
**ECO-PB's international policy on
the Organic Seed regulation**

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Content of this presentation

- **The aims and needs of the sector**
 - farmers,
 - seed companies
- **Ways to achieve:**
 - national level (sector and national government)
 - international (sector, member states and Brussels)
- **The role of ECO-PB**

The aims or needs of the sector (1)

- Organic farmers require a diversity of appropriate varieties;
- Organic sector needs to become independent of conventionally produced inputs to show reliability to consumers,
- and thus needs to close the production cycle: e.g. 100% use of organic seeds.

The aims or needs of the sector (2)

- **Seed producers are prepared to serve the needs of the organic sector, if:**
 - **the demand is clear**
 - **what and how many?**
 - **the regulations are clear**
 - **no more derogations**
 - **international harmonisation**

The aims or needs of the sector (3)

Although implementation is left to national authorities, the sector needs:

- **international attuning of assortment**
- **harmonisation in dealing with the derogations**
- **level playing field**

Ways to achieve progress (1)

Stakeholders on this agenda:

- **organic growers and umbrella organisations**
- **organic traders, retailers**
- **seed companies**
- **certification bodies, database managers**
- **government**
- **EC member states**
- **Brussels**

Ways to achieve progress (2)

Communication and interaction is crucial!

- **on national level among stakeholders**
- **on international level**

Communication on national level (1)

**Key role for national expert groups
(growers, seed producers, database managers,
coordinator):**

- 1. potato**
- 2. cereals/fodder crops**
- 3. indoor vegetables**
- 4. outdoor vegetables**
- 5. planting material (e.g. fruit trees)**

Communication on national level (2)

Key role for national expert groups:

- **inventory of available varieties**
- **determining categories of derogations**
- **available for advice on urgent cases**

- **national funding**
- **meetings 1x/year**
- **report with conclusions for yearly derogation policy**

Communication on international level (1)

- **international meetings with national representatives (ECO-PB workshops)**
- **more active attitude/commitment of SCOF meetings in Brussels**
- **bilateral agreements**

Communication on international level (2)



**Bilateral meetings between NL and UK 2008,
NL-Germany 2008 en 2009**

European Consortium for Organic Plant Breeding



Progress so far?

Three groups of seed companies:

1. committed to organic

- **they see yearly increase of their turn over!**
- **green image by selling organics**

2. waiting along side to step in

- **complain about derogations, etc...**

3. against organic principles and will probably never step in....

- **organic does not comply with their (chemical) policy**

Role of ECO-PB

ECO-PB can facilitate the exchange of experiences between member states on, e.g.:

- different derogation policies**
- working with expert groups**
- projects to stimulate progress**

Role of ECO-PB

ECO-PB's international meetings on Organic Seed Regulation:

**2003 (B), 2004 (D), 2005 (A), 2006 (NL),
2008 (NL)**

**10-13 countries participated,
see reports www.eco-pb.org**

2010 in UK or DK?