

Organic seeds and varieties

Organic Seed regulation of BIO SUISSE

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General remarks

Two totally different markets:

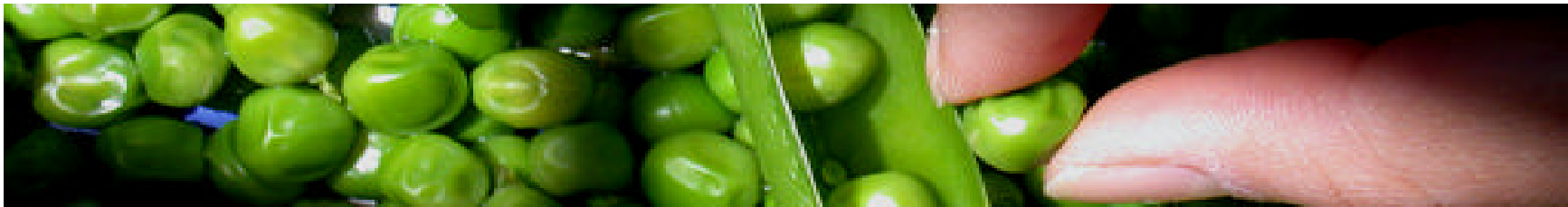
Agricultural crops (cereals and potatoes):

swiss cooperatives produce licensed seeds

seeds are all certified

production planning by organic seeds board

price difference moderate



Vegetable crops, ornamental plants:

seed production by breeders, no licensing

non possibility to produce according to needs

price difference high to very high

Agricultural (main) crops

- ✍ **Nearly 80 % market coverage for cereals**
- ✍ **Nearly 80% market coverage for potatoes**
- ✍ **Use of organic fodder crop seeds > 0**
- ✍ **Task for the future:
reach 100% by better planning and risk
insurance for overproduction**
- ✍ **ALL CROPS: introduction of financial
instruments**

Classification criteria

Example: Fennel *Foeniculum vulgare var. dulce*

subgoup	seed form	classification
1. spring/covered	pregerm. pill	step 2 (org.= regular)
2. summer	pregerm. pill	step 2 (org.= regular)
3. autumn/ storage	pregerm. pill	step 3 (org.=wish)
4. processing	pregerm. pill	step 3 (org.=wish)

classification	recommended var.	further org. offer
1. spring/covered	<i>Ibis, Prinz</i>	
2. summer	<i>Ibis, Prinz, Diamant</i>	
3. autumn/ storage	Brilliant, Cisko	<i>Monarch, President, Mars</i>
4. processing	Brilliant	

3-step model on subspecies level

Step	Criteria for categorisation	Criteria for derogation
Annex1 1	sufficient offer =organic seeds obligatory	variety trials, conservation purpose request in writing
<i>appropriate</i> 2	at least one „ top “ variety , adapted for professional use =„appropriate“ varieties	reasons as above additional other reasons, based on agronomic or economic evidence request in writing
General derogation 3	no variety adapted for professional use	download confirmation sufficient no request in writing

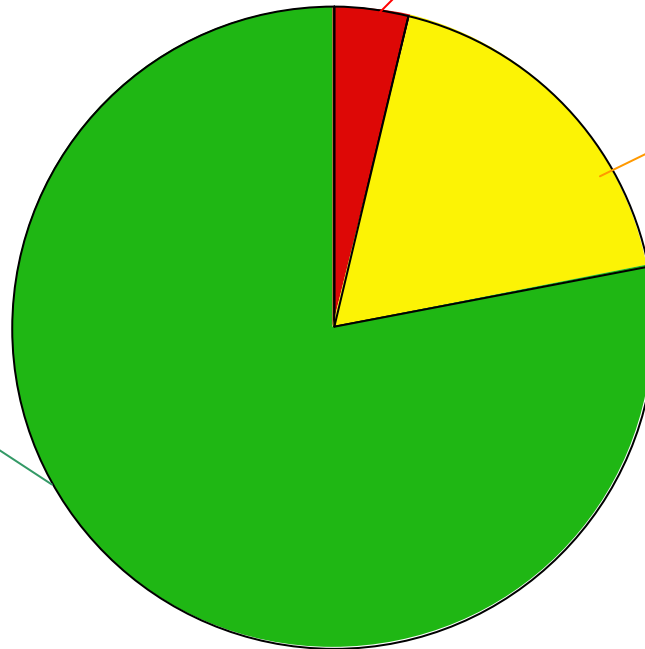
classification done by expert commission
of BIO SUISSE (farmers, advisors, transplant
producers, breeders) = BETTER ACCEPTANCE

Classification rate: vegetables

total:

- 66 species
- 220 subgroups

**Organic = wish
(78 %)**
Bsp.: lettuce, tomato,
cauliflower



Annex 1(4 %)
E.g.: Rocket, Cress,
Purslane, Parsley

**Organic = Regular
(18 %)**
E.g.: Cucumber,
Spinatch, early
Celeriac

Classification trends

- ✍ Cereals and potatoes = Annex 1 and single dero.
- ✍ Vegetables = 78% general derogation
- ✍ Ornamentals= Annex 1 for wild species
- ✍ Fodder crops: bi- and tri- an perennials = single derogation, minimal 30% organic components
- ✍ Fruits and small fruits: order trees one year in advance, contracting with organic nursery
strawberry transplants: no derogations allowed

Nötige Dokumente bei Betriebskontrolle

✍ **Falls Biosaatgut:** Rechnung oder Lieferschein

✍ **Falls nicht Bio:**

- Rechnung des konventionellen Saatgutes
- Hinweis auf FK-Liste oder Datenbankauszug
(kann FiBL oder Händler machen)
- bei Arten der Stufe 1 + 2 bewilligtes
Ausnahmegesuch

✍ Eintrag Saatgutjournal (je nach Kontrollstelle)
Achtung, das Gesuch muss bewilligt sein, bevor
das Saatgut auf den Betrieb geliefert wird!

Economical restrictions

- ✍ Experience of small bio-dynamic breeders showed: varieties just sold on organic markets are hardly financially viable
- ✍ E.g.: 20'000 ha of farmland are necessary to cover the costs of one new cereal cultivar
- ✍ Consequence: organic breeders promote their varieties to non-organic low-input production
- ✍ Without support from public funds, the important work of organic breeding cannot be tackled properly

Problems with DHS and VCU testing



Official VCU testing on organic farmland in Switzerland (and Germany)

- **DHS**= Test for **D**istinctivness, **H**omogeneity and **S**tability to achieve variety protection rights (UPOV):
DHS is very time consuming and expensive
- **VCU**= **V**alue for **C**ultivation and **U**se
Official variety trials decide if a variety enters the EU-Common Catalogue (binding for main crops!)
VCU is often done on conventional farms and on to high input level

Compilation of the Annex 1

Annex 1 defines species with sufficient seed offer europewide :

- ✍ Actually there is a lack of information about the availability of seeds and of derogations
- ✍ From 2004 on, every EU member state is obliged to send an annual report to Brussels
- ✍ It is expected, that the Annex 1 will stay empty for 2004, until the first annual report
- ✍ Seed industry exerts pressure to fill the Annex 1

The ESA study

European Seed Association (ESA) publishes availability study in 2002 :

- ✍ Assumed future market share of organic seeds:
5 % of total surface
- ✍ 57 of 77 vegetable species cover 5%
with sufficient choice of varieties
- ✍ For additional 12 (mostly herb) species the
production can easily be raised

Farmers criticized the offered range of varieties
does not fulfill their special needs

Market share of organic seeds

species	agric. surface EU		market segments	ha. per segment	kg seeds
	total ha	org. 5%			
Brassica*	100'000	5'000	45	112	28
Carrots	75'000	3'750	30	120	240
Onions	100'000	5'000	35	140	564

* Without Broccoli and Cauliflower

Source of total surface: FAO

Conclusions:

- different amount of organic seeds as minimal requirement to continue seed production
- Price increase for organic seeds

source: Bejo Seeds, Netherlands

Main factors for higher organic seed price

- More basis seed needed
- higher production costs in the first year, especially in the second year (more handicraft for weeding, more loss due to diseases)
- less output, more surface needed
- higher risk of loss of harvest due to diseases
- Bad effects of the small lot size (package, distribution etc.)



Price increase for organic products



Price increase for organic seeds

species	price factor
onions	2.5
carrots	2
white cabbage	1.8
fennel	1.6
brussel sprouts	1.6
leek	1.5
radicchio rosso	1.2
red beet	2.1



Expected price increase

for end products: 2 to 8 %

Access to the European Seed Market

- ✍ The variety has to be accepted by UPOV (International Union for the Protection of Varieties of Plants)
- ✍ Main crops have to be on the EU Common Catalogue of Varieties of Agricultural Plant Species or a national catalogue
Every lot of imported seed of main crops has to be certified!
- ✍ Quality standards are set out by the OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) and ISTA (International Seed Testing Association)
- ✍ Some countries implemented even stricter seed laws

To import seeds to Europe it is highly recommended that a specialised seed trader of the respective country is involved

Classification of main crops and fodder crops

Verabschiedet Sitzung BIO SUISSE Fachkommission Getreide / Ackerkulturen vom 25.11.2003

species	subgroup	market sector	classification
cereals			
wheat	autumn	class Top and 1	Annex 1 (org.= must)
		class II	Annex 1 (org.= must)
		class III	Annex 1 (org.= must)
		Bisquit	step 2 (org. = regular)
	spring	class top and 1	step 2 (org. = regular)
spelt		class 1	Annex 1 (org.= must)
rye	autumn		Annex 1 (org.= must)
trit. Dicoccum	autumn/ spring		Annex 1 (org.= must)
barley	autumn		Annex 1 (org.= must)
	spring		Annex 1 (org.= must)
oats	autumn		step 3 (org. = wish)
	spring		Annex 1 (org.= must)
triticale	autumn		Annex 1 (org.= must)
	spring		step 3 (org. = wish)
maize	corn		step 2 (org. = regular)
	silage		step 2 (org. = regular)
protein crops			
field pea	autumn		step 3 (org. = wish)
	summer		step 2 (org. = regular)
field beans	autumn		step 3 (org. = wish)
	summer		step 3 (org. = wish)
soybean			step 2 (org. = regular)
lupins			step 3 (org. = wish)
root/tuber crops			
potatoes	feed/food varieties	early	step 2 (org. = regular)
		waxy (festkochend)	step 2 (org. = regular)

species	subgroup	market sector	classification
		mostly waxy	step 2 (org. = regular)
		floury	step 2 (org. = regular)
	processing	chips	
		early	step 3 (org. = wish)
		middle	step 3 (org. = wish)
		late	step 3 (org. = wish)
		flocs	step 2 (org. = regular)
		juice	step 3 (org. = wish)
		ready meals	step 3 (org. = wish)
beta ssp.	semisachariferum		step 2 (org. = regular)
	sachariferum		step 3 (org. = wish)
oilseeds			
rapeseed	autumn		step 3 (org. = wish)
sunflower			step 3 (org. = wish)
green manure	winter		step 3 (org. = wish)
	summer		step 3 (org. = wish)
Bunt- und Rotationsbrachen			step 3 (org. = wish)
fodder crops / grass-clover mixtures			
catch crop	winter		step 3 (org. = wish)
	summer		step 3 (org. = wish)
annual			step 3 (org. = wish)
biennial		AGFF 200	step 2 (org. = regular)
bi- and triennial		AGFF 240	step 2 (org. = regular)
triennial		AGFF 300	step 2 (org. = regular)
perennial		AGFF 400	step 2 (org. = regular)
oversow			step 3 (org. = wish)
special mixtures			
maize			step 3 (org. = wish)
fruit plant.			step 3 (org. = wish)
pasture			step 3 (org. = wish)

Current state in Germany concerning the national database and derogation system after 2003

- ✍ the national database is in the responsibility of 16 federal states (Bundesländer)
- ✍ organicXseeds (oXs) of FiBL has been decided to be the official database
- ✍ at the moment oXs is adapted to the needs of the Bundesländer
- ✍ derogations shall be given on a crop group basis
- ✍ the organic sector wishes a uniform implementation throughout D
- ✍ to date, there has not been an expert group meeting to decide on crop groups for general authorisation but expert opinion is gathered by the Bundesländer
- ✍ for which crop groups general authorisation can be given is still a matter of debate but will be clarified soon
- ✍ there is no ,national annex' in D (as yet)
- ✍ from the official and seed suppliers side there is interest in building up a 'national annex' during 2004

DUTCH NATIONAL ANNEX 2004

RESULT OF EXTENSIVE CONSULTATION

DUTCH NATIONAL ANNEX 2004

(SUB)SPECIES 1

- *SOLANUM TUBEROSUM* POTATO
- *RAPHANUS SATIVUS* FODDER RADISH
- *SINAPSIS ALBA* WHITE MUSTARD
- *MEDICAGO SATIVA* LUCERNE
- *ZEA MAYS* MAIZE FORAGE AND GRAIN
- *HORDEUM VULGARE* BARLEY (WINTER EN SPRING)

DUTCH NATIONAL ANNEX 2004

(SUB)SPECIES 2

- *AVEAN SATIVA* OATS (WINTER EN SPRING)
- *SECALE CEREALE* RYE
- *TRITICUM AEVISTUM* WHEAT (WINTER EN SPRING)
- *X TRITICOSECALE* TRITICALE
- *LOLIUM MULTIFLORUM* ITALIAN RYEGRASS
- *LOLIUM PERENNE* RAY-GRASS ANGLAIS

DUTCH NATIONAL ANNEX 2004

(SUB)SPECIES 3

- *CICHORIUM ENDIVA* **ENDIVE SCAROLE**
- *OCIMUM BASILICUM* **BASIL**
- *ALLIUM SCHOENOPRASUM* **CHIVES**
- *PISUM SATIVUM* **BROWN MARROWFATPEA**
- *ANETHUM GRAVEOLENS* **DILL**
- *ALIUM CEPA* **PLANT ONION**

DUTCH NATIONAL ANNEX 2004

(SUB)SPECIES 4

- *ALLIUM SATIVA* **GARLIC**
- *BRASSICA OLETACEA* VAR. *ACEPHALA* **KOHLRABI**
- *CORIANDRUM SATIVUM* **CORIANDER**
- *MARJORANA HORTENSIS* **SWEET MARJORAM**
- *PETROSELINUM CRISPUM* **PARSLEY**
- *PISUM SATIVUM* VAR. *SACCHARATUM* **PEA**

DUTCH NATIONAL ANNEX 2004

(SUB)SPECIES 5

- *PHAESOLUS COCCINEUS* **RUNNER BEANS**
- *PHASEOLUS VULGARIS* **CLIMBING BEANS**
- *PHASEOLUS VULGARIS* **CLIMBING BEANS**
- *RAPHANUS SATIVUS* *VAR. RADICULA* **RADISH**
- *LEPIDIVUM SATIVUM* **CRESS**
- *THYMUS VULGARIS* **THYME**

DUTCH NATIONAL ANNEX 2004

(SUB)SPECIES 6

- *CUCUMIS SATIVUS* CUCUMBER
- *CAPSICUM ANNUUM* PEPPER, SWEET
- *LYCOPERSICUM ESCULENTUM* TOMATO
- *CUCURBITA* PUMPKIN

DUTCH NATIONAL ANNEX 2004

PROCESS 1

CONSULTATION OF EXPERT CROP GROUPS:

- 1. USERS: PRODUCERS**
- 2. SUPPLIERS: SEED COMPANIES**
- 3. NGO: LOBBY GROUPS**
- 4. GOVERNMENT: MINISTRY, DUTCH GENERAL QUALITY SERVICE FOR HORTICULTURE**

DUTCH NATIONAL ANNEX 2004

PROCESS 2

FOUR EXPERT CROP GROUPS:

- 1. POTATOES**
- 2. CEREALS**
- 3. FODDER CROPS, GREEN MANURES AND GRASSES**
- 4. VEGETABLES**

DUTCH NATIONAL ANNEX 2004

PROCESS 3

STATUS EXPERT CROP GROUPS:

- **PRELIMINARY ADVICE TO THE MINISTRY ABOUT NATIONAL ANNEX 2004**
- **BASED ON DETAILED INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE SEED COMPANIES**
- **AVAILABILITY COMING SEASON OF ORGANIC PROPAGATED VARIETIES**

DUTCH NATIONAL ANNEX 2004

PROCESS 4

SUPPLY ORGANIC PROPAGATED VARIETIES TESTED BY:

- **AMOUNT OF SUPPLIERS**
- **SUITABILITY FOR THE USERS**
- **AVAILABILITY OF MAIN VARIETIES**
- **DIVISION OF SPECIE IN SUBSPECIES DESIRABLE?**
- **INTERCHANGE VARIETIES IN (SUB)GROUP**

DEROGATION SYSTEM 1

NO MAJOR CHANGES IN 2004:

- **REQUEST FOR DEROGATION → SKAL**
- **GRANTS DEROGATION: LASER (AGENCY OF THE MINISTRY)**

DEROGATION SYSTEM 2

NEW:

THE USE OF THE DATABASE FOR ORGANIC SEED BY SKAL

WWW.BIODATABASE.NL

**MAINTAINED BY THE DUTCH GENERAL QUALITY SERVICE FOR
HORTICULTURE**

EU Organic Seed Regulation

State of the art in Belgium

December 2003

Ir. Lieven Delanote

EU Organic Seed Regulation

- Database
- Availability of organic seeds
- Derogation
- Conclusion 2004
- Towards 2005

Database - organicXseeds (1)

- Belgium : small country, small organic area
- Choice to work with organicXseeds
- Belgian page oXs available in the 2nd half of December
 - Structured by oXs
 - French and Dutch
 - Seeds available / offered in Belgium

Database - organicXseeds (2)

- State of the art
 - Contract government / oXs decided
 - Consultation government / oXs about last details basic structure and basic data
 - If this is completed
 - Available on the web
 - Suppliers have to be informed
 - The offer has to be put on the database
 - Limited offer on 01/01/04 ?
 - Farmers are not familiar with, even not informed

Availability organic seeds (1)

- Almost no (organic) multiplication in B
- Suppliers depending of companies in neighbouring countries
- 2004 : offer limited in number and quality of varieties on oXs
 - 01/01/04 : full offer not compiled
 - Technical reasons multiplication
 - Economical reasons suppliers (small market)
 - Uncertainty about regulation organic seed

Availability organic seeds (2)

- 2003 :
 - Variety trials with (potential) organic var.
 - Survey of farmers experience/appreciation of organic and conventional varieties (nov / dec)
- Continued funding in 2004 ?
- Farmers are convinced by heart, but are hesitating seeing the field and the market

Derogation

- Granted by control bodies
- What will be the offer ??
- Which criteria ???
- 2004 : flexible derogation policy ?
 - Lack of experience by control bodies
 - Derogation demand needed, little motivation will be enough

Conclusion 2004

- Database late available
- Control bodies are not prepared
- Farmers are not informed / familiar
- Limited offer of organic seeds
- Most seeds are ordered in jan / feb
- 2004 : transitional year !!!

Towards 2005 (1)

- By order of Flemish Government
 - Call august 2003
 - Addition of technical information to oXs
 - Information to seed suppliers about oXs
 - Developing criteria for derogation
 - By evaluating the offer on oXs
 - In concertation with expertgroups
 - Information to farmers
 - Probably granted to consortium PCBT, BLIVO, CLO

Towards 2005 (2)

- Information 8/9 Dec
- Steering Committee Jan. 2004
 - Decision about working method
 - Dutch approach ?
 - Proactive concertation of suppliers is needed
 - Tuning Flemish / Walloon approach
- Expertgroups vegetables, fodder crops,...
 - Spring 2004
 - Definition criteria recommended varieties
 - Definition criteria for derogation

Towards 2005 (3)

- September 2004 :
 - Criteria 2005 has to be defined, so suppliers can decide their offer
 - Regulation has to be tuned to (neighbouring) EU countries
- Offer 2005 listed on OXS in Okt. 2004 ?
- 2005 : real offer and use organic seeds for a certain a number of species

Basics to the Spanish situation with regard to the provision of EU Regulation 1452/2003

There is no data base on organic seed in Spain at this moment but it will be put online in January (found at the Ministry of agriculture web site).

The Spanish production of organic seeds is little and most of the companies offering seed in Spain come from abroad. Most of Spanish organic farmers use conventional seed.

The ministry of agriculture does not have enough knowledge about the availability of organic seed (varieties and amounts of seed in use) for they have not done a consultation on this subject. As yet, the ministry has only asked the Spanish Crop Varieties Office about the production of some companies in Spain, but they have not consulted organic inspection bodies or stakeholders.

Because of the lack of these data Spain could not decide on species for the inclusion on the EU annex.

It is necessary to wait and see how the situation is developing after having establishing the Spanish database. For the same reasons the ministry is not thinking on a national annex at this moment and we have not yet discussed the possibility of general derogations.

Some organisations (Red de semillas, COAG, SEAE) have done a survey about using of organic seed, availability and use of different types of varieties. This survey shows that there are many different situations of production in Spain (different climatic regions) in a large range of soil types, crop and variety diversity (local varieties, conventional, ...) destined to different markets (exportation, local market, ...) All of them must be taken in account in order to define the availability of organic seeds. But this survey is not enough and we need a most rigorous consultations. We need more commitments to organic farming from the Spanish Government.

SEMENCES BIOLOGIQUES

Le site officiel de gestion des variétés disponibles en semences issues de l'agriculture biologique



Vous êtes **agriculteur**
→ **Recherchez** les variétés disponibles et leurs fournisseurs

Vous êtes **fournisseur**
→ **Enregistrez** les variétés que vous proposez à la vente

Vous êtes **organisme certificateur**
→ **Gérez** vos dérogations

Site en construction

Téléchargez le **règlement CE 1452/2003 du 14 août 2003**

<http://www.semences-biologiques.org>

- The official website for gestion of the varieties which seeds are obtained by the organic production method

Registration by the supplier

- I am a supplier (« fournisseur ») and I want to register the varieties I sell...



Identification

Numéro de carte : obligatoire

Raison sociale :

Courriel :

Mot de passe : obligatoire

Si vous entrez ici pour la première fois, vous devez obtenir un mot de passe :

- si vous avez déjà un numéro d'enregistrement au GNIS (numéro à 6 chiffres figurant sur votre carte professionnelle), entrez ce numéro et cliquez sur "obtenir un mot de passe".
- si vous n'avez pas de numéro d'enregistrement au GNIS [cliquez ici](#)



Inscription

Pour pouvoir entrer sur ce site les variétés de semences ou de plants biologiques que vous souhaitez distribuer en France il vous faut auparavant obtenir un numéro d'enregistrement au GNIS. Selon votre situation et selon les espèces que vous souhaitez commercialiser vous aurez une cotisation annuelle à payer. Une fois ce numéro d'enregistrement obtenu, le GNIS vous donnera un mot de passe qui vous permettra d'accéder à votre module de gestion de vos variétés sur ce site. Dans ce but, il vous faut au préalable remplir le formulaire ci-dessous.

Raison sociale :

Adresse du siège :

Adresses des points de vente :

Le site officiel de gestion des variétés disponibles en semences issues de l'agriculture biolog - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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fournisseur

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Espace Fournisseurs

Cet accès vous est réservé pour gérer vous même la disponibilité en semences et plants biologiques de votre gamme ainsi que la zone de livraison. Vous devez classer vos variétés dans les types variétaux simplifiés proposés.

Vous pourrez également ajouter des informations complémentaires sur les caractéristiques de vos variétés et sur leur conditionnements.

Démarrer | Base d... | gnis_m... | bdbio... | Jean D... | Le sit... | Bilan p... | Bilprov... | 12

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Ajouter une variété

Espèce :

Type variétal :

Nom de la variété :

Ajouter

Si vous ne trouvez pas une espèce et que vous désirez la rajouter dans la liste, prenez contact avec le gnis : semencebio@gnis.fr

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Ajouter une variété

Cette variété ne figure pas au catalogue européen

Espèce :

Type variétal :

Nom de la variété :

Ajouter

Si vous ne trouvez pas une espèce et que vous désirez la rajouter dans la liste, prenez contact avec le gnis : semencebio@gnis.fr



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Information sur la variété

Sous-type variétal :

Organisme certificateur :

Date de disponibilité :
 Entrez une date au format "jj/mm/aaaa"

Zone de livraison : France entière

Ou entrez les numéros des départements séparés par des virgules

Informations complémentaires :

Gérer les variétés

Avoine

canelle

Disponible ▼

[Modifier la fiche de la variété](#)

evora

Indisponible ▼

[Modifier la fiche de la variété](#)

Blé dur

neodur

Disponible ▼

[Modifier la fiche de la variété](#)

Blé tendre

soissons

Disponible ▼

[Modifier la fiche de la variété](#)

Dactyle



Other supplier functionalities

- Enter the addresses of his different selling points.
- Enter other characteristics of his offer : minimum weight, packaging,...NO PRICE
- Put a link with his website et and explain how to pass the commercial demand.

Access for the seed users and the
public

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agriculteur

[Recherche par espèce](#) | [Recherche par fournisseur](#) | [La filière semences Bio](#) | [Réglementation](#) | [Liens](#)

Recherche par espèce

Pour trouver des semences et plants biologiques de la variété que vous recherchez et qui soient disponible dans votre département, choisissez un département puis choisissez une espèce.

Département : 04 Alpes de Haute Provence ▼

Espèce : Dactyle ▼

Rechercher



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Résultat de la recherche par espèce

2 variétés trouvées.

klotox

medly

si vous ne trouvez pas la variété de l'espèce recherchée vous pouvez enregistrer et éditer une **demande de dérogation** qui sera transmise à votre organisme certificateur.

Variety Search

- For one variety, the farmer has an access to the complementary informations given by the suppliers (caractéristiques, packaging, link to the Internet site of the supplier)

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Recherche par fournisseur

Fournisseur :

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Demande de dérogation

Date de la demande :

26/09/2003

Nom :

gdgxd<

Prénom :

azerttt

Adresse :

fhhfhfh

Code postal :

32113

Ville :

Courriel :

Organisme certificateur :

Numéro d'enregistrement :

Espèce : Avoine

Nom de la variété :

Quantité demandée :

Motif :

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Demande de dérogation

Le 30/09/2003

Je soussigné M, Mme **maurice Dupond**
demeurant à 22 rue Chose, 02360 albertville

et produisant selon les règles de l'agriculture biologique sous le contrôle de l'organisme certificateur :

QUALITE FRANCE

enregistré sous le numéro : **222**

sollicite une dérogation pour l'utilisation de semences ou plants non produit selon les règles de l'agriculture biologique pour la variété **sinbad** de l'espèce **Avoine** pour une quantité de **250 kg**.

motif : **variété présente dans la base mais pas de livraison possible par le fournisseur dans la zone concernée**

Cette demande de dérogation doit être validée par votre organisme certificateur. Elle a valeur d'autorisation provisoire et doit être présentée lors des contrôles.

Other uses

- Annex and/or collective authorisations
- Technical results : trials ITAB
- Granting of the authorisations (internet or manual) by the Certification Bodies

The beginning of the french database

- 1st November 2003: opening for registration for the suppliers
- 3rd December 2003 : 20 registred suppliers. 36 varieties of agricultural crops, 3 of potatoes, 101 of vegetables....
- 1st January 2004 : opening for the farmers and use for granting authorisations

Norway
able to fulfill
Annex in
2004

	Species (varieties)	Accessible In 2004	
NO	Potatoes (1)		Solanum tuberosum
NO	Wheat (1)	33%	Triticum spp
NO	Barley (4)	17%	Hordeum vulgare
NO	Rye (0)	0%	Secale cereale
NO	Oat (5)	57%	Avena sativa
NO	Maize	0%	Zea mays
NO	Soyabeans	0%	Glycine max.
NO	Perennial Ryegrass	0%	Lolium perenne
NO	Annual Ryegrass, Italian		Lolium multiflorum
NO	Clover, red Clover, white Clover, Alsike	28%	trifolium pratense
NO	Engsvingel (2) Grass seed	26%	
NO	Timothy (2)	21%	
NO	Fodder Beet	0%	Beta vulgaris subsp. Vulgaris



Decare; organic in 2004

371.925

Norway made an action plan in 2001, that was running to 2004. The plan was focusing on how to reach the goal of 100% organic seed in the 2004. In regard to the plan an expert group was appointed.

In 2001, and for the following three years, Norway did focus on the claim that everyone had to demand organic seeds, when they ordered seed. Every year the seed companies were basically sold out.

Now, we are building up a database, which will be running from beginning of 2004.

For 2004 the inspection body will be responsible for the derogation and the government will be responsible for running the database.

Some of the challenge for 2004 will be:

- Criteria for derogation
- How to meet the claim of fulfilling the Annex in 2005

By Etti Salomonsen
Brüssel December, 8th 2003

The situation in the United Kingdom by Rob Haward via E-Mail

Apologies to all in Brussels that no one from the UK could attend, we hope that this short update will fill you in on where we are with organic seed. Firstly database management. Defra have recently announced that the Soil Association have been nominated as database managers working with NIAB and Fibl. We are, as you will imagine, very happy about this. Defra are keen for the UK version of organicXseeds to be personalised (we like to be different) with regards the search and results page. In light of this I am in discussion with Andi about making these changes in the near future. indeed I will spend time in Switzerland with Andi next week. Because time is short and we are aware that the current UK seed offer on organicXseeds is a bit out of date we are proposing an interim system. This will involve the Soil Association collecting all the seed availability data from the seed companies on a weekly basis and sending the cumulated data through to Fibl to upload on to organicXseeds. This system will operate until we have finalised new contracts and payments from the seed companies. From this time the seed companies will once again take personal responsibility for keeping their seed offer up to date.

With regards the annex. The seed working groups will continue to meet (potato, grass, horticulture and arable for your memory). They have been recognised by Defra as important for helping make decisions on species that could potentially be put on the annex and for helping the certification bodies with certification decisions. This advisory role will help DEFRA to put forward the UK position with regards potential annex species at EU discussions. The seed working groups will feed into a group known as TWiG, the Certification body technical working group. As the name suggests this is a group consisting of representatives from the certification bodies. Any issues requiring DEFRA approval will be communicated from TWiG to DEFRA. In acknowledgement of the importance of the seed working groups Defra have provided some support for their operation which has been much welcomed.

You may also remember the Centre of Organic Seed Information - COSI at www.cosi.org.uk. This is still up and running, with latest variety trials information from the UK posted on the web site. However, we haven't yet been able to develop COSI to its full potential due to funding restrictions. The Soil Association and NIAB are therefore exploring sources of funding, including research and development funding from DEFRA, to develop COSI further. Our vision is that the main window on the home page of COSI will be the UK front page of organicXseeds.

There are a number of other encompassed issues that I suspect will be discussed at your meeting, like seed health, companies avoiding the database, variety trials etc. It is a shame that I cannot be there to discuss these important and interesting developments with you but I wish you some very productive discussions. I also hope that your two days in Brussels are enjoyable.

Kind regards to all

Rob Haward