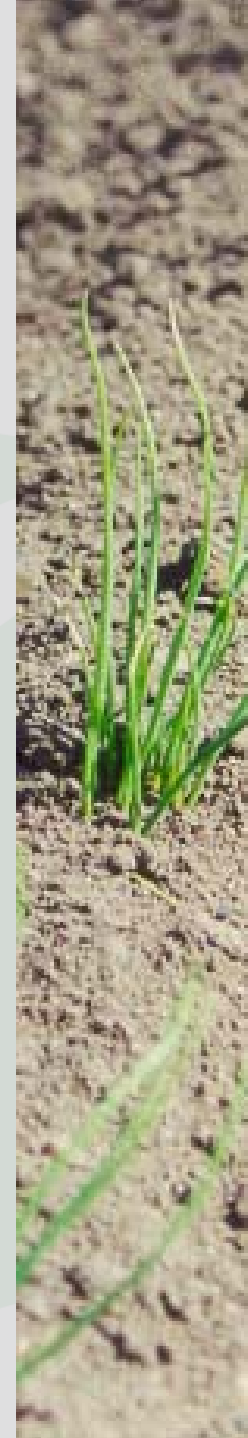
Contact and research

- In all countries contact has been taken to organic seed suppliers/ breeder by the authorities or the farmers' association
- In most countries there are regular meeting between breeders and the representatives of organic farming, except Denmark and Italy.
- In all countries there are projects to enhance organic seed production, but very limited organic variety trials for vegetables.



Questions for discussion

- Is the implementation of the regulation in the different countries uniform and good enough?
- Are you satisfied with the way organic seed is handled in your own country and in the other countries?
- Is EU making enough effort and progress on the issue of use of organic vegetable seed?
- Can EU leave the use of organic vegetable seed to the member states, if the possibilities for the farmers are the same in all countries? And if it's not?
- **Your own suggestions for discussion!**





**Thank
you
for your
attention**

Constraints for use of organic vegetable seeds in Denmark

Danish project 2005-2006

Inger Bertelsen

Adviser in organic farming



Organic farming in Denmark

2005	Area, ha
Total organic area:	150.815
Organic vegetables	950
- carrots	419
- onion	107
- cabbage, all types	95
Potatoes	892



Element in the project

- Interviews among
 - organic vegetable farmers
 - vegetable seed companies in Denmark
- National workshop on the constraints to use organic seed – and how to solve it
- International meeting



Organic vegetable farmers

- 9 organic farmers with vegetable production as main source of income
- Use of organic seed
 - From no organic seeds to 100 %
 - Depending on the supply of suitable varieties
 - The farmers have increased the use of organic seeds over the years



Organic vegetable farmers

- The farmers want to use organic seed, but...
 - There has to be seed of good quality of the right varieties at a reasonable price
 - There has to be more than one or two suitable varieties to choose from in the database
- The farmers think that it is important to promote the use of organic seed
- There might be other issues that are more important for organic farming



Seed companies

- 9 vegetable seed companies
- Share of organic seed sold
 - Non - two companies
 - Less than 5% - four companies
 - 10 % - one company
 - 100 % - two companies (not in the database)
- Mostly imported seeds
- Limited or no influence on the production of imported seed



Seed companies

Constraints

- The cost of using the database is too high (33 euro per company + 6 euro per variety)
- Too small a market for seed in Denmark
- Not the same interpretation of the rules in all of EU
- For some species it is impossible to produce seed at a reasonable price



Suggestions from the Danish workshop

- The database must be made more attractive for vegetable seed companies
- Production of the species for which sufficient supply of the right quality at a reasonable price is achievable
- Import of organic seedlings from abroad, produced on conventional seeds, should be forbidden when organic seed is available in Denmark
- Tests of new varieties should be possible, even though organic seed of the species is available





Thank you for your attention

Implementation of the organic seed regulation

- Andreas Thommen
Research Institute for Organic Agriculture
Frick, Switzerland

my background

database manager

**organic
X
seeds**

FiBL: derogation body
in Switzerland

Introduction – short preparation time

Publication of seed reg. August 15th 2003

Implementation per January 1st 2004

- **build up the seed database**
- **inform breeders and enter the seed data**
- **set up the list for general derogation**
- **set up all forms for derogation handling**
- **fix the fee**
- **install derogation bodies**
- **inform the organic farmers**

Organisation of derogation regime

Is the authorisation body centralised?
Governmental control?

UK	DK	SE	GE	FR	NL	IT	SU
no	yes	yes	no	no	yes	yes	yes
Private	Governmental	Private	Private	Private	Governmental	Governmental	Private
[Redacted]							

General derogation

Exists a list of general derogation?

UK	DK	SE	GE	FR	NL	IT	SU
no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes

N/A?	expert group (scientists and advisers)	Authorities with help from expert groups (advisors, farmers, suppliers, control bodies and scientists)	An expert group meeting each year	proposal: expert group decision: authorities	expert group		Mixed commissions of the private label owner Bio Suisse. A second list of the authorities.
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Individual calls for derogation

Do the derogation bodies deny calls (for vegetables)?

UK	DK	SE	GE	FR	NL	IT	SU
90% approved	10 of 285 **	1 to 9	very low	yes	no	yes	2:100

**** (there is given partial derogations: the farmers has to use the organic seed in some of his field)**

Derogation is given if not “appropriate” according expert knowledge

Annex 1

Did the authorities establish a national Annex 1?

UK	DK	SE	GE	FR	NL	IT	SU
no	no	yes*	no	no	yes	no	yes* private

all in collaboration with experts and seed traders

* possibility for derogation calls

Evaluation of the organic seed supply

Are there regular meetings between seed producers /breeders and representatives of organic agriculture?

UK	DK	SE	GE	FR	NL	IT	SU
yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes

Tenor: the authorities do not hinder the market but do also not support it

NL and SU reports problems with import/export

Evaluation of the organic seed supply

Is the organic seed offer on the database complete for vegetable seeds?

UK	DK	SE	GE	FR	NL	IT	SU
no	no	no	no	no	yes	no	double no!

Except Switzerland all countries report, that the database is frequently used by farmers

Evaluation of the organic seed supply

Which vegetable species or crop-groups are badly represented in the database?

UK	DK	SE	GE	FR	NL	IT	SU
Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Some Herbs, Parsnips, Swedes, Garlic	all except Iceberg and Onions	Brassica-varieties, scorzonera asparagus sugar and garden pea, parsnip, onion set	e.g. some cabbages, rape, ornamentals		biennial crops like carrot, cabbage,		Generally: Cruciferae + biennial vegetable species Often only one offering company.

Support for the organic breeding

Organic VCU (value for cultivation and use) trials?

UK	DK	SE	GE	FR	NL	IT	SU
yes	no	no	On arable crops	no, in discussion for cereals	spring wheat 2001-2005	no	no organic VCU for wheat has been stopped 2005

In GE and SU organic breeders got some financial support from government or private sponsors

Organic variety trials

Organic variety trials by governmental research stations, Universities or impartial private organisations?

UK	DK	SE	GE	FR	NL	IT	SU
<p>yes</p>	<p>yes</p> <p>In 2006 spring triticale, spring barley, winter wheat, winter spelt</p>	<p>yes</p> <p>on apple, black currant, potatoes, winter and spring wheat, winter rye, Triticale, barley, oat, pea, broad bean, lupin, timothy, meadow-fescue and perennial rye grass</p>	<p>yes</p> <p>Mainly on arable and vegetable crops</p>	<p>no</p> <p>Trials on varieties, yes. Not on organic varieties</p>	<p>no</p>	<p>yes</p> <p>tomato, corn and some minor trials on vegetables</p>	<p>yes</p> <p>Variety trials for cereals and vegetables at the FiBL, non of-ficial VCU trials for wheat, spelt and barley grass varieties and grass-clover mix-tures on organic at the federal re-search station. Testing of farmland. Testing of oil and fibre crops. Yearly variety trials with potatoes</p>

Evaluation of the national seed reports

- Andreas Thommen
Research Institute for Organic Agriculture
Frick, Switzerland

Quality of the annual reports

State	Format	General derogation (§ 5.4)	Data verification	comments
Austria	Excel-file	2 separate Word-files	Variety names not verified Missing variety names	No totals per species Number of derogations per species not calculated
Belgium	Excel file	No general derogation	Data verified	Up to two units (kg and seeds) per species

Quality of the annual reports

State	Format	General derogation (§ 5.4)	Data verification	comments
Denmark	Pdf-file	Species list included in pdf-file	Data verified	Units standardised >> easy comparison
France	Pdf-file	Separate pdf-file	Only number of derogation per species, no varieties mentioned	Quantities per species missing
Germany	Pdf- and 2 separate Word files	Separate pdf-files of each federal state	Varieties names not verified Quantity data not verified	Data seems not verified Separate word-files make searches complicate

Quality of the annual reports

State	Format	General derogation (§ 5.4)	Data verification	comments
Spain	Pdf-file	No general derogation	Variety names not verified	Variety totals not sub-summarized
Sweden	Word-file	Species list included	Variety names verified	
Switzerland	Excel or Word-file	Separate word -file	Variety names verified	No general derogation survey
Netherlands	Excel-file	Separate excel-sheet	Variety names verified	

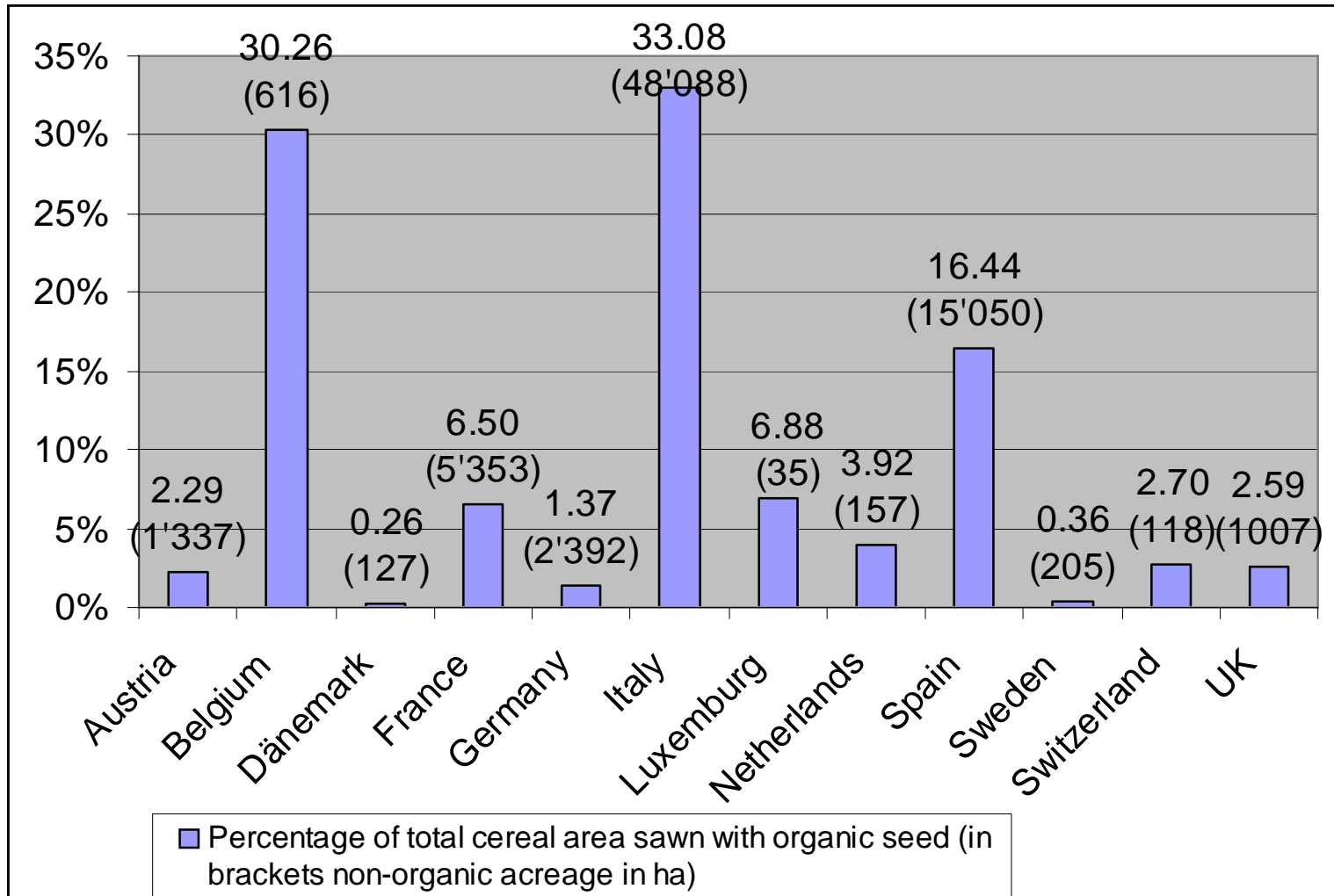
Number of authorisations

state	species 2004	authorisations 2004	authorisations 2005
Belgium	135	1'479	22*
Denmark	176	1'181	581
France	135	17'536	16886
Germany	191	6'876	8440
Italy	287	28'898	28668
Luxembourg	26	53	111
Netherlands	104	1'883	1745
Spain	75	3'410	1336
Sweden	24	782	103
Switzerland	25	394	638
UK	406	26'939	*

Authorisations for vegetables

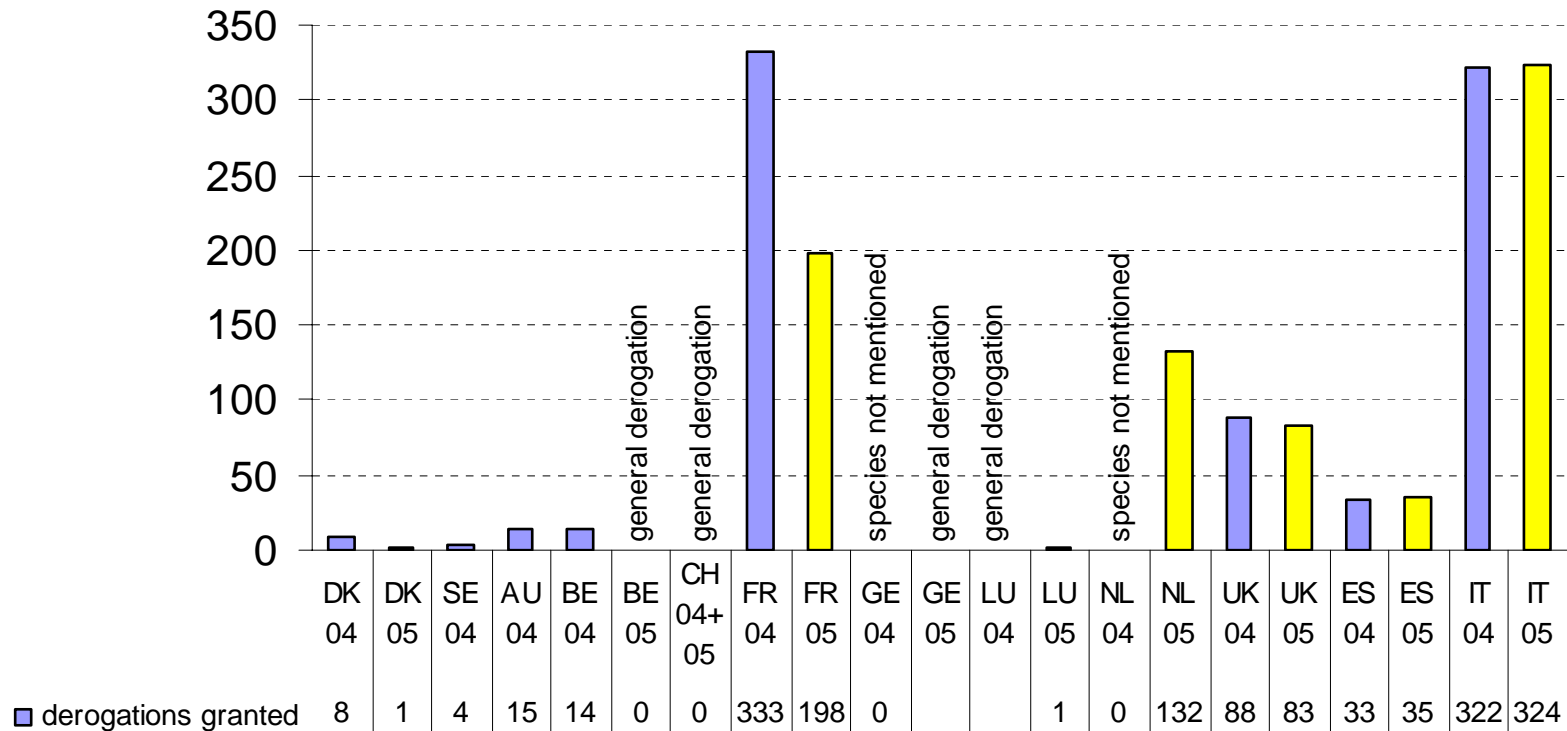
state	Authorisations vegetable 2004	Authorisations vegetable 2005
Belgium	504	12
Denmark	343	241
France	6882	6324
Italy	9327	9308
Luxembourg	3	9
Netherlands	1723	1473
Spain	885	835
Sweden	20	4
Switzerland	53	24

Share of authorisations for cereals



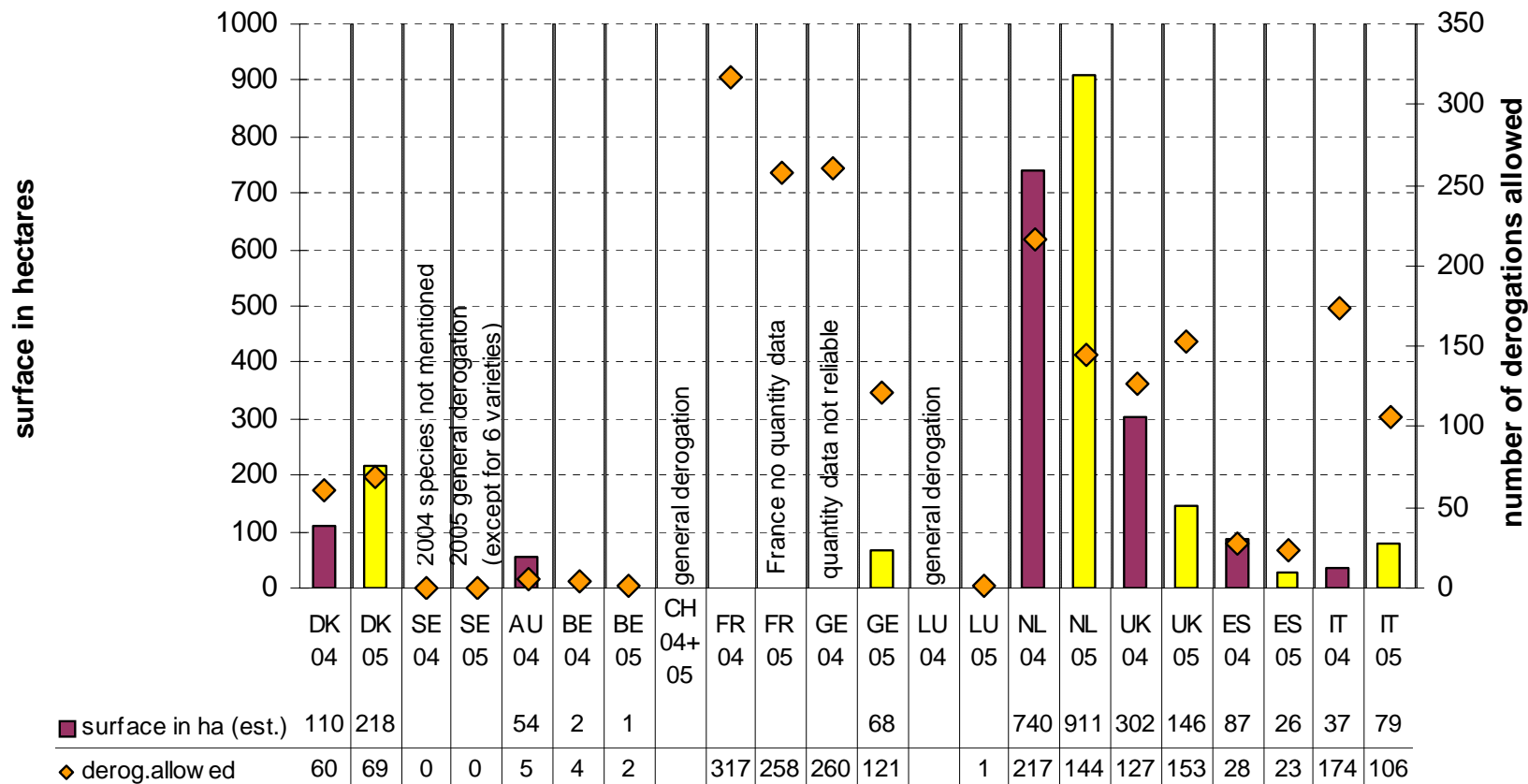
Number of authorisations for Onions

Number of authorisations for *Allium cepa*



Authorisations for Carots

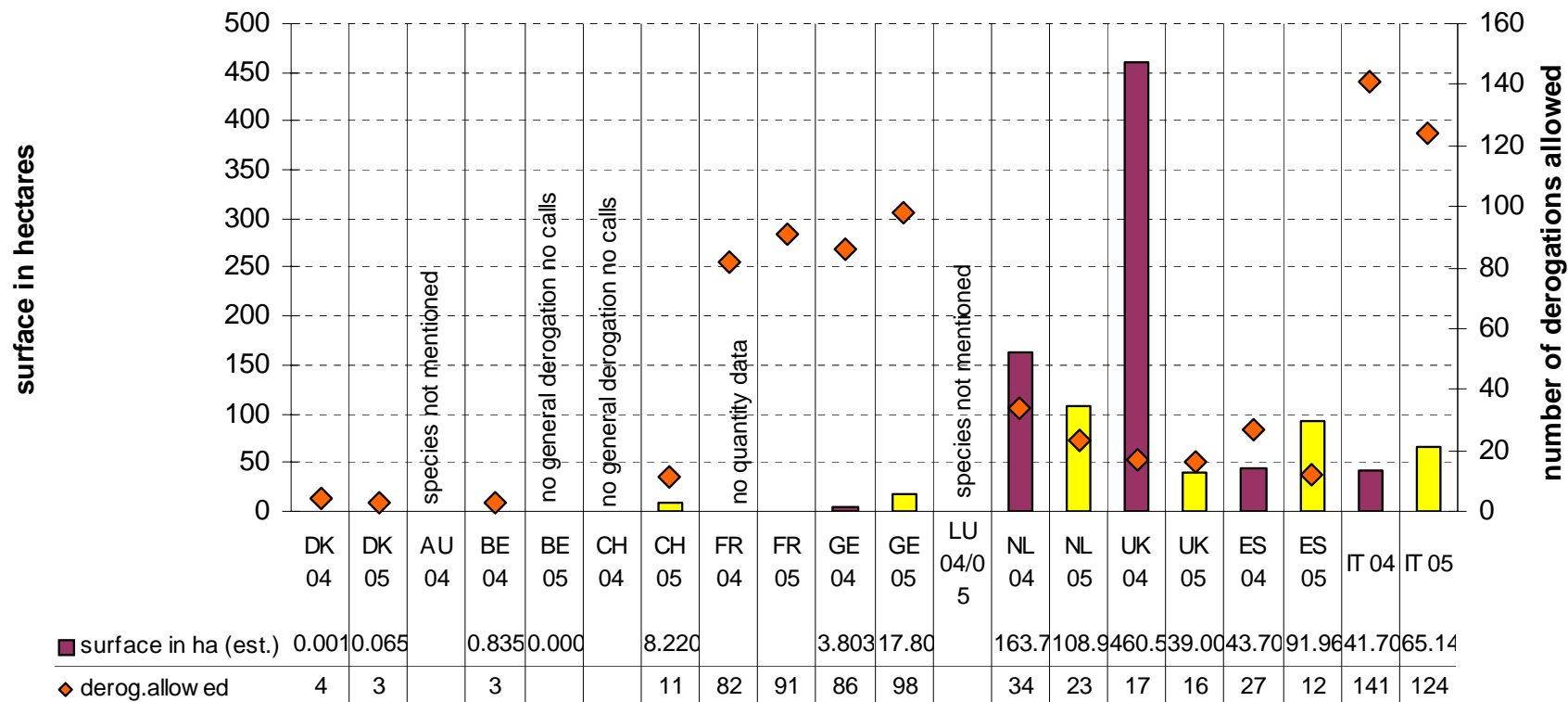
Carot (*Daucus carota*) surface planted with conventional seeds (estimated)



Estimation of the surface planted: 2 million seeds/ha or 2 kg seeds/ha

Authorisations for Spinach

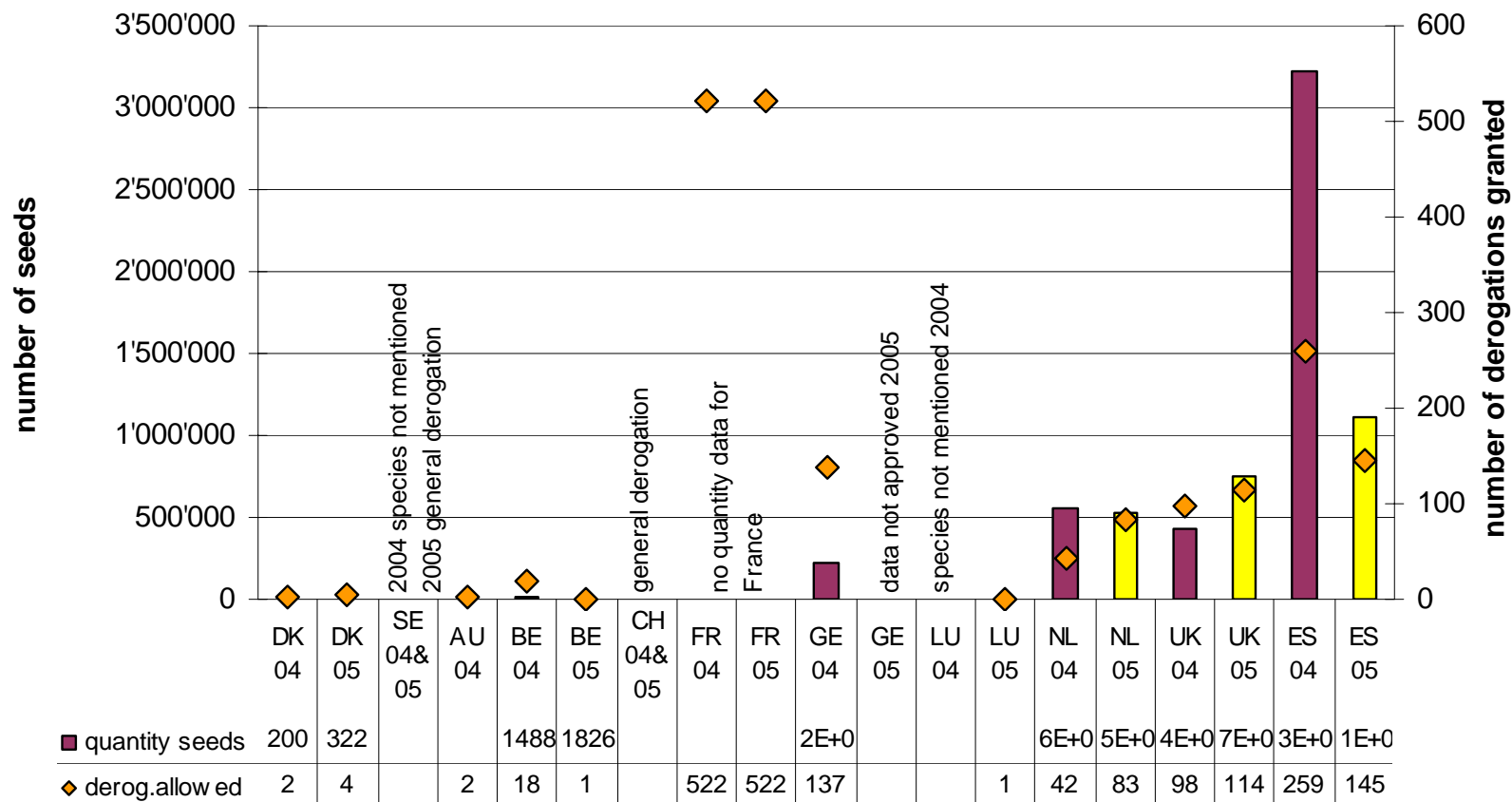
Spinacia oleracea acreage planted (estimation)



*Basis for estimation: 5 million seeds /hectar or 50 kg seeds/hectar

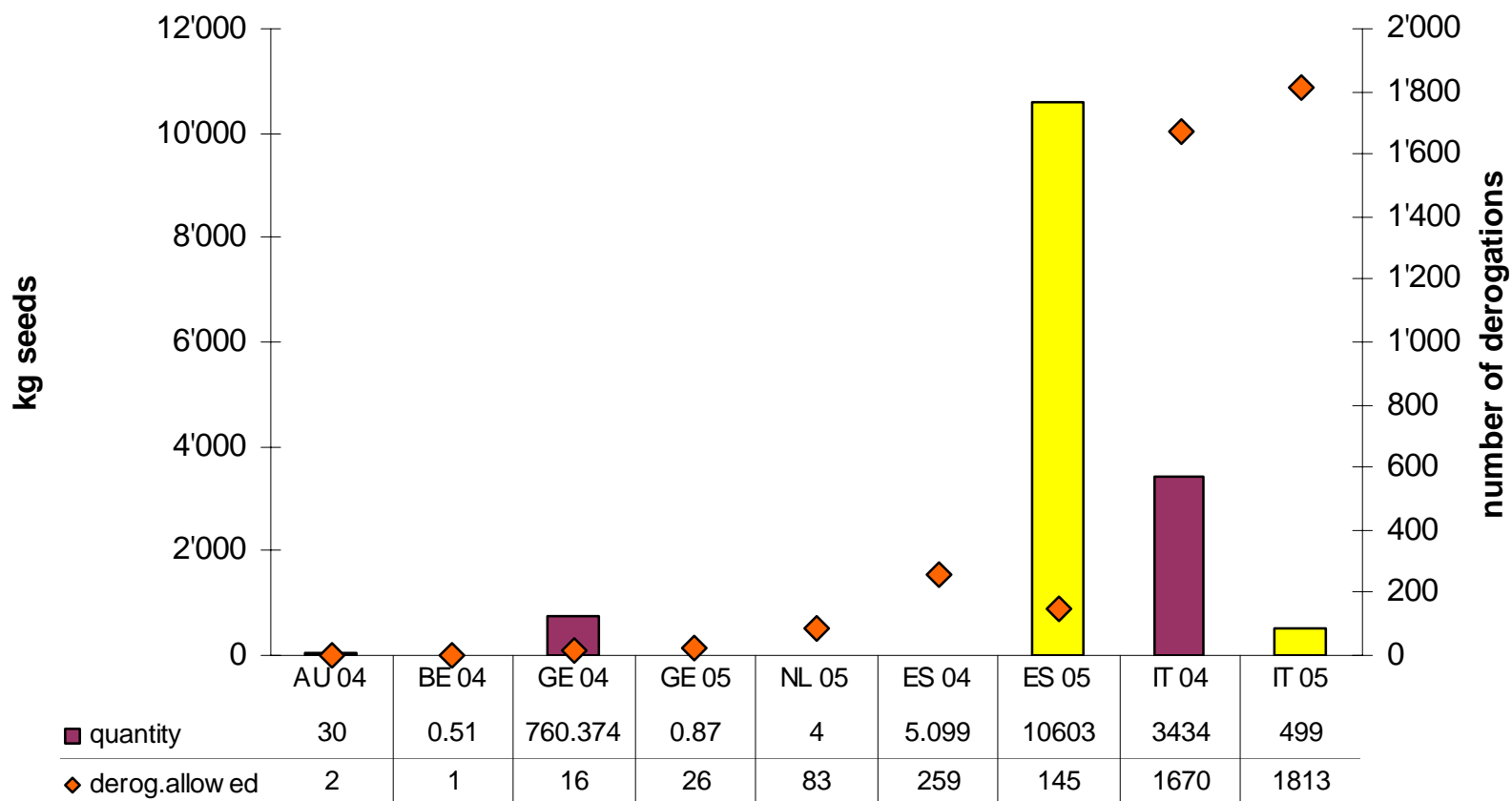
Authorisations for Tomatoes (seeds)

Lycopersicon 2004 and 2005 (million seeds)



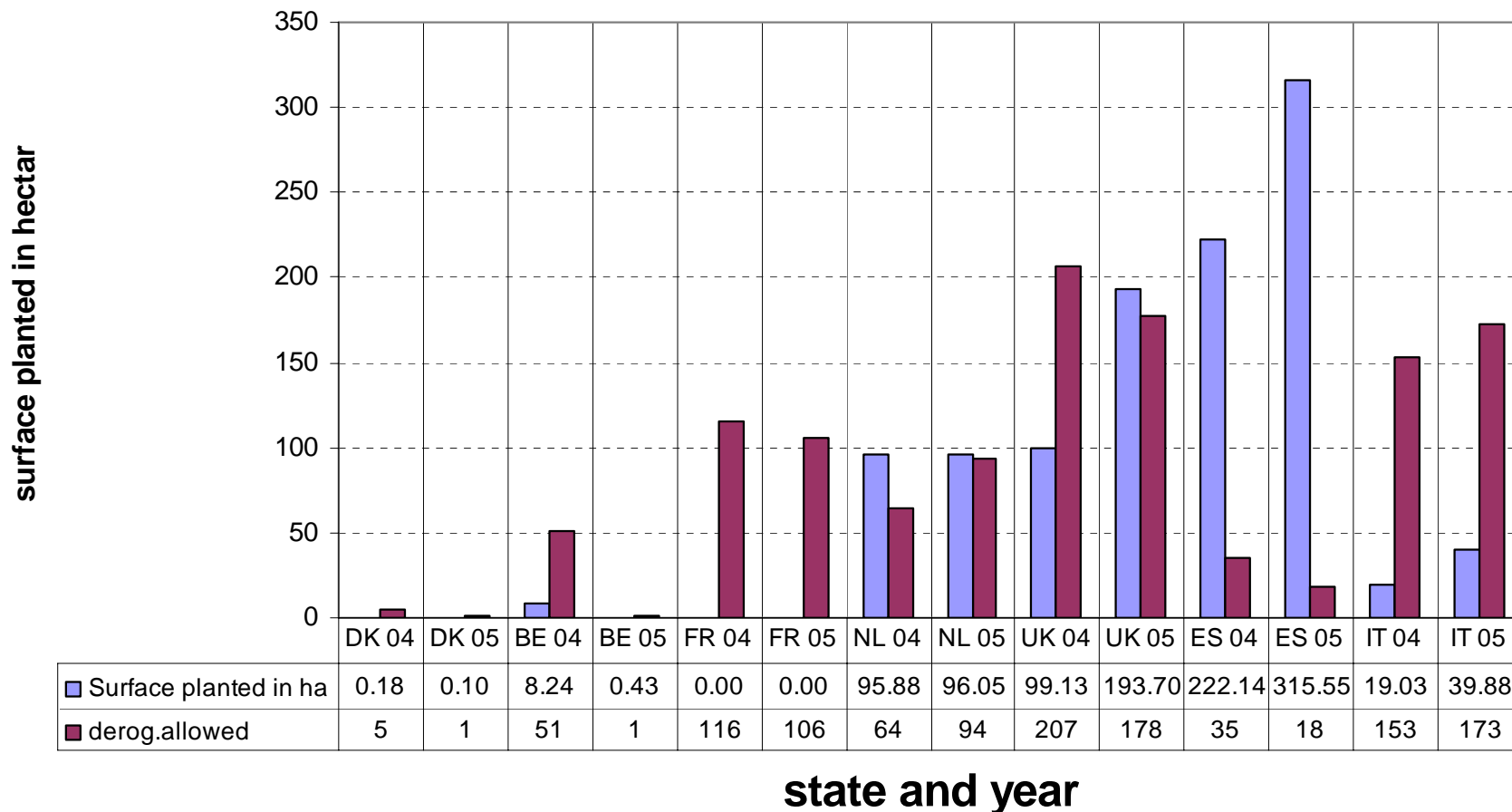
Authorisations for Tomatoes (kg)

Lycopersicon (kilogram seeds)



Authorisations for broccoli (hectares)

Brassica oleracea conv. Botrytis, italica



Reasons for individual derogation

Number	Reason category
1	Variety trials
2	Conservation varieties
3	Basis seed for the production of organic seeds
4	Specific soil conditions
5	Tolerance or resistance against pests
6	Climatical conditions or altitude
7	Contract production with prescription of the variety
8	Market demand or processing quality
9	Form or quality of the seed
10	Other reasons

Conclusions 1

- **Use of a standardised reporting scheme**
- **Reporting of the acreage planted**
- **Include vegetative propagation material**
- **Allow subspecies in Annex 1**
- **Introduction of national Annexes**
- **Non-organic basis seed (beneath conservation varieties and variety trials) as derogation reason for Annex 1 species**

Conclusions 2

- **Registration duty (variety, quantity, acreage) for “general derogation”-species**
- **Abandon “General Derogation” for arable and important vegetable crops within the next five years**
- **List of reasons for individual calls for derogation**
- **List of equivalent varieties for every subspecies**
- **Charging the price difference between non-organic and organic seed**

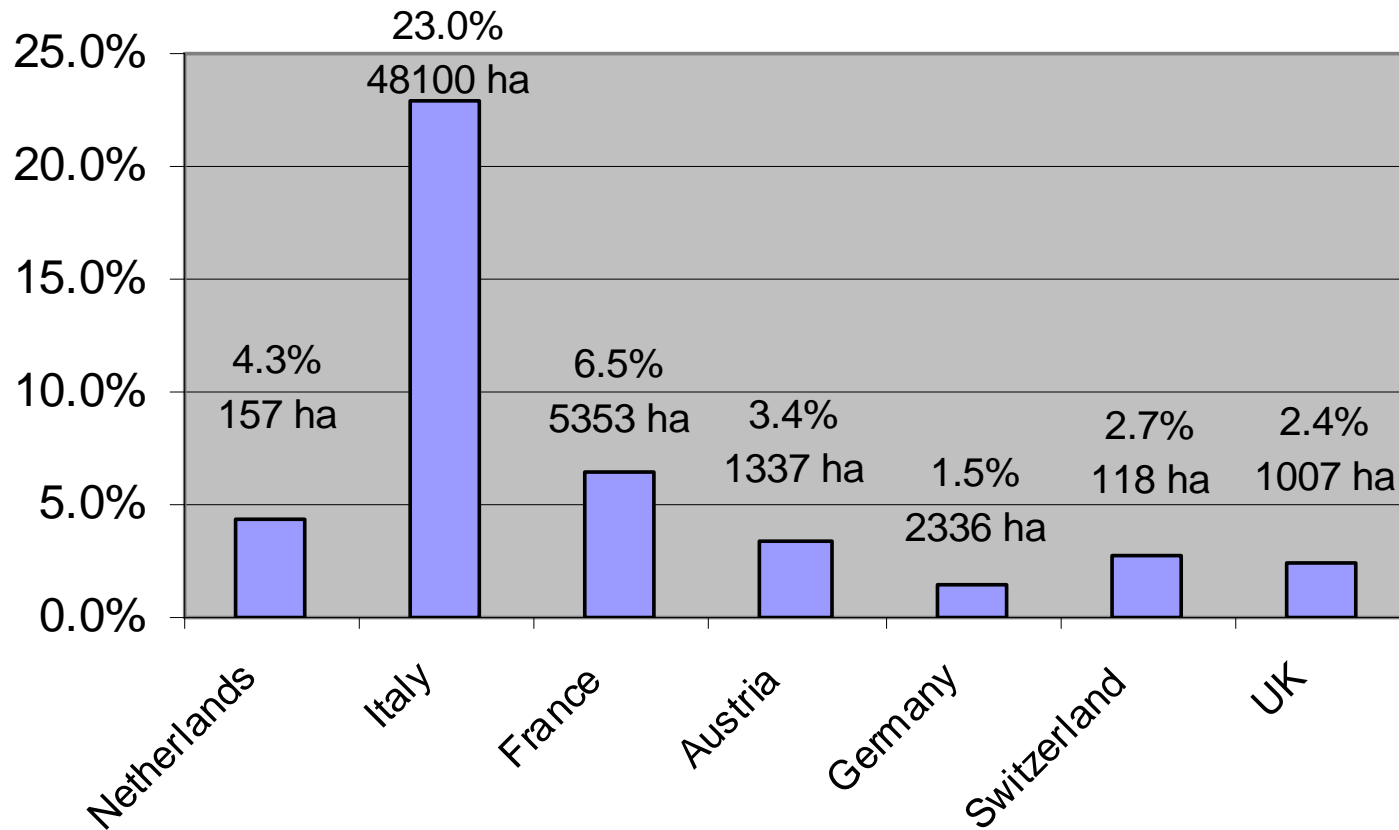


Derogations reported for cereal seeds

State	Non-conventional cereal seeds in tons	Number of derogations allowed	Mean area/derogation
Netherlands	31	58	2.7
Italy	9'618	4187	11.5
France	1'071	1331	4.0
Spain	3010	1800	8.3
Germany	479	435	5.5
Denmark	26	24	5.3
Switzerland	24	27	4.4
UK	201	85	11.8

Use of non-organic cereals seeds

Area sown with non-organic seeds in 2004



Feedback of fooder crop seed dealers

Table: Marketshare of organic seeds

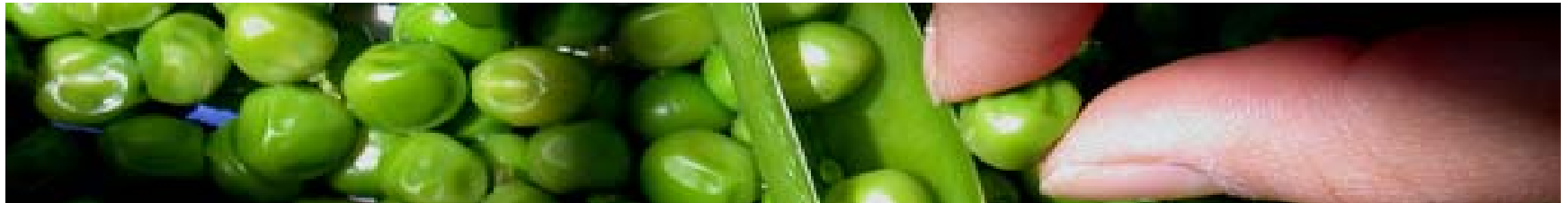
Species	Under Expectation	According expectation	Better than expected	Sales in tons	Sales in relation to total sales volume	comments
Maize	x			2.8	4%	To much derogations given
Rating	-1	0	+1			

Results

Mean of fulfilled expectations= - 0.41 (N=52)

Marketshare of organic seeds:

3.41% of total sales volume (N=40)



3-step model on subspecies level

Step	Criteria for categorisation	Criteria for derogation
Annex1 1	sufficient offer =organic seeds obligatory	variety trials, conservation purpose request in writing
<i>appropriate</i> 2	at least one „ top “ variety , adapted for professional use =„appropriate“ varieties	reasons as above additional other reasons, based on agronomic or economic evidence request in writing
General derogation 3	no variety adapted for professional use	download confirmation sufficient no request in writing

classification done by expert commission
of BIO SUISSE (farmers, advisors, transplant
producers, breeders) = BETTER ACCEPTANCE

Classification criteria

Example: Fennel *Foeniculum vulgare var. dulce*

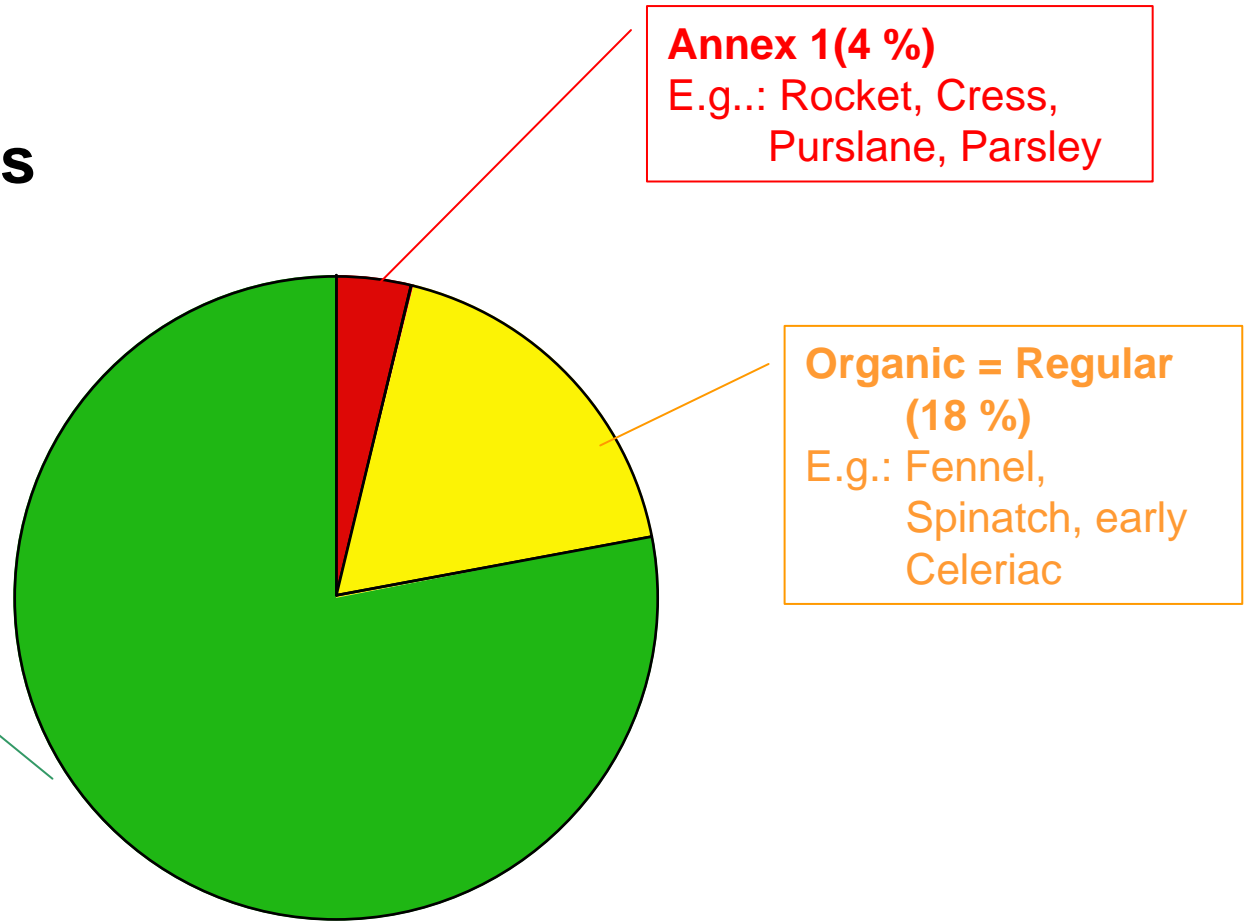
subgroup	seed form	classification
1. spring/covered	pregerm. pill	step 2 (org.= regular)
2. summer	pregerm. pill	step 2 (org.= regular)
3. autumn/ storage	pregerm. pill	step 3 (org.=wish)
4. processing	pregerm. pill	step 3 (org.=wish)

classification	recommended var.	further org. offer
1. spring/covered	<i>Ibis, Prinz</i>	
2. summer	<i>Ibis, Prinz</i> , Diamant	
3. autumn/ storage	Brilliant, Cisko	<i>Monarch, President, Mars</i>
4. processing	Brilliant	

Classification rate: vegetables

total:

- 66 species
- 220 subgroups



**Organic = wish
(78 %)**
Bsp.: lettuce, carrot,
tomato,
cauliflower

Annex 1 (4 %)
E.g.: Rocket, Cress,
Purslane, Parsley

**Organic = Regular
(18 %)**
E.g.: Fennel,
Spinatch, early
Celeriac

Classification trends

- Cereals and potatoes = Annex 1 and single dero.
- Vegetables = 78% general derogation
- Ornamentals= Annex 1 for wild species
- Fodder crops: bi- and tri- an perennials = single derogation, minimal 30% organic components
- Fruits and small fruits: order trees one year in advance, contracting with organic nursery
strawberry transplants: no derogations allowed

Economical restrictions

- Experience of small bio-dynamic breeders showed: varieties just sold on organic markets are hardly financially viable
- E.g.: 20'000 ha of farmland are necessary to cover the costs of one new cereal cultivar
- Consequence: organic breeders promote their varieties to non-organic low-input production
- Without support from public funds, the important work of organic breeding cannot be tackled properly

Problems with DHS and VCU testing



Official VCU testing on organic farmland in Switzerland (and Germany)

- **DHS**= Test for **D**istinctivness, **H**omogeneity and **S**tability to achieve variety protection rights (UPOV):

DHS is very time consuming and expensive

- **VCU**= **V**alue for **C**ultivation and **U**se

Official variety trials decide if a variety enters the EU-Common Catalogue (binding for main crops!)

VCU is often done on conventional farms and on to high input level

Compilation of the Annex 1

Annex 1 defines species with sufficient seed offer europewide :

- Actually there is a lack of information about the availability of seeds and of derogations
- From 2004 on, every EU member state is obliged to send an annual report to Brussels
- It is expected, that the Annex 1 will stay empty for 2004, until the first annual report
- Seed industry exerts pressure to fill the Annex 1

The ESA study

European Seed Association (ESA) publishes availability study in 2002 :

- Assumed future market share of organic seeds:
5 % of total surface
- 57 of 77 vegetable species cover 5%
with sufficient choice of varieties
- For additional 12 (mostly herb) species the
production can easily be raised

Farmers criticized the offered range of varieties
does not fulfill their special needs

Market share of organic seeds

species	agric. surface EU		market segments	ha. per segment	kg seeds
	total ha	org. 5%			
Brassica*	100'000	5'000	45	112	28
Carrots	75'000	3'750	30	120	240
Onions	100'000	5'000	35	140	564

* Without Broccoli and Cauliflower

Source of total surface: FAO

Conclusions:

- different amount of organic seeds as minimal requirement to continue seed production
- Price increase for organic seeds

source: Bejo Seeds, Netherlands

Main factors for higher organic seed price

- More basis seed needed
- higher production costs in the first year, especially in the second year (more handicraft for weeding, more loss due to diseases)
- less output, more surface needed
- higher risk of loss of harvest due to diseases
- Bad effects of the small lot size (package, distribution etc.)



Price increase for organic products



Price increase for organic seeds

species	price factor
onions	2.5
carrots	2
white cabbage	1.8
fennel	1.6
brussel sprouts	1.6
leek	1.5
radicchio rosso	1.2
red beet	2.1



Expected price increase
for end products: 2 to 8 %

Access to the European Seed Market

- The variety has to be accepted by UPOV (International Union for the Protection of Varieties of Plants)
- Main crops have to be on the EU Common Catalogue of Varieties of Agricultural Plant Species or a national catalogue
Every lot of imported seed of main crops has to be certified!
- Quality standards are set out by the OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) and ISTA (International Seed Testing Association)
- Some countries implemented even stricter seed laws

To import seeds to Europe it is highly recommended that a specialised seed trader of the respective country is involved



European Commission
Agriculture and Rural Development



*Examination of the effective implementation of
Commission Regulation 1452/2003*

Joint Organic Seed workshop

“Organic Seed On The Move”, Warmenhuizen, 28
September 2006.

Kim Holm Boesen

European Commission, Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural
Development, Unit F5 - Organic Farming



UnitF5 - Who are we and what do we do?

- 8 people; 5 policy officers, 1 assistant policy officers, 2 Secretaries.
- Council Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91 on organic production of agricultural products and indications referring thereto on agricultural products and foodstuff, which include;
 - Management of questions/notification from EP, MS and the public (e.g. seed)
 - Support of research.
 - CODEX and other international relation.
- Proposal for a new Council Regulation on Organic Production.
- Implementation of the European Action Plan for Organic Food and Farming (EAP).



European Commission
Agriculture and Rural Development

Data from the 2004 reports “seed availability”

- 19 Member States sent their annual report for 2004 according to article 13 of 1452/2003
- Some reports submitted were not complete:
 - information on quantity of seeds,
 - justifications for derogation,
 - Justification for chemical treatment.



Data from the 2004 reports “seed availability”

- No conclusions can be drawn on the actual use of organic seeds compared to the total use of seeds in organic farming.
- The effective implementation of article 5 on the conditions for granting authorisations seem hard to evaluate. In particular 5,1(c) because of the specialist judgement on the appropriateness of varieties.



Data from the 2004 reports “Database”

- Set up in 23 Member States.
- The format and user friendliness of these databases varies very much between MS:
 - Some consisting merely of a static list such as a PDF sheet,
 - Some provides more advanced user friendly database such as the OrganicXseeds model.



European Commission
Agriculture and Rural Development

Data from the 2004 reports “Database”

- Some databases have a very small entry of organic seed that offers little choice to producers.
- It appears that the complete offer is not registered in the databases as companies choose not to register their offer in the database.



Data from the 2004 reports “Database”

- The availability of organic seeds varies strongly from one Member State to the other.
- The availability differs from one species to the other.
- The offer of cereals is substantial in some Member States,
- The offer for some species of vegetables is limited.



European Commission
Agriculture and Rural Development

Acknowledgments

- **Mr Herman Van Boxem, DG-AGRI, F5-Organic Farming** for back ground for the presentation.
- **Your workshop for inviting the Commision.**

How to improve the use of organically produced onion seed

LBI

Coen ter Berg

Edith Lammerts van Bueren

Organic Farmer

Douwe Monsma



Dilemma

During the last 3-4 years there is an increasing number of organic onion varieties offered.

- 2004, 7 varieties
- 2005, 13 varieties
- 2006, 14 varieties
- 2007, 16 varieties

The use of this organically produced seed was less than 10%

Main reasons

- The price of the seed is too high (2x conv. = € 700/ha extra costs)
- The high seed price affects competitiveness on the European market (85% export).
- There are too many onions produced – the selling price is too low - extra production costs are not an option.

Approach

- To include several stakeholders in the discussion.
- Search for solutions and initiatives which are likely to improve the use of organically produced onion seed.

Chain

- Organic-onion growers
- Traders (Dutch and EU market)
- Prepackers
- Retailers
- Seed companies
- Policy makers

Organic onions in Holland

- **Farmers' price per kg end product**

2002: 542 ha € 0.12- 0.24

2005: 530 ha € 0.12- 0.24

2006: 276 ha € 0.30- 0.40

- **Cost- price per kg product**

Conv. F1seed	Org. F1-seed	Org. OP seed
€ 0.39	€ 0.42	€ 0.405

Varieties used

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Wellington	22%	16%
Summit	21%	18%
Barito	18%	5%
Baldito	9%	8%
Hyskin (org)	7%	9%
Hyfort (org)	6%	10%

Organically propagated onion varieties available for 2007

F1

Yellow

Hyskin

Hyfort

Hytech

Hystar

Accent

Profit

Red

Red Spark

White

Albion

OP

Yellow

Balstora

Julia

Hoza

Donna

Rijnsburger 4

Rijnsburger 5
(Balaton)

Red

Romy

Red Baron

Criteria for onion varieties

- Good storability
- Early production/ downy mildew resistance
- Yield / quality / low sprouting rate during storage

Variety characteristics

	Yield	Earliness	Sprouting
Wellington F1	102	7,0	63
Summit F1	94	6,9	5
Organic			
Hyfort F1	100	6,8	12
Hystar F1	96	6,7	22
Profit F1	97	6,7	12
Balstora	93	6,1	16
Julia	102	7,1	21

Some points of view

- Retailers: Organic seed should not be an (our) issue.
- Trade in EU: 100% organic seed by EU regulation. Organic seed is a difficult topic in communication with the consumer.
- Trade in Holland: when the organic sector is developing towards 100% organic seed, then we have to commit to that development.
- Growers: fear for too high costs.

Results

- **Trader UDEA/ van der Steen:**

A special product can be sold for a special price. Grower, make your product special and we will search for a market.

- **Trader Zaai-ster/ Hortica Organics:**

€ 0,03 should not be the problem when we have a good product and when we can sell it with the guarantee of 100% organic seed

Conclusions (1)

- The use of organic seed is not an issue for consumers (they already expect 100% use)
- Export traders want EU wide 100% in regulations: easy to communicate and more reliable
- Traders and retailers who are more closely connected to the organic sector are more open to new steps.

Conclusions (2)

- Bringing the issue of organic seed on the agenda of traders triggers the consciousness and commitment towards organic seed
- Small initiatives can act as an example and can grow.

Conclusions (3)

What would happen when NL would put onion on the national annex 1?

- onion price would increase with 1.5 -3 euro cent/kg
- no more overproduction
- 100% organic seed is a unique selling point for traders
- 100% enhances more solidarity among growers