

**In addition to Directive 98/95/EC - conservation varieties:
some points of interest from an Organic Farming point of view, 16.1.02**

1. Organic agriculture would like to have the possibilities not only to restrict the scope of conservation varieties to old varieties and landraces, but also to new varieties/populations for small areas and special purposes. This is of interest for the authenticity of regional, organic products. New can mean either selections out of old varieties, or a 'changed' old variety through on-farm management of conservation, or a population of old varieties mixed/crossed with modern lines.
2. Because of on-farm conservation the populations stays in development and stability can not be guaranteed, the reference sample for the designated authority should be replaced every (5 to) 10 years.
3. For distinctness of the conservation varieties we suggest to focus on a small amount of typical features for the population and they should be in fact highly uniform (minimal 90%). And for a larger amount of other features more variation should be described, for instance 70% with plus/minus 10% or a defined percentage. Like with cross pollinators a certain spread of non homogenic features should be accepted.
4. The maximum quantity which may be commercialised of a registered conservation variety should be high enough to allow the covering of costs for an on-farm conservation or in case of a pure line or a variety with some defined lines respectively for a simple maintaining breeding. This will be for instance about 40-60 tons of a cereal variety. If there are several 'maintainers', then this contingent could be divided among the registered maintainers or multipliers.
5. An alternative for protection of a conservation variety would be the registration of maintainer (per contingent one up to three maintainers) to give something like a security for investments of the maintaining farmer or gardener or institution.

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