

Organic Seed Regulation

Company perspective of



Eco PB Workshop 9th & 10th October 2013
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Some figures about Sativa

- Founded in 1998
- Located in Switzerland near the German border
- only organic seeds
- 25 full time employees
- 2 vegetable breeders
- In cereals collaboration with organic breeder Peter Kunz

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2

Some figures about Sativa

- 55% of turnover: vegetable seeds (40% export)
- 45% arable seeds (cereals, grass/clover...) (9% export)

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3



Legal situation in 2013

- **Arable seeds:**
 - Organic farms have to use organic seeds
 - No derogations, as long as enough organic seeds are available
 - Variety choice of farmers is limited
 - VCU results and other trials available to compare different varieties
- => **Nearly 100% organic seeds**

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5



Legal situation in 2013

- **Vegetable seeds:**

- Growers can choose the varieties, they want, as long as the seeds are untreated
- Recommended variety lists partly available
- Growers, who are interested in using organic seeds, use them

⇒ Only a smaller part of the used seeds is organic

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7



General view

- Organic growers use more and more organic seeds
- Organic growers become more and more interested in alternative concepts of seed production and organic breeding
- Organic growers try to avoid their contribution to the process of concentration in the seed industry

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9

General view

- Normal breeding companies concentrate more and more on the big crops
- These companies don't focus on organic breeding
- Companies like Sativa and others focus on a huge range of crops (biodiversity)
- We focus on breeding for the needs of organic agriculture

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10

General view

- ⇒ Sativa has grown quite fast during the last years
- ⇒ Sativa is proud to work with clients, who want to buy our products, because they like them
- ⇒ Sativa wants to continue this way

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11

General view

- ⇒ We don't want to work with clients, who become clients because they must buy organic seeds
- ⇒ A lot of the 100% organic seed companies have grown quite fast during the last 10 years

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12

General view

⇒ This growth enables them to become more and more professional and to invest more and more into organic breeding.

⇒ This is like organic farms have developed their way of producing and selling their products during the last decades.

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13

Conclusion

- It seems to be easy to reclaim regulations
- Regulations could be a way with fast success for organic seed producers
- To try to convince organic farmers and growers from organic seeds seems to be a much more difficult approach

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14

Conclusion

⇒ But it is the way organic agriculture became stronger and stronger during the last century.

We should continue this way !

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15

Thank you for your attention!



16