Organic Seed Regulation

Company perspective of Sativa

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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

www.sativa-rheinau.ch

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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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

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

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 rage of crops (biodiversity)
- We focus on breeding for the needs of organic agriculture

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

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
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.

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

Conclusion

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

We should continue this way!

Thank you for your attention!