

ECO-PB Workshop on the Organic Seed Regulation 9th and 10th Oct. 2013 Input from Germany

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09/10/2013

General Setup in Germany (i)

- › 16 Bundesländer (federal states) are responsible for the implementation of the EU Regulation on Organic Farming
- › Ca. 20 Inspection bodies
- › Agreement to have only ONE organic seed database for Germany
- › OrganicXseeds is used as the official data base
- › All aspects in one data base (supply, derogation requests, request and issue of derogation etc.)
- › Two experts groups (arable, vegetable crops) as advisory groups for the authorities; Official Dr. Dreesmann of Lower Saxony represents the Bundesländer and coordinates meetings

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General Setup in Germany (ii)

- › All potentially used species are included in the database; derogation for included species only
- › Single derogation (issued by the inspection body)
- › General derogation for certain species and crop groups in order to avoid excess of bureaucracy (>>no availability confirmation by the data base)
- › Young plants for trees and grape vine were also entered in the database although not compulsory by the regulation
- › Cat. I for certain species from 2013 on (sugar beet, mustard seed, red beet, snake gourd, black raddish, maize (2014))
- › Cat I in future: Winter rye, exp. 2015, Ryegrasses (Lolium multiflorum, exp. 2016, Lolium multiflorum var. westerwoldicum exp. 2015), Spring vetch, exp. 2015, Buckwheat, exp. 2015, Potatoes after 30.01. of every year, exp. 2015
- › ca. 75 Suppliers listed in organicxseeds.de
- › All players in the field feel satisfied with this approach

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Progress over the recent years

- › The amount of organic seed on offer has strongly increased over the years
- › Efforts have been made to enter not only seed but also vegetative propagating material (e.g. strawberries, fruit trees, grapevine)
- › Implementation of Cat. I has been broadly agreed and first species are already und Cat. I, further species follow soon
- › The number of derogation issued varies between years depending on organic seed availability of predominant varieties (propagation failures) but has been relatively constant over the last 3 years
- › FiBL is going to introduce a fully refurbished OrganicXseeds by 2014

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Challenges for the time to come

- › Inclusion of vegetative propagation material in the Regulation
- › Criteria for variety equivalence are lacking, inspection bodies have no reliable basis to decline a derogation for non-organic seed
- › Lack of harmonization between countries/lack of common regulatory and implementation approach [available on its territory Art. 48 (1)]
- › to many unclear terms in the Regulation (data base, report...)
- › Better seed supply, esp. regarding certain types and varieties
- › Competition with countries using (cheaper) non-organic seed

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Special Challenge: "Non-CMS-Varieties"

- › Problem: In Germany immense scandal about CMS-Varieties Chicory, Cabbages) received by applying cell fusion techniques found in organic outlets in Germany
- › German private farmers organizations excluded „CMS-Varieties“ from use after 2008 (IFOAM Modena)
- › New detection methods revealed that many cabbages, chicory especially from abroad contained non native CMS-Sequences (Ogura, Sunflower)
- › FiBL Germany is going to develop a European data (5 main languages) base where „Non-CMS-Varieties“ shall be positively listed
- › Deadline for online availability is April 2014

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