

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

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

*Welcome!*



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

## Organic Seeds in Belgium

Mrs Laurence Chateau,

Public Service of Wallonia, DG Agriculture, Natural Resources and  
Environment, Directorate for Quality, Ir in charge of Organic  
production, SCOF member

Mr Lieven Delanote,

Inagro, Head of department Organic Crop Production



### 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](http://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
  - 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.organicseeds.be)
    - Legislation that permits space for movement

7<sup>th</sup> European Workshop on Organic Seed Regulation-9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> October 2013- Brussels 

*Thank you for your attention!*



