

Conference Announcement in celebration of ECO-PB's 10-years anniversary

ECO-PB was founded in 2001 and is now in its 10th year! That is worth a conference to reflect on Organic Plant Breeding and the achievements and challenges to come. The title of the conference is "Organic Plant Breeding: What makes the difference?".

The conference will be held on 3rd and 4th of November 2011 in the Ökohaus, Frankfurt on walking distance of the West Bahnhof railway station. The call for abstracts will focus on topics related to: Different points of view on breeding concepts and breeding strategies and on practical breeding methods for cultivars better adapted to organic agriculture.

Deadline for submitting an abstract is 15th June 2011 (max. 1 A4, 12 Courier font). Oral and poster presentations will be selected and the conference program will be announced by August 15th, 2011. The proceedings will be in the form of an abstract book with only one page abstracts per poster and oral presentation, published as pdf on the ECO-PB website. More information regarding the call for abstracts together with a template and an on-line registration will appear on the ECO-PB website by May, 5th.

Earlier on it was planned to hold this event in England early October 2011 (cf Newsletter III/2010). Due to easier travelling we changed the previous plans and the event shall now taking place in Frankfurt am Main/Germany.

More information: Klaus Peter Wilbois ([Klaus.Wilbois\(at\)fibl.org](mailto:Klaus.Wilbois(at)fibl.org))

Announcement of the 6th European Workshop on Organic Seed Regulation

ECO-PB is going to hold another international workshop on the use of organic seed in organic farming. The workshop shall take place on 21st and 22nd September 2011 at the Organic Research Centre, Elm Farm, Hamstead Marshall near Newbury, RG20 0HR, UK

The aim of the meeting is to commonly evaluate the progress made over the last few years in seed derogation policies and practices in Europe. A special attention is paid on the achievements since the last meeting in 2008 (see link to the report below). The central question is how can we (further) harmonize regulations on a European level and create a level playing field among (groups of) EU countries. The meeting finally aims at negotiating and attuning the specific minimum of required variety assortment with the possibilities of the committed seed producers.

In the workshop we would like to welcome organic seed suppliers, representatives from the national ministries and competent authorities as well as from the EU Commission, advisors/scientists working in the area of organic seed production and control bodies managing the derogation system.

More information including an on-line registration form for the workshop will appear on the ECO-PB website by May, 5th.

Report: http://www.eco-pb.org/09/Report_ECO-PB_Organic_Seed_meeting_NL_08092526.pdf

Review process including public consultation of the Legislation governing the marketing of seeds and plant propagating material (S&PM) within the European Union

In the ECO-PB Newsletter I/2008 we reported about the evaluation process of the European S&PM legislation. ECO-PB took an active part in the evaluation process and submitted its views in a workshop in Brussels held in February 2008 and in specific questionnaires provided by the EU Commission.

The evaluation process of 2008 resulted in a need to review the Common S&PM legislation and an action plan to do so. Shortly before Easter DG SANCO published on the official EU web site an "options and analysis paper" together with a reply sheet for public consultation. The reply sheet is meant for stakeholders to give comments on the analysis and options proposed by the commission.

ECO-PB wants to take part again in this process and give comments. Since the implementation of the present Common S&PM legislation in the different countries varies heavily and forms - at least in some countries - a major obstacle for the development and marketing of organically bred varieties or propagating material ECO-PB would welcome further interested stakeholders in the field to comment the analysis and scenario options given by DG SANCO. In order to make it easier to fill in the questionnaire everybody interested in commenting the analysis and options paper of DG SANCO may get as an example of the completed questionnaire of ECO-PB on request by e-mail.

DG SANCO Web site: http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/propagation/evaluation/index_en.htm

For more information contact: Klaus-Peter Wilbois ([klaus.wilbois\(at\)fibl.org](mailto:klaus.wilbois(at)fibl.org))

Book on Organic crop breeding

As announced in the previous ECO-PB newsletter, a large group of authors has been involved in writing for the book on Organic Crop Breeding, which is going to be published by the scientific publisher Wiley-Blackwell and edited by Edith Lammerts van Bueren (EU) and James Meyers (US). In total 17 chapters have been submitted at the end of April which should lead to publication of the book by the end of 2011 or early 2012.

More information: Edith Lammerts van Bueren ([E.Lammerts\(at\)louisbolk.nl](mailto:E.Lammerts(at)louisbolk.nl))

IFOAM plant breeding standards

For many years IFOAM published draft standards for organic plant breeding in their IFOAM Basic Standards (IBS). At the last IFOAM General Assembly in 2008 a joint ECO-PB motion requested not to remove it as draft as long as it is not yet incorporated into the standard system. During IFOAM's first World conference on Organic Plant and Animal Breeding in Santa Fe, New Mexico 2009 a workshop was held to discuss a new standard text proposal from ECO-PB.

In March 2011 IFOAM has published a standard draft version 0.1 which has been developed through the joint effort of the IFOAM staff, IFOAM Standard Committee, IOAS staff and other selected experts. The key issues of the ECO-PB proposal submitted for IFOAM Breeding

Conference in Santa Fe have been taken into account in the draft standards version. After a consultation the IFOAM Standard Committee will produce a second version in the course of 2011, with the objective to present a version for approval by the IFOAM General Assembly in September 2011.

For more information see http://www.ifoam.org/about_ifoam/standards/norms.html

Download: Proceedings of 1st IFOAM International Conference on Organic Animal and Plant Breeding

The 1st IFOAM International Conference on Organic Animal and Plant Breeding brought together commercial and subsistence farmers, scientists and practitioners, and professional farmers and animal keepers. The papers, keynote speeches and workshop summaries compiled in the proceedings deal with an array of topics, including: breeding research and trials, fostering organic animal and plant breeding, assessing organic animal and plant breeding standards, building and strengthening breeding networks, and assessing legal/legislative frameworks surrounding breeding.

The Breeding Conference Proceedings represent the hard work and findings of numerous researchers, participatory farmers' initiatives and professional companies from all around the world. They reflect important milestones reached in developing alternatives to mainstream breeding and reproductive technologies. The proceedings download costs 40 Euros.

For more information see: <http://shop.ifoam.org/bookstore/>

Professorship in Organic Plant Breeding/Agricultural Biodiversity

The Faculty of Organic Agricultural Sciences of the University of Kassel has announced an advertisement for a professorship in organic plant breeding. The deadline for submission is 20th of May 2011.

You find the announcement here:

in German: <http://www.uni-kassel.de/pvabt3/stellen/extern/15837.ghk>

in English: <http://www.uni-kassel.de/pvabt3/stellen/extern/15837e.ghk>