Report on the ECO-PB Workshop on the proposed EC Organic Seed Regime 2004

Frankfurt am Main
10 - 11 April 2003

By
E. T. Lammerts van Bueren & K.-P. Wilbois
Introduction as given in the invitation letter

The European Consortium for Organic Plant Breeding (ECO-PB) is an active network supporting the production and use of organic seeds. It sees the European Union’s Organic Seed Regime as potentially a great step forward for in the development of organic seed but is concerned about the latest discussions regarding implementation per January 1st 2004.

Current European Commission proposals seem to allow a great deal of room for derogation. Seed companies are indicating that this year (2003) their organic seed sales have already dropped. Growers are aware that the probable new rules will allow derogation even for those crops for which there is sufficient, appropriate organic seeds. A number of key seed companies have announced they will definitely stop their organic programmes should the criteria for derogation remain unclear and if derogation remains possible for all crops irrespective of availability, as it becomes financially unviable. That is a real threat and would be a great setback for ongoing efforts to build up a healthy organic seed sector and hence further close the organic production chain.

Furthermore, we have received much feedback about national authorities which are tentative about how to tackle the national implementation of the new seed regulation.

ECO-PB has therefore decided to organise at short notice a WORKSHOP on the ORGANIC SEED Regime 2004 to help clarify the above issues. We aim to facilitate an international discussion with key national players to exchange valuable information and concerns, and to establish common points of view on the organic seed regime in the organic sector on international level. The workshop will tie into discussions held and decisions made in the Article 14 Committee of the European Commission on April 4-6.

Target participants:

In order to allow plenary discussion we have invited only two participants per country:

- One on behalf of national authorities, this person to be assigned to the implementation of the new organic seed regime and involved with the development of the derogation procedure for the use of non-organic seeds.
- And one on behalf of decision makers of national organic agriculture movements, concerned with the implementation of new organic seed guidelines.
- Additionally, ECO-PB will invite several specialists from the seed industry and the OrganicXseeds database

Aims:

- to exchange information on actual implementation processes in EU member states
- to develop a proposal for common derogation criteria and application procedures
- to develop a proposal for common database with national authoritative variety lists
- to develop a proposal for data collection regarding the annual national organic seeds reports
Thursday, 10th April 2003

Mrs. Edith Lammerts van Bueren, president of ECO-PB, welcomes the 20 participants who together represent the following 10 European countries: Austria, Belgium, Germany, Denmark, Spain, France, Italy, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Switzerland. Participants are actively involved at the national level with the organic seed regulation, see participants list.

Current information on EU Organic Seed Regulation

ECO-PB discussed the workshop with Mr. P. Ahle and Mme. D. Tissot Boireau of the Commissions Agriculture Section in Brussels. As neither was able to attend, Mr Joost Guijt of the Netherlands gave an overview of the latest circulated draft of the Commission’s Organic Seed Regulation: AGRI/02/61449-seed rev 5a. This draft was circulated by the Commission a few days prior to the ECO-PB workshop and will probably be voted on in May 2003. See Appendix 1 for the overview, which is agreed on by the participants.

Mr Guijt ends his presentation by naming the main points left open by the draft regulation text and which need to be addressed during this meeting. These are:

- Which species can be placed on the Annex or which procedure is necessary to be able to do so?
- What is an “appropriate” variety?
- How could a (national) seed database work and who could use a common database?

Most probably there will be no species placed on the Annex of the EC Organic Seed Regulation when the regulation first comes into force by January the 1st 2004. No deadline is mentioned for adding species but the hope is that some will be named before the seed regulations’ review in mid-2006.

Developing production and usage of organic seed – the UK approach

Mr. Rob Haward of the Soil Association, UK, presents UK work on enforcing the desire to maximise the use of organic seed in the UK. See Appendix 2 for the transparencies shown.

In the plenary discussion that followed it was noted that the presentation showed that the UK is very committed to closing the organic chain. This stresses the aspect that organic farmers - despite all resultant problems - want to use organic seed in their organic farming systems. The Soil Association feels that by requiring as much use of organic seed as is possible, it has greatly boosted the availability of organic seeds. The SA system is based on the use of the organicXseeds database. His experience is that it took 3 months to contact the national suppliers, sign contracts and fill the national database.

Its now or never: Organic seed trade on the edge

Mr. Roland Peerenboom, chair of the Organic Committee Vegetable Seed within the European Seed Association (ESA), explains in the first part of his presentation the seed industry’s point of view on the steps necessary to close the organic production chain. In the second part he comments on one of the most recent draft regulations, version 4. Appendix 3 contains the transparencies shown.
In the following discussion it becomes clear that currently in Europe only four or five major seed companies are engaged in organic vegetable seed production. If, with regard to the coming EC Organic Seed Regulation, no clear signal of stringent regulations is sent to the seed producers, these companies might lose interest and no other companies will enter this market. This should be taken into consideration. A problem related to the different national databases is the fact that seed producers may only be interested in registering their seed supplies in those countries that are financially interesting due to the expected high registration costs. Accordingly, the existence of many independent national databases could lead to very different seed choice between countries. This situation must be avoided to limit distortions of competition.

Another problem discussed is the term ‘appropriate’ in the draft regulation text. According to the seed companies, the most appropriate varieties are those that are extensively demanded by the market. Here, the 80/20 rule holds true: 20% of the varieties account for 80% of the turnover. That means most of the business relies on only a few varieties of a given species.

In this context the bureaucracy resulting from derogation granted on the basis of ‘variety’ is mentioned. Therefore, a grouping of varieties is considered to be necessary. Derogations are usually given by the personnel of certification bodies. This personnel is usually not familiar with differences between varieties and is therefore generally unable to make competent decision on granting authorisations. Hence, some kind of expert group should be employed by member states in order to give guidance on these issues.

A common database

Mr. Andreas Thommen of FiBL, Switzerland, presented ideas on a common database with attached national databases which could be achieved by revising the current set-up of organicXseeds. The transparencies shown are found in Appendix 4.

Most of the participants found that a common database has advantages over many national ones. OrganicXseeds is currently the most advanced and integrated tool for displaying the national and international supply of seed. It can be used on a national scale as well as on an international one. Currently OrganicXseeds is in six different European languages, more languages can be added. OrganicXseeds is designed as an international framework that can be tailored to suit national needs. In order to be comprehensive the aim is to cover about 90% of national organic seed supply.

To develop organicXseeds to where it is now has cost about € 200,000 and 18 months of work, a further €100,000 will need to be invested. The fee for employing the database is not yet clear but will not need to cover all development costs. For growers the access to the information is for free. A fee shall be charged to seed companies and perhaps to certification bodies, as they will be able to use the service for granting authorisations. Since the seed companies only have to cover the costs of registering their data, the authorities of the member states should also pay a certain amount, since it is their duty to implement the new seed regulation.

Mrs. Inger Bertelsen of Denmark mentions that the Danish seed database charges a general fee and a fee based on ‘variety’ and amount sold. She points out that only the smallest companies are not prepared to pay the fee for displaying their supply on the Danish database. This is mainly because small companies can sell their seed directly to farmers without needing to display it on the database.

Participants agreed that a database is a tool for presenting information on availability. It cannot automatically generate authorisations. That is the job of certification bodies. Of utmost importance
is the accuracy with which the information given in the database is handled. The information displayed must be up-to-date at all times. This is also in the interest of seed companies.

If desired it will be possible for EU Member States to lease the database. FiBL is interested in developing this tool but may not in due course maintain it itself but sell it on. The database development so far has been supported by private foundations. Therefore, the selling need not cover total investments. Cost might also be split according to where the necessary database maintenance is done. Currently Switzerland and the UK are using OrganicXseeds. Germany, Belgium and Netherlands expressed interest to use it. Many seed suppliers have recently joined OrganicXseeds.

A key issue discussed is the problem of what will happen if Member States do not have a functioning database in time. The establishment of a database and the gathering of information may last years, according to experiences from the UK. Article 14 representatives indicate that if there is no database in place by Jan. 2004 the relevant member state will not be able to make use of derogations, since the coming derogation system is fully based on a running database.

Christina Micheloni, AIAB-Italy, states that in Italy there is a national database but it doesn’t work well and is definitely not workable for farmers. A major problem is that there are no regular updates on seed availability. The problem, therefore, cannot be considered as tackled in Italy.

In Denmark the evaluation of varieties for cultivation in organic agriculture for important crops is done by independent experts on the basis of variety field trials under organic and conventional conditions. The results are made public and forwarded to the ministry for decision making about whether varieties are considered “appropriate”.

National approaches

Mr. Rob Haward, Soil Association-UK, gives his presentation on the ‘Centre of Organic Seed Information’. This electronic centre aims at giving information on variety trials, preferred varieties, etc. See www.cosi.org.uk

Mr. Rasmus Ørnberg Eriksen, Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, gives his presentation on the Danish database model. For potatoes, grass, and cereals nearly 100% of the organic seed requirement is available and subsequently virtually no authorisations are granted for these crop groups. Fodder crops have 50% coverage and the vegetable crops only 25-50%. The transparencies and his handout are attached in Appendix 5.

Mr. Jean Wohrer, GNIS-F, gives his presentation on the French initiatives, see Appendix 6. He stresses that there is no French database but it is an ongoing project. There is much concern about the ability to develop a working system in time. Many, mostly small companies are involved in organic seed production, ITAB and FNAB are involved in technical trials.

The participants agreed that an important issue in organic agriculture is to have a wide range of varieties in order to support biodiversity. It might happen that the push to widespread use organic seeds, is accompanied by a (temporary) narrowing in genetic diversity. After a detailed discussion the participants agreed that given the small percentage of organic agricultural land the possible loss of variety diversity during a transition period may be acceptable given the goal of using as much organic seed as possible. On the other hand it must be clear that the use of conservation/local varieties in order to maintain biodiversity must be a reason for granting derogations. It was mentioned that the EU is working on legislation for legal trading of conservation varieties.
Friday, 11th April 2003.

Mrs. Edith Lammerts van Bueren welcomes the participants for this second session of the ECO-PB Workshop on Organic Seed by giving a summary of the first meeting day and an overview for today’s discussions.

Organic farming systems need biodiversity for a sound self-regulating ability of their agro-ecosystems. Therefore, organic farmers need a diverse range of varieties and also better adapted varieties to further optimise the organic farming system. This requires breeding programmes for organic varieties! The organic sector also needs to close its production chain for credibility and transparency to the consumers. Therefore, it needs organically produced seed as organic seed is available. Organic seed is thus the first step towards breeding programmes for organic varieties. The presentations given yesterday made clear that to achieve enough range and quantity of organic seed a guided process has to be encouraged. Yesterday, different approaches were shown how to achieve this aim at a national level. Part of the process is a database on the availability of organically produced seed and strict rules as well. However, placing species as quickly as possible on the Annex is the most powerful tool. As was said, “we want to create a system to get rid of that system!” So the period with derogations for the use of non-organic seed, an Annex of the Organic Seed Regulation, etc was considered to be a transition period. This could be made more explicit in the drafted text of the EU Organic Seed Regulation, with perhaps also a fixed end date mentioned, after which no derogation in principle will be given, e. g. as was done with plantlets. As a suggestion, Edith Lammerts mentions the possibility of two years for annual crops and four years for biennial crops, or dates mentioned for different crop groups such as potatoes, cereals, vegetables. However, it might be necessary to accept that some crop groups like ornamentals will never reach 100% coverage.

Edith Lammerts recaps the following points:
1. We acknowledge that the EU commission was not able to fill the Annex until now, but we should ask the European Commission to move forward and to be strict in having up and running, computerised databases, appropriate for derogations and reports.
2. We should encourage national authorities to choose not to slow down but actively work at reducing national derogation and drawing up national recommendations for the European Annex. A possibility might be to follow the Swiss 3-step model (see Appendix 4) or with required percentages of organic seed per crop group, like in the UK.
3. Following this line combining databases and registered derogations means that proper statistics shall be available for the national reports, and that the figures of the different countries can be put together to fill the EU-Annex by 2005.

To support the further process on national levels a few key points from yesterday’s presentations and discussion need further detailed discussion in this meeting:

- Criteria for a proper running database
- Criteria for composing an expert group
- Criteria for appropriate grouping of crops and criteria for derogation
- How can a common database be introduced
- Dealing with conservation varieties/local varieties

After a thorough discussion these points are all agreed by the participants to be discussed in the today’s meeting.
Beforehand, Christina Micheloni, AIAB-I, gives a presentation on an applied EU-project in the Framework 6 Programme. One of the objectives is to evaluate the organic farming dependency on conventional seeds and propagation materials. In this sub-project AIAB and nine other organisations and institutions take part. The points given in the presentation are to be considered when preparing the declaration (see next point).

During the discussion of the above points the results were recorded and displayed simultaneously by means of a beamer. The results are agreed upon by all participants and given in extra document as a declaration.
Preamble

The organic sector wishes to use organic seed in order to close the production chain. This is to improve the integrity of the organic sector and for credibility towards consumers. Organically produced seed is the first step towards better adapted varieties for organic farming systems. To achieve a sufficient range and quantity of organic seeds efforts are now needed to make real progress.

The ultimate objective is the use of 100% organic seeds throughout the European Community. Until organic seed supplies make this feasible and European legislation enforces this objective, a transition period allowing for some derogation is unavoidable. Therefore, the gradual reduction of the possibilities for derogation and the continually expanding Annex, as currently proposed by the Commission, are cumbersome but necessary legislative tools for a limited period.

Over the last few years seed companies have invested in organic seed production. To fulfil the needs of the organic sector, which requires ensuring the commitment of seed companies to producing organic seed, active steps must be taken by the member states. The process to achieve 100% organic seed use must be equitable for all involved actors.

Database

The organic seed database required in each member state should have the following functions:

- To be a legal tool showing organic seed availability and to provide a dated proof of availability to farmers and control bodies, and
- To assist national, competent authorities in producing a proper annual report on authorisations granted for the use of non-organic seed.

In practice each database should fulfil the following criteria:

- up-to-date
- comprehensive
- provide dated information on availability
- reliable
- easy to use, search in by farmers
- easily filled in by suppliers
- appropriate to the needs of the member states

Individual national databases and national databases linked to a common database are equally valid approaches. An effective common database requires active input at a national level. This national activity will need to be focussed on gaining information from national seed suppliers and ensuring such information is kept up to date. Furthermore, a national telephone service is necessary to make the electronic database accessible to all farmers. Reports on authorisations granted must also be drawn up nationally.

A common database to which national databases can be linked should provide information on each named variety, preferably grouped by species and sub-group/type (see below), and on the seed company producing a
variety. Additional details such as availability, product description, seed forms, supplier, trials, etc. must be provided at the national level. This additional information can be stored on the common database.

Expert Groups

In each member states competent authorities will set up expert groups to advice them on species and subgroups of species for which a derogation could be lifted by the national authorities. The outcome can form the basis for recommendations for the European wide Annex. Advice can also be given on performance of the database, possible general authorisations, possible deadlines for lifting a derogation and to consider local variety issues.

An expert group can consist of any or all of the following relevant parties: farmers, seed suppliers, researchers, certification bodies, advisors, consumers and traders.

Criteria for Derogations

- A grouping system is recommended as suggested below:

Grouping System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>example</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crop Groups</td>
<td>Vegetables, Cereals, Potatoes, fodder crops....</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crop Species</td>
<td>Lettuce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Group/Type</td>
<td>Iceberg(^1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variety Group</td>
<td>grouped by use or yield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variety</td>
<td>named, e.g. ‘Cosmos’</td>
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A range of varieties within a certain species or subgroup/type, as recommended by an above-mentioned expert group, must be available organically for it to be possible to lift a derogation nationally and/or to be entered onto the European Annex.

Criteria for “appropriate variety”

In cases where authorisations are requested, the user should provide reasons arguing the absence of any other appropriate varieties within one of the following categories

\(^1\) At a national level, ‘local varieties’ can be included as a sub-group/type
- agronomic reasons
- market requirements
- ecological and climatic adaptation

Regarding seed quality, it is presumed that organic seed must comply with minimal national seed quality standards. For some diseases, current threshold values for seed-borne diseases may need readjustment for organic production.

For Signatories to the declaration see the participants list (below)
# European Consortium for Organic Plant Breeding

## Participants list of the ECO-PB Workshop on Organic Seed Regime 2004, Frankfurt, 11 – 12 April 2003

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Update European Commission Organic Seed Regulation

Joost Guijt, Biologica, the Netherlands
ECO-PB workshop, Frankfurt, April 10-11 2003

Revisions
The most recent proposal drawn up by the Commission is 61449-seed rev 5a, handed out to A14C members on April 2-3 2003 in Brussels.

Key points in current proposals
1) The derogation allowing for the possibility of using non-organic seed will still be maintained after 31 Dec. 2003.
2) Proposals only apply to seeds and seed potatoes, not vegetative propagating material.
3) Each Member State must ensure that there is a database listing available organic seed and seed potatoes. The database can be managed by a designated body outside the own country.
4) Member States must designate an authority that grants authorisations. These are only allowed if a required variety of a species is not listed on the database and if the user of the seed can demonstrate that there is no other appropriate variety available.
5) A Member State can give a general authorisation for species for which no varieties are listed on the database.
6) An Annex will be drawn up for species of which there are sufficient quantities of sufficient appropriate varieties available throughout the E.U. No authorisations may be given for these species.
7) Seed suppliers must register each variety in the national databases, a database management fee covering expenses may be charged.
8) Each Member State must make an annual report for all other Member States stating which authorisations were granted and why.
9) The organic seed regulation will be revised by mid 2006.

Key discussion points
A. Which species should be placed on the Annex, what procedure is required to place new species on the Annex?
B. What must the criteria for “appropriate” be to determine whether there are any “appropriate varieties” available?
C. How could a database work and how could co-operation between Member States on a common database be possible?
Organic seed - the UK Story

Rob Haward
Horticulture Development Manager
Soil Association

Soil Association activities

- SA Certification Ltd
- Information and advice to the general public
- Campaigns - promoting wider issues
- Policy - influencing Government
- Projects - development of local food initiatives
- Producer Services

Soil Association - producer services

Technical support
- Telephone helplines and OCIS
- Range of technical publications e.g. OF magazine
- Organic Food and Farming report
- Training events
Representation and projects
- Support the interests of producers while maintaining the confidence of consumers

Organic seed - the UK story

1998
Low awareness
Low organic seed production and usage
July 98 - Open meeting in Bristol
SA project ‘to develop balanced production and usage of organic seed’
Seed working group

Phase I
Raise awareness
Common certification approach
Increased availability of organic seed
- very unwieldy + hard work 4 groups
phase I recommendations to DEFRA - Dec 2000
lift derogation as planned (Dec 2003) IF:
1. Species by species assessment - volume and range
2. Equivalence
3. Experimentation
4. Recognition of additional costs

Have we made it?

Progress and current situation
Common approach
- 40% grass mixes
- 85% potatoes
- high usage for cereals approaching 100% for 2004
- horticulture - complex - discretionary (variety by variety, use of historic records, quality?)

‘what is an appropriate variety?’
- Variety availability up from 50 to nearly 1500.
Organic seed availability lists (NIAB, SA and FiBL) and organicXseeds.com
Organic seed - the UK story

Dilemma - given the nature of the EU draft
Backdrop - import pressures and decreasing margins
Options
1. Push forward toward - disadvantage UK producers
2. Go backwards
3. Maintain status quo and work hard for equivalence and PAN European progress
Focus of March 2003 meeting with government and reps

Option 3

Organic seed - the UK story

Extended derogation on most horticulture species
100% Potatoes and most cereals
approximately 40% for grass
Other requisites:
- PAN-EU progress
- 1 database
- common certification procedures
- time to address the practical problems:

Organic seed - the UK story

The technical/economic problems:
Confidence
1. Producers
   • New varieties
   • Equivalence
   • Seed health
   • Time to delivery
   • Formulation of seed
All at > cost and no market recognition

Organic seed - the UK story

Requisites for achieving 100% organic seed

Developing confidence

A. Research
Seed health, treatments and variety trials
B. Sharing information
COSI, Growers sharing information, Open days, labelling, seed availability
C. Lobbying retailers
D. EU commission commitment in good time
Annex 1, 1 database, common and robust criteria

Organic seed - the UK story

2. Seed industry
• Lack of regulatory direction and robustness
• Potential for numerous databases
Organic Seed: To be or not to be?

Preambles
* 3: Maintaining biodiversity ↔ big range of cultivars
* 4: “It is clear etc. …. Not adequate amounts of organically produced seed”
* 6: “Significant number of varieties” then no more derogations
  “a list of species excluded from the scope of derogation is to be established as soon as possible” How and When?
* 8: Database in each Member State!
* 9: Application of derogations to fall under the discretion of the Member States.
* 10: “Each Member State should ensure the publication of a report on their granting of authorisations”

Draft Commission Regulation (Rev. 4b)

Article 1
Maintenance of the derogation
1. Derogation is maintained for species not listed in the Annex → Continuation of present system
2. Procedure for filling the Annex: Art. 14 of EEC no. 2092/91 → From time to time voting by representatives of all Member States

Draft Commission Regulation (Rev. 4b)

Article 3
Use of non-organically produced material
For species not listed in the Annex authorization for use may be given by the Member States for all varieties of a given species

Draft Commission Regulation (Rev. 4b)

Article 4
Competent bodies
Each Member State shall designate one or several authorities or bodies, which shall be under its supervision, for the granting of authorisations
Consistency? Reliability? Bureaucracy!

Draft Commission Regulation (Rev. 4b)

Article 5
Database
1. A computerised database per Member State!
   (in place by the end of this year!)
2. Management and set-up of database?
Appendix 4: A common database - the basis for granting derogations. Andi Thommen

A common database: the basis for granting derogations

Andreas Thommen, database manager FiBL, Frick

www.organicXseeds.com - the database for organic seeds and seedlings

Research Institute of Organic Agriculture D-10179 Berlin CH-5070 Frick
Online registration characteristics/keywords

Future derogation procedure

1) farmer requests at his usual seed distributor
2) if organic seeds are not available: search on oXs-database
3) if not available on oXs: download pdf confirmation form
4) forward pdf-form to authorisation bodies together with derogation form
5) on farm inspection of: pdf-form, derogation form and invoice of conventional seeds

Change availability status of the seed range online

Result: a most actual information on availability of organic seeds!

Online registration

Online registration of the seed range
### Availability of organic seeds

**3-step-model of criteria**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Criteria for categorisation</th>
<th>Criteria for derogation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>positiv-list 1</strong></td>
<td>sufficient offer organic seeds obligatory</td>
<td>reasons as above additional other reasons, based on agronomic or economic evidence request in writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>top-list 2</strong></td>
<td>at least one top variety, adapted for professional use</td>
<td>download confirmation sufficient no request in writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>basic-list 3</strong></td>
<td>no variety adapted for professional use</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

### Content pdf „availability“

1) Searched Species: **Tomato**
2) Subgroup: cherry, early
3) Desired variety: **Fincalilly F1**
4) Requested Quantity: 1000 grain
5) Requested Quality: standard seed
6) Applicant, Name & Address: …………….
7) Date of application: …………….

**Output:**

The wanted variety is not registered in oXs.

In this subgroup are available the “top” varieties: “Cherry Supersmak” and “Early Pink F1”.

Reasons to apply for another variety: ……….

Applications have to be sent to the national authorisation bodies!

---

### Future database structure

- National organic seed information centre
- =information about procedure, derogation forms etc.
- National organic seed database
- =authoritative species list
- European organic seed database
- =additional voluntary information

---

### Future variety information

- **Tomato**
- Lycopersicon esculentum (Solanum lycopersicum)
- **Nicaraya** (spicy field, tomatoes as the basic)
- **Eckerd** (medium field, tomatoes as the basic)
- **Fincalilly** (spicy field, tomatoes as the basic)
- **Fincalilly F1** (spicy field, tomatoes as the basic)
- **Eckerd F1** (spicy field, tomatoes as the basic)
- **Fincalilly P1** (spicy field, tomatoes as the basic)
- **Fincalilly F1** (spicy field, tomatoes as the basic)
- **Eckerd F1** (spicy field, tomatoes as the basic)

No derogation for this species!

- **Eckerd**
- **Nicaraya**
- **Fincalilly**
- **Fincalilly F1**

Variety for professionals

National variety performance:
- UK (NIAB)
- Netherlands
- Switzerland

---

### Effects of the 3-step model

- species or subgroups of species are clearly indicated on 3 levels
- farmers are not forced to use unqualified seed
- the use of non organic seed is made more difficult
- seed industry is motivated to produce top varieties in organic quality

---

### Subspecies according to ESA with regional adaption

A product is defined as variety X seed form e.g. celeriac has to be primed pellets
www.organicxseeds.com - direct links to variety trials

Research Institute of Organic Agriculture  D-10179 Berlin  CH-5070 Frick

www.organicxseeds.com - Search e.g. carrot

Forschungsinstitut für biologischen Landbau  D-10179 Berlin, CH-5070 Frick

carrot
Nantes, storage

www.organicxseeds.com - Search results carrot

83 offers of 38 varieties online

Forschungsinstitut für biologischen Landbau  D-10179 Berlin, CH-5070 Frick

www.organicxseeds.com - Search example sweet pepper

Forschungsinstitut für biologischen Landbau  D-10179 Berlin, CH-5070 Frick

professional varieties only
In the basket for availability confirmation

www.organicxseeds.com - search Bolero

Desired variety: species/cropgroup:

Forschungsinstitut für biologischen Landbau  D-10179 Berlin, CH-5070 Frick

No offer: in the basket for availability confirmation

www.organicxseeds.com - top list

To be sent for derogation to:
Soil Association
COSI Bureau for derogations
4W13R Bristol

Certification Number: UK 63700

Actual Availability of Organic Seeds
Downloaded 23.01.2003
United Kingdom

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Sub-species</th>
<th>species/grouping type</th>
<th>available area</th>
<th>species</th>
<th>variety</th>
<th>number of transplant</th>
<th>amount</th>
<th>marketable seed</th>
<th>quality/seed form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>basic varieties</td>
<td>15 Sorten</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>top varieties</td>
<td>Ibis primed seed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prinz primed seed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>basic varieties</td>
<td>7 varieties</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adress of applicant: H-P. Speciman
Vegi Farm
CH-0900 Elwoods
Actual Availability of Organic Seed

To be sent for derogations
Soil Association
COS bureau for derogations
4W13R Bristol

basic list

Adress of applicant: H-P. Specimen Vegi Farm
CH-0900 Elwoods
Certification Number: UK 63700

available with

subspecies available

varieties available

storage available

Adress of applicant: H-P. Specimen Vegi Farm
CH-0900 Elwoods
Certification Number: UK 63700

Subspecies according to ESA

Crop Type / harvest season

TOMATO
Cherry < 30 gram indeterminate
indoor all season
indoor autumn/winter/spring
indoor spring/summer
outdoor summer/autumn
Cocktail 30-70 gram indeterminate
indoor all season
indoor autumn/winter/spring
indoor spring/summer
outdoor summer/autumn
Round 70-90 gram indeterminate
indoor all season

Conclusions

1. Transnational (European), one-time variety registration for breeders
2. Easy product (variety X seed form) registration on national level for suppliers
3. National access for farmers, national authoritative list
4. Fair conditions for farmers, stimulation for suppliers
5. Less expenses for authorities and inspection bodies
6. National reports based on common database
Appendix 5: The Danish database model. Rasmus Ørnberg Eriksen

The Danish database model
Active since 1998.
A close cooperation between the Danish Agricultural Advisory Service, The seed supplying companies and the Ministry, for mutual benefits.

Why a database
The database is needed in order to insure that all informations on organic seed available in the region are communicated to the users. Organic seed must be used if available in relevant quantities and qualities (appropriate varieties). All varieties are evaluated.

Why a (national) database
• Small database, only relevant information.
• Better overview for supplier, farmer and controlling body in your own language.
• Fast changes and personal communication between all implicated parties.

Practical construction
• Divided into three lists
  - Cereals and field crop seed
  - Vegetable seed
  - Vegetative plant material

Informations
species/group of varieties, specific variety, quantity available, evaluation (in the region), availability (ready now or date), analysis, seed supplier (name, address, phone no.)

Updated daily in the season.
ORGANIC SEEDS in France after 2003?

Organic seeds production in France: 2000 to 2002

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Average seed production (hectares)</th>
<th>Number of varieties in the species</th>
<th>Number of seed firms involved</th>
<th>Observation (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oats</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fodder beet</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2 export</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>472</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durum wheat</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelt</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field bean</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lupin</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barley</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grain pea</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buck wheat</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maize</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triticale</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucerne</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field pea</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red and Crimson clover</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common vetch</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grass seeds (rye-grass)</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL field crops seeds</td>
<td>772</td>
<td>1172</td>
<td>1715</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maize (<em>can be silage</em>)</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn (<em>can be silage</em>)</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL fodder crops</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>248</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL seed potatoes</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>81</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulbs (garlic and shallot)</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL vegetables</td>
<td>947</td>
<td>1408</td>
<td>2135</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
organic seeds in FRANCE = PRODUCTION / DEMAND
EVALUATION FOR 2003

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Near 100%</th>
<th>Middle Situation</th>
<th>Bad Situation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WHEAT 100%</td>
<td>DURUM WHEAT 50%</td>
<td>BARLEY 35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RYE 94%</td>
<td>OATS 60%</td>
<td>SOJA 30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUCK WHEAT 130%</td>
<td>SPELT 55%</td>
<td>FIELD BEAN 43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRITICALE 110%</td>
<td>MAIZE 60%</td>
<td>LUPIN 40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUNFLOWER 200%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEA 110%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LUCERNE 90%</td>
<td></td>
<td>COLZA 0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POTATO 100%</td>
<td></td>
<td>SORGHO 0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

source = GNIS

FRENCH PROJET FOR A COMPUTERISED DATABASE BY GNIS – ITAB :
www.semenes-biologiques.org

- EASY for the seed supplier :
  - Direct registration by himself on the web-site of all the informations,
  - Direct entry when the variety is no longer available.

- EASY for the producers (or for their local suppliers) :
  - Selection of the variety in a group of varieties, and suppliers available in the area,
  - Links with the seed supplier website,
  - Direct demand for authorisation

- EASY for the certification authorities :
  - Direct transmission of the authorisation demand for granting.

And, Interesting for all :
  - Annual registration of the granted authorisations will influence biological seed production.