

Legal limitations for the use of organic and new genetically diverse seeds in Spain

Problems

Spanish Regulation for the Registration of varieties limits the use of genetically diverse seeds and establishes higher requirements for their registration than for genetically homogeneous material.

Solutions

Specific Regulation for genetically diverse varieties

Specific regulation for organic and genetically diverse varieties (traditional and new) should be developed according to the Plant Genetic Resources Law. They shouldn't have to comply with the Commercial Varieties' Regulation for registration, production and marketing.



Figure: Genetically diverse varieties (Photo: SEAE)

Practical recommendations

- To develop an Action Plan to Stop Genetic Erosion that includes investing in research on genetically diverse and organic seeds, promoting their production and use and allowing their exchange and commercialization.
- Create a work group of the organic sector, bringing together national and regional competent authorities for organic farming and for seed legislation.
- Create regional registers for traditional plant varieties including those that are in process to be registered in the National Plant Variety Office, and test acceptance among producers and consumers.

Further information

1. Further information on organic agriculture:
<https://www.mapa.gob.es/es/alimentacion/temas/produccion-eco/>
2. National regulation on seed registration:
<https://www.mapa.gob.es/es/agricultura/legislacion/Legislacion-nacional-semillas.aspx>

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LIVESEED: Boosting organic seed and plant breeding across Europe. LIVESEED is based on the concept that cultivars adapted to organic systems are key for realising the full potential of organic agriculture in Europe. Research project 2017-2021.

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