



European Consortium for Organic Plant Breeding
Activity report 2012

- › **10th GA in Rome on the 19th April 2012 attached to the stakeholder meeting of Solibam**
- › **Position paper of organic breeders in Europe**, supported by ECO-PB, FiBL, ABDP, KULTURSAAT, Bingenheimer Saatgut AG, Sativa Rheinau AG, Reinsaat KG, Demeter and Bioland concerning the **EU seed law revision process**:
«Proposal to build more biodiversity within and between varieties for strengthening adaptability to climate change and to meet consumer demands» (submitted 30.05.2012)
 - › To be continued



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- › **Position paper of organic plant breeding by in ECO-PB for political lobbying in revision**
 - › to be finalized today
- › **Voting on the IFOAM Motion to the Draft Version of the IFOAM Standards on organic plant breeding**:
And final approval in August 2012 by IFOAM members
“THE IFOAM NORMS FOR ORGANIC PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING”
 Version 2012:
 - › to be finalized today



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4.7 Breeding of organic varieties

General Principles

- › Organic plant breeding and variety development is sustainable, enhances genetic diversity and relies on natural reproductive ability. Organic breeding is always creative, cooperative and open for science, intuition, and new findings. Organic plant breeding is a holistic approach that respects natural crossing barriers. Organic plant breeding is based on fertile plants that can establish a viable relationship with the living soil. Organic varieties are obtained by an organic plant breeding program.



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4.7 Breeding of organic varieties

Requirements:

- › **4.7.1** To produce organic varieties, plant breeders shall select their varieties under organic conditions that comply with the requirements of this standard. All multiplication practices except meristem culture shall be **under certified organic management**.
- › **4.7.2** Organic plant breeders shall develop organic varieties only on the basis of genetic material that has not been contaminated by products of genetic engineering.
- › **4.7.3** Organic plant breeders shall **disclose the applied breeding** techniques. Organic plant breeders shall make the information about the methods, which were used to develop an organic variety, available for the public latest from the beginning of marketing of the seeds.
- › **4.7.4 The genome is respected as an impartible entity.** Technical interventions into the genome of plants are not allowed (e.g. ionizing radiation; transfer of isolated DNA, RNA, or proteins).



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4.7 Breeding of organic varieties

Requirements:

- › **4.7.5 The cell is respected as an impartible entity.** Technical interventions into an isolated cell on an artificial medium are not allowed (e.g. genetic engineering techniques; destruction of cell walls and disintegration of cell nuclei through cytoplasm fusion).
- › **4.7.6 The natural reproductive ability of a plant variety is respected and maintained.** This excludes techniques that reduce or inhibit the germination capacities (e.g. terminator technologies).
- › **4.7.7 Organic plant breeders may obtain plant variety protection, but organic varieties shall not be patented.**



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- › **Newsletter of ECO-PB informs big audience about plant breeding and seed related issues**
- › **New board members have been approved by German authorities, update of homepage**
- › **«A review of the framework of organic seed regulations in Europe»** published by Thomas F. Döring, Riccardo Bocci, Roger Hitchings, Sally Howlett, Edith Lammerts van Bueren, Marco Pautasso, Maaïke Raaijmakers, Frederic Rey, Anke Stubsgaard, Manfred Weinhappel, Klaus P. Wilbois, Louisa R. Winkler, Martin S. Wolfe **about the 6th European meeting on organic seed regulation, held in September 2011 in the UK**



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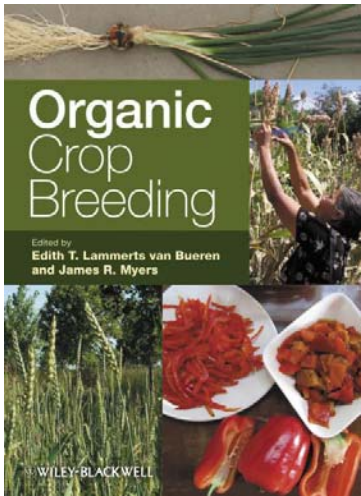
**Draft of SOW: Seeds for Organic Worldwide
A Federation of Organic Seed and Plant Breeding
Organisations**

as follow up of the IFOAM seed meeting in South Korea in 2011 to promote organic plant breeding, conservation of native seeds and landraces and organic seed production through


- Networking and information exchange
- Coordinated lobbying on national and international level
- Engaging in dialogue
- To be further elaborated


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First Book on organic plant breeding published



Editors:
Edith Lammerts van Bueren &
James R. Myers


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- › **Géza Kovács** from the Centre for Agricultural Research, Hungarian Academy of Sciences Martonvásár died after a severe illness on 21. June 2012. We shall always keep him in good memory as a very active and enthusiastic organic plant breeder and a good friend

