

How to improve organic seed production for carrots and cauliflower

Problems

The production of organic vegetable seed is under high pest and disease pressure and there is a lack of effective methods for control. This regularly leads to complete yield failure of the seed crop or low germination rates and thus higher seed prices. In this practice abstract, we focus on carrots and cauliflowers.

Solutions

In order to mitigate the above laid out challenges in organic seed multiplication, especially for biennial crops like carrot and cauliflower, there is a need to invest further into research for pest and disease management in organic seed production systems. However, some practical solutions are listed below.

Practical recommendations

Some practical measures to improve pest and disease control in organic seed production are the following:

- Elite carrot seed can be produced indoors to reduce pest pressure.
- For outdoor carrot seed production, netting in of multiplication area can significantly reduce pest pressure.
- Further for carrots, establishing a mixed crop seed production system can reduce pest and disease pressure.
- For cauliflower, organic seed multiplication can be done in greenhouses and poly-tunnels.
- A further advantage can be to multiply in temperate sea climate, where temperature fluctuations are kept to a minimum.

Further information

[D4.2 Report describing three crop case studies investigating in detail the socio-economic factors influencing the behaviour of various stakeholders regarding the use of organic seed](#)

Authors: Eva winter, Carmen Kummer (FiBL CH)

Contact: eva.winter@fibl.org

Publisher: ÖMki Hungarian Research Institute of Organic Agriculture

Date: May 2020

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.

Social Media: Facebook [[LIVESEED](#)] & Twitter [[@LIVESEEDeu](#)]



Figure 1: Carrot seeds. Photo: John Alan Elson



Figure 2: Purple cauliflower. Photo: Nellie Bly

