



LIVSEED

**BOOSTING ORGANIC
SEED AND PLANT BREEDING
ACROSS EUROPE**



BOOSTING ORGANIC SEEDS OF ADAPTED CULTIVARS



"I hope that at the end we can offer recommendations to the national authorities and the EU on how to harmonise the implementation of the EU regulation on organic seed"

Monika Messmer,

FiBL-CH Scientific coordinator

Seeds are the foundation of farming. Therefore, organic production should start with organic seed. Applying organic seed is mandatory according to the European organic regulation, but untreated conventional seed is still used to varying extent in different countries.

Cultivars adapted to organic systems are key for realising the full potential of organic agriculture in Europe. Specific traits are required: tolerance or resistance against pest, diseases and weeds, nutrient use efficiency. However, few organisations invest in organic breeding programmes, mainly due to the low return on investment.

To reach 100% use of organic seed of adapted cultivars we need to overcome several challenges:

- Technical difficulties in organic seed production
- Insufficient organic breeding programmes
- Lack of information regarding the availability and demand of organic seed
- Inconsistent implementation of EU organic regulation



"Networking of different initiatives in Europe is important to promote organic seed production, use, and enhance organic breeding"

*Gebhard Rossmannith,
Bingenheimer Saatgut*



WHAT LIVESEED WILL DO

The objective of LIVESEED is to improve transparency and competitiveness of the organic seed and breeding sector and encourage greater use of organic seed.

LIVESEED will:

- Foster harmonised implementation of the EU regulation on organic seed
- Strengthen organic seed databases in the whole EU
- Investigate socio-economic aspects related to production and use of organic seed
- Improve availability and quality of organic seed
- Develop guidelines for organic cultivar testing and registration
- Develop innovative breeding approaches to widen the choice of organic cultivars

Research will cover legumes, vegetables, fruit trees, cereals and fodder crops; considering different farming systems across Europe.



WORKING TOGETHER

LIVESEED has 49 partners covering 18 European countries. The consortium includes multiple actors from: research institutes, breeding companies, seed companies, organic associations (farmers, processors, retailers) and national authorities.



“Establish a well-functioning organic seed and breeding sector is key for improving organic farming in Europe”

*Riccardo Bocci,
Rete Semi Rurali*



“LIVESEED is a unique opportunity to increase the volume and quality of organic seeds in Central-Eastern Europe”

*Dóra Drexler,
ÖMKI*

Duration: 4 years (2017 – 2021)
Project coordinator: IFOAM EU
Scientific coordinator: FiBL-CH



Budget: 7.5m EUR
from the European Union &
1.5m EUR from Switzerland



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

PARTICIPATE IN:

surveys, interviews, workshops, events

FOLLOW OUR ACTIVITIES AND CONTACT US ON



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