



**LIVESEED – ECO-PB – CPVO workshop on
Organic Heterogeneous Material and Organic Varieties**

Angers, 6. 12. 2018

Gebhard Rossmannith



ECO-PB proposals

- **for adjusted DUS testing / protocols for organic varieties**
- **for preparing and running the “seven years temporary experiment” (road map)**

Some remarks in advance:

- Representation of Organic Agriculture in Europe: **IFOAM-EU**
- Representation of Organic Plant Breeding in Europe: **ECO-PB**
- Organic Agriculture and Organic Plant Breeding shall not be represented by organizations from the so called informal seed sector!
- Definition of a variety is accepted (DUS) – also for organic varieties!
- EU-catalogue registration of varieties is accepted
- Registration tests (DUS) are accepted
- VCU tests are accepted

Target: adaption of the registration process (DUS and VCU) to needs and possibilities of organic varieties and breeders.



Proposal for preparing and running the “seven years temporary experiment” (road map)

2019

- **Propose DG Sante to install working groups on “organic varieties” to start the process of delegated acts together with all involved stakeholders and CPVO and examination offices.**
- **ECO-PB, LIVESEED will participate in such groups and will contribute to constructive solutions**
- **Propose a common meeting with DG Sante and DG Agri to clarify competences between them with respect of the new regulation, like definition of organic varieties, organic heterogeneous material, etc.**

2019

- **Developing of “prototypes” of alternative test protocols for organic varieties.**
- **Starting with two, three, maximum five important and/or problematic crops (proposal ECO-PB: carrots, tomatoes).**
- **Discussion: usability in comparison to normal protocols.
Proposal to use less parameters for U and S than for D**
- **Target: limited characteristics for mandatory evaluation (lead: importance for production and market); other characteristics within the official protocol should be optional on request of the applicant (e.g. need for distinction)**
- **First testing of the alternative protocol prototypes under real conditions together with interested and appropriate authorities.**

Proposal for adapted use of characteristics (example carrots for bundling)

UPOV Nr.	asterix characteristics	characteristics of the UPOV protocol for carrots usable for fresh market (bundling and marketing with leaves)	relevance of utility for			importance for selection	ECO-PB proposal for adapted protocol	
			farmers / producers	trade / processors	consumers	organic carrot breeders	Characteristics to be considered mandatory	characteristics to be considered optionally on request (or recommendation) of the applicant
			(0=none, 1=medium, 2=great)			(0=none, 1=medium, 2= great)		
2		Leaf: attitude	2	1	0	1	1	0
4	(*)	Leaf: division	0	1	0	1	0	1
6	(*)	Leaf: anthocyanin coloration of petiole	0	1	0	1	0	1
14	(*)	Root: external colour	1	2	2	2	1	0
17		Root: extent of green colour of skin of shoulder	2	2	2	2	1	0
18		Root: ridgning of surface	2	2	1	2	1	0
19	(*)	Root: diameter of core relative to total diameter	0	1	1	2	0	1
22	(*)	Root: colour of cortex	1	2	1	2	1	0
25	(*)	Root: extent of green coloration of interior (in longitudinal section)	2	2	2	2	1	0
31			<i>characteristics in total:</i>				20	11



2019

- **Proposals to be discussed for more flexibility regarding uniformity.**
- **Proposals to be discussed for more flexibility regarding stability: adaptation of certain variance after 10 years should be accepted.**
 - ➔ **Adjusting of variety description.**
- **Discussion: proposals of new (alternative) characteristics to be added which are interesting / important for organic.**
- **In case distinctive traits are not realized under conventional but under organic conditions, special DUS testing under organic should be conducted**
- **Discussion of first results with experts of CPVO and the standing committee.**

2020

- **Expanding to more important crops (also arable crops), including more competent authorities in more member states.**
- **Including discussion on adapted VCU (arable crops).**
- **Definition of thresholds need to be reconsidered to shift towards more sustainable food production: less emphasis on yield, but improved stress tolerance, food quality, nutrient and water efficiency.**
- **VCU must be performed under organic conditions for organically bred cultivars.**
- **ECO-PB should discuss with CPVO and COM how to establish organic testing networks and how this can be supported by the organic sector.**

2021 - 2028

during the temporary experiment:

- **Nearly all crops to be included to set up adapted protocols**
- **Experiences in the adapted DUS criteria: developing stable and well working methods to describe an organic variety to grant unlimited marketing**
- **Clarification of special demands / needs / requirements for description of “organic variety”, labelling etc.**

2029

- **official inclusion in the European Council directives on seed.**



2019

Discussion with DG Sante, DG Agri and DG Research for providing financial resources to conduct trials for the new running temporary experiment

like it was done for the implementation of conservation varieties:

Farm Seed Opportunities (FSO), a research project in the FP6 European Research Framework (2007-2009), was targeted to support the implementation of seed regulations on conservation varieties (directive 98/95/EC and new directives 2008/62/EC, 2009/145/EC and 2010/60/EC) and to propose complementary seed regulation scenarios taking into account the diversity of the European seed systems

http://www.farmseed.eu/Farm_Seed_Opportunities/home.html



To be discussed:

- **In particular cross pollinators (CP) may lose performance (market relevance!) when selection is too narrow.**

More flexibility regarding uniformity is needed.

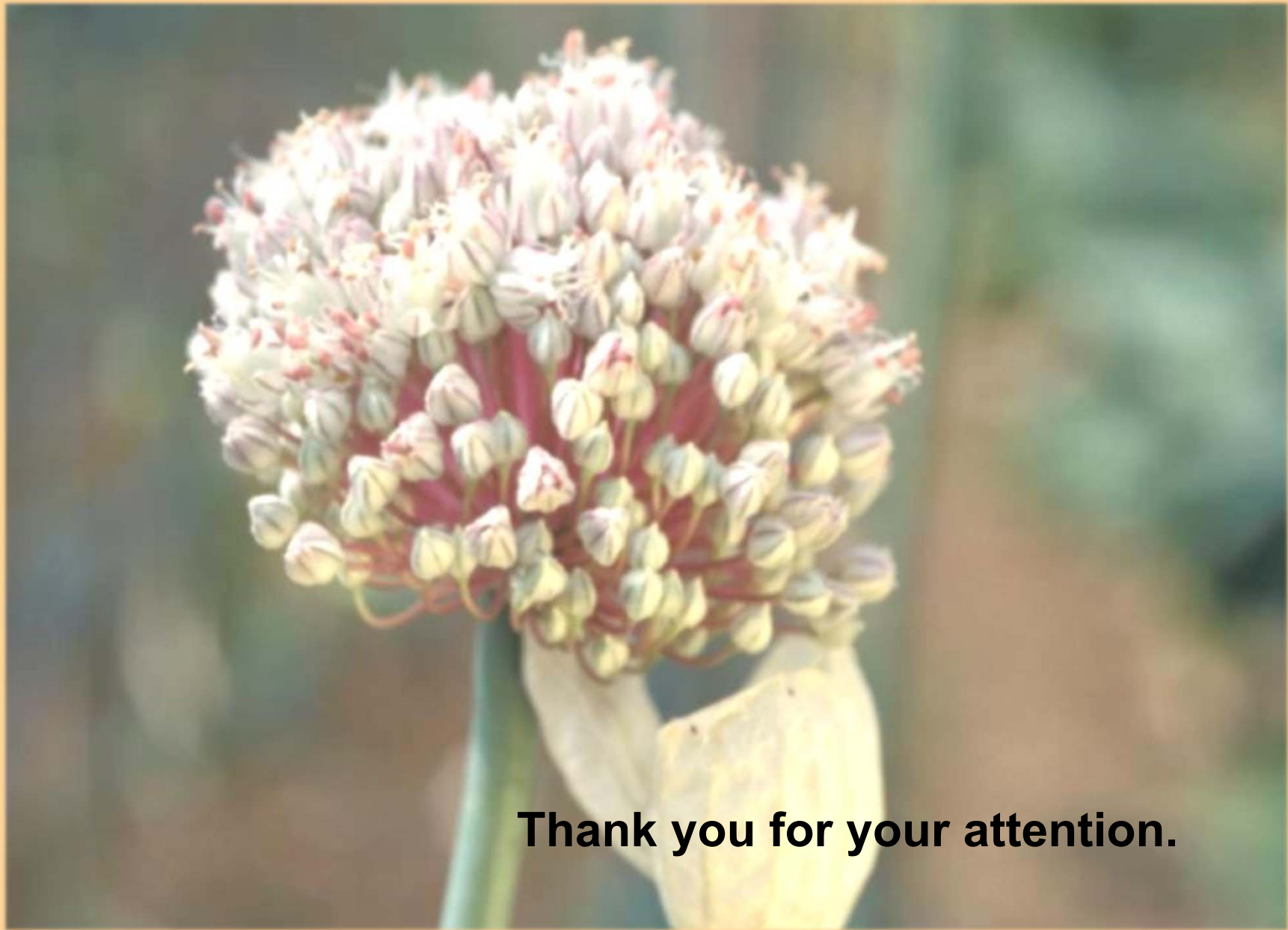
Adaptation of certain variance after 10 years should be accepted.

→ Adjusting of variety description

- **Organic varieties are developed especially under organic and mainly regional conditions.**
 - Therefore test should run under organic and regional conditions;**
 - if not possible, more tolerance in diverse and unexpected phenotypic expression is needed.**

To be discussed:

- **General problem: “one key – several doors – system”:** one test for registration AND variety protection. For variety protection DUS must be very clear and stable. Also for registration at the same level?
- **For hybrids the current protocol has to be accepted, also for organically bred hybrids.?**
- **For variety protection DUS must be very clear and stable.**
Hence an applicant for IPR must accept the current DUS protocol also for organic varieties (as long there is no other method to describe varieties)?



Thank you for your attention.