



## Progress Report: BALTIC STATES

**Work Package:** WP01 - Regulation & policy framework regarding production, use, and transparency of organic seed

**Dissemination level:** Public

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## 1. About the report

This report is part of the Work Package 01 of the [LIVESEED project](#), which explores EU Member States in terms of their implementation and best practices connected to the EU Organic Regulations, in the contexts of national regulatory and policy frameworks.

After the [Country Report on the National Visit](#) and the Report of the [Regional/National Workshop](#), this Progress Report shall, on one hand, reflect on actions taken by stakeholders (**blue tables**). Those actions have been formulated and committed to during the National workshop by the Declaration of Organic Seed (see Annex I in Report of the Regional/National Workshop), but such actions might also have been carried out by the stakeholders without having made a respective commitment before. On the other hand, this report shall elaborate developments in regulation compared to the previous reports, ergo the previous years, of the LIVESEED project (**green tables**).

To promote an easy assesment, actions and developments are sub-categorized into different topics, similar to those used in the workshop report.

This report has been produced in the framework of the Horizon 2020-funded project LIVESEED. The main aim of LIVESEED is to boost the production and use of organic seeds and plant breeding for organic agriculture across Europe. It is co-ordinated by IFOAM EU, and its scientific coordinator is FIBL-CH.

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## 2. Evaluation of Progress

### ESTONIA

#### 1.1. Database

##### 1.1.1. Committed actions of the Declaration of Organic Seeds

Karen Ratsep (Estonian Seed Association) cooperates with the Agricultural Board to improve the organic seed database	
<p><u>Report from Estonian Seed Association</u></p> <p>No changes in organic seeds database, but improvement in general seed production database: public Excel table that shows all produced seed in Estonia. It was a general list before, but now organic seed has special marking and can be found among other seeds easily.</p> <p><u>Estonia Crop Research Institute</u></p> <p>An organic seed database is available at: <a href="https://www.pma.agri.ee/">https://www.pma.agri.ee/</a></p>	<p>Period / Date</p>

#### 1.2. Expert Group

##### 1.2.1. Committed Actions of the Declaration of Organic Seeds

Karin Zereen (Ministry of Rural Affairs) initiates the establishment of an organic seed expert group together with the Organic Farming Platform	
<p><u>Ministry of Rural Affairs:</u></p> <p>Last year, several seminars on the use of organic seeds were held in which also the establishment of an organic seed expert group was discussed. The interest, readiness and need for such an expert group is still very high, and although this has not yet been achieved, there is a consistent effort to achieve this goal.</p>	<p>Period / Date</p>

#### 1.3. Research

##### 1.3.1. Committed Actions of the Declaration of Organic Seeds

Ilmar Tamm (Estonian Crop Research Institute) does regular testing of varieties in organic field trials to find more suitable varieties for organic production and improves the dissemination of the results of these trials	
<p><u>Estonia Crop Research Institute</u></p> <p>Regular variety testing trials of cereals and potato in organic conditions have been organised and will be continued regularly. The trials are introduced to organic farmers in yearly field days, in tutorial days and publications.</p> <p>Organic field days were held on July 06 and 12, 2018; July 05 and 11, 2019; July 09, 2020. Seminars on potato were organised on December 06, 2018 and on December.</p> <p>Territorial day for seed producers was carried out on April 03, 2018.</p> <p>Information day introducing the varieties and agro-technology of vegetables were carried on in July 17, 2018; on July 22, 2020.</p>	<p>2018 - 2020</p>



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<p>Samples of publications:</p> <p>Tamm, I. 2018. Kaera sortide mahekatse tulemused Eesti Taimakasvatuse Instituudis 2016.–2018. Mahepõllumajanduse leht, 83. 4/2018, lk. 2-4 (available at: <a href="http://www.maheklubi.ee/upload/Editor/maheleht_4_2018.pdf">http://www.maheklubi.ee/upload/Editor/maheleht_4_2018.pdf</a>) IT ETKI</p> <p>Tupits, I., Tamm, I. 2019. Talirukki ja kaera sortide väetamine mineraal- ja orgaaniliste väetistega. Agronoomia 2019. I. Tupits, S. Tamm, Ü. Tamm, A. Toe (Toim.). Jõgeva: Vali Press, lk. 70-77.</p> <p>Tamm, Ü., Tamm, I., Küüts, H. 2019. Uue odrasordi 'Tuuli' katsetulemused mahevilljeluse tingimustes. Teaduselt mahepõllumajandusele. Toimetised. L. Metspalu, A. Luik (Toim). Eesti Maaülikooli Mahekeskus (available at: <a href="https://www.etki.ee/taim/public/pdf/Trukised/Agronoomia2019.pdf">https://www.etki.ee/taim/public/pdf/Trukised/Agronoomia2019.pdf</a>)</p> <p>Tamm, I., Tamm, Ü. 2019 9. Uus kaerasort 'Kusta. Agronoomia 2019. I. Tupits, S. Tamm, Ü. Tamm, A. Toe (Toim.). Jõgeva: Vali Press, lk. 50-53. (available at: <a href="https://www.etki.ee/taim/public/pdf/Trukised/Agronoomia2019.pdf">https://www.etki.ee/taim/public/pdf/Trukised/Agronoomia2019.pdf</a>)</p>	
<p><b>Ilmar Tamm (Estonian Crop Research Institute) includes breeding varieties that are suitable for organic farming into the new Estonian breeding program</b></p>	
<p><u>Estonia Crop Research Institute</u>          Variety breeding for organic production has been included in the Estonian national breeding program 2020-2030 as one of the breeding objectives.          State breeding program 2020-2030 was confirmed by Estonian Ministry of Rural Affairs in 10.12.2019.</p>	<p>2020 - 2030</p>

### 1.3.2. Regulatory and general developments concerning research

<p><b>Regulatory and general developments compared to previous years of the LIVESEED project</b></p>	
<p>The Ministry of Rural Affairs has developed a comprehensive Estonian organic economy program 2018–2021</p>	<p>2018-2021</p>

## 1.4. Training/Information/Communication

### 1.4.1. Committed Actions of the Declaration of Organic Seeds

<p><b>Elen Peetsmann (Research Centre of Organic Farming of Estonian University of Life Sciences) continues the knowledge transfer program and includes organic seed production and use in the information days</b></p>	
<p><u>Research Centre of Organic Farming of Estonian University of Life Sciences, Estonian seed Association</u>          Two information days were organized:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•18th of November 2019 in Estonian Crop Research Institute, organized by Estonian Organic Farming Foundation. Topics: introduction of new plant breeding center of ECRI,</li> </ul>	<p>2019-2020</p>



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<p>discussion about co-operation between farmers and scientist in order to develop organic seed production in Estonia;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•9th of January 2020 in Estonian Crop Research Institute (ECRI), organized by Estonian Organic Farming Foundation. Topics: organic seed production regulation, introduction of new varieties bred in ECRI suitable for organic production. Seminar about growing organic seed, where old and new seed producers exchanged their experiences. It was held by Estonian Crop Research Institute and Estonian Organic Production Foundation</li> </ul> <p>Organic seed production and the use of organic seeds have also been discussed in other information days organized within the knowledge transfer program.</p>	
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#### 1.4.2. Regulatory and general developments concerning training/information/communication

Regulatory and general developments compared to previous years of the LIVESEED project	
<p><u>Estonia Crop Research Institute</u> Long-term knowledge transfer program, which also includes the dissemination of information related to organic farming is under the development by the Ministry of Rural Affairs.</p>	<p>Period / Date</p>

### 1.5. Production and Use of Organic Seeds

#### 1.5.1. Committed Actions of the Declaration of Organic Seeds

Karin Zereen (Ministry of Rural Affairs) makes the suggestion to the organic farming support measure to increase the support for the use of organic seeds and to widen it to other crops	
<p><u>Ministry of Rural Affairs</u> The proposal to widen the organic farming support for the use of organic seeds to other crops besides grain and potato has been made in the official description of interventions of the new organic farming support measures. The new support rates depend on the final budget and are therefore yet to be calculated, but the aim is to increase the support rates in the new period compared to the current rates.</p> <p><u>Estonia Crop Research Institute</u> Organic producers receive a separate support for cereals and potatoes sown with certified seed.</p>	<p>Period / Date</p>
Airika Rahuoja (organic farmer and seed producer) in cooperation with the Estonian Seed Association start the discussion and make a proposal to change the requirements to get extra points for investments in seed producing equipment in the investment support measure in RDP	
<p>No progress observed.</p>	<p>Period / Date</p>

#### 1.5.2. Committed Actions of the Declaration of Organic Seeds



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**Elen Peetsmann (Research Centre of Organic Farming of Estonian University of Life Sciences) includes the importance of organic seed use and production in the new organic farming action plan and makes it a priority**

Research Centre of Organic Farming of Estonian University of Life Sciences

The Estonian Organic Farming Platform is preparing the organic farming action plan and organic seed production will be included.

Period  
/  
Date

### 1.6. Summary of Progress – Estonia

- The seed database is still an Excel file and requires considerable improvement to live up to the requirements of the New Organic Regulation EC 2018/848.
- The establishment of an organic seed expert group was discussed. While interest, readiness and need for such an expert group is still very high, a consistent effort by stakeholders and authorities will be needed to establish this expert group.
- Organic included as one priority in the national breeding programme. Variety testing trials of cereals and potato in organic conditions have been organised and will be continued regularly.
- National action plan for organic farming includes organic seeds. Ministry aims at increasing the support rates for the use of organic seeds.

## LATVIA

### 1.1. Database

#### 1.1.1. Committed actions of the Declaration of Organic Seeds

**The Ministry of Agriculture, State Plant Protection Service improves the organic seed database to make it more user-friendly**

Report from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)

Amendments have been made to Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 485 “Procedures for Supervision and Control of Organic Agriculture”, setting additional conditions for the information to be included in the database in order to make the database more user-friendly. Amendments to the regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers were adopted on 19.02.2019.

Report from State Plant Protection Service (SPPS) Amendments to Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 485 (19.02.2019.) extended database platform availability: Prior to 2019, information on organic seed or vegetative propagation material produced only in Latvia was published in the database.

Currently there is information published on organic seed or vegetative propagation material available in Latvia.

SPPS has informed the seed retailers operating in Latvia about the expansion of the availability of the database platform by sending information to the e-mails of the responsible representatives.

From  
Feb 19,  
2019 up  
to now



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<p>So far, only one company offers seed certified in another country (Estonia) for the database.</p>	
<p><b>The Ministry of Agriculture, State Plant Protection Service includes information about characteristics of varieties, expenses of deliveries etc. in the database</b></p>	
<p><u>Report from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)</u>                  Amendments have been made to Cabinet Regulation No. 485 “Procedures for the supervision and control of organic farming”, stipulating an additional condition that additional information on where the seed may be delivered must be entered in the database. Amendments to the regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers were adopted on 19.02.2019.</p> <p><u>Report from State Plant Protection Service (SPSS).</u>                  SPSS is a public administration institution, the operation of which is strictly regulated by the regulatory framework established in the state. The information to be indicated in the organic seed database is determined by the Cabinet of Ministers on 26.05.2009. Paragraph 29 of Regulation No. 485 “Procedures for Supervision and Control of Organic Agriculture”.</p>	<p>From Feb 19, 2019 up to now</p>
<p><b>The Association of Organic Agriculture, organic farmers and producers’ representatives maximise the information included information from field inspections to seed certification</b></p>	
<p><u>Report from producer’s’ representative “Aloja Agro”:</u>                  No actions taken</p>	

1.1.2. Non-committed, concrete actions by stakeholders (may be left empty)

<p><b>Xxx</b></p>	
<p><u>Report from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA )</u>                  Work has begun to specify the time when information about derogations application will be available in the database. The meeting took place on 27.05.2020.</p> <p><u>Report from AREI</u>                  in 2020 Cabinet Regulations No. 485 were opened again for amendments. AREI proposed the following changes and additions to database:                  to include information about seeds of heterogeneous material; to include information about the location of seed production field, expected amount of seeds and expected time when seed will be available to customers. Proposals are not accepted so far.</p> <p><u>Report from Association of Seed producers (LSA)</u>                  The LSA submitted proposals to the Ministry of Agriculture, but there is no result yet. As a representative of the MoA organic seed production working group, the LSA has participated in a meeting organized by the MoA (once a year), where proposals for improving the legislation are also submitted, including on improving the database. No information available whether the implementation of the proposals has been discussed</p>	<p>Starting May 2020</p>



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### 1.1.3. Regulatory and general developments concerning the database

Regulatory and general developments compared to previous years of the LIVESEED project	
<p><u>Report from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)</u> Work has begun to improve organic seed database. Introduction of the improvements is planned in 2021</p> <p><u>Report from State Plant Protection Service (SPPS).</u> In 2019, amendments were made to Paragraph 29 of the above-mentioned Cabinet Regulations, slightly changing the information to be published on the offered organic seed and propagating material (it would no longer necessary to specify a category the seed, number of seed quality document and quantity offered for sale. The data bases should be supplemented with information on the area to which the seed may be supplied). No funds were allocated for changes to the database maintenance platform in the State Crop Monitoring Information System. Technical changes to the database are planned for 2021, when a new EU regulation will have to be introduced, which will make it mandatory to indicate the amount of organic seed and propagating material available after its entry into force.</p>	From 2019 up to now

## 1.2. Derogations

### 1.2.1. Committed Actions of the Declaration of Organic Seeds

The Association of Organic Agriculture, organic farmers and producers' representatives raise criteria to apply for derogations to use non-treated conventional seed	
<p><u>Report from producers and processors representative dealing with organic potato processing (Aloja Starkelsen):</u> No criteria have been raised</p> <p><u>Report from producer's' representative "Aloja Agro":</u> No progress</p>	Period / Date

### 1.2.2. Non-committed, concrete actions by stakeholders (may be left empty)

Actions taken to reduce the demand for derogations	
<p><u>Report from producers and processors representative dealing with organic potato processing (Aloja Starkelsen):</u> New seed growers have been approached, but they are not working well enough and the price of seed is often inadequately high. This reduces the use of organically certified seed rather than encouraging it.</p> <p><u>Report from producer's representative "Aloja Agro":</u> we have fully converted to organic and provide certified organic seed of several crops. Thus, we have increased availability of organic seed potato, peas and oats seeds.</p> <p><u>Report from AREI</u></p>	Since 2019



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in May 2019, a proposal to MoA submitted in cooperation with the Latvia Organic Farming Association regarding stricter conditions under which farmer can apply for derogation. The farmer should prove that he has tried to purchase the organic seed (for example, there has been an agreement with the organic seed grower or retailer but the seed has not been delivered). The proposal has been rejected as difficult to implement so far.

Report from Association of Seed producers (LSA)

LSA, acting in the working group of organic seed production of the Ministry of Agriculture, has submitted proposals that are not currently approved in legislation

1.2.3. Regulatory and general developments concerning derogations

**Regulatory and general developments compared to previous years of the LIVESEED project**

Report from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)

Amendments have been made to Cabinet Regulation No. 485 “Procedures for the Supervision and Control of Organic Farming”, establishing additional conditions that promote the use of organic seed material - the authorization to use germinating grains (uncertified seed) for green manure and green fodder is suspended, as well as a sanction is provided for the use of such material. Amendments to the regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers were adopted on 19.02.2019.

Since 2019 up to now

Report from State Plant Protection Service (SPPS).

Since 2019 the database also provides an opportunity to include information on certified organic seed or vegetative propagation material certified in other EU countries, which is available in Latvia - thus making information on available organic seed more widely available. Retailers of organic vegetable seeds have not responded to the call to include information on distributed organic seeds in the database.

1.3. Expert Group

1.3.1. Committed Actions of the Declaration of Organic Seeds

**The Ministry of Agriculture, State Plant Protection Service expands functions and membership of organic seed expert group – including representatives of processing industry with aim to clear out the needs of industry**

Report from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)

The expert group has made a decision to include representatives of the processing industry. Decision taken on 05.12.2019. Experts from two joint-stock companies - JSC “Rīgas dzirnavnieks” and JSC “Dobeles dzirnavnieks” included.

Dec 5, 2019

Report from State Plant Protection Service (SPPS).

\_No actions taken

**Researchers from AREI, University of Agriculture, TimacAgro participate in organic seed expert group, communicate with organisations and society**



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<p><u>Report from AREI.</u>                  Representatives from AREI have worked in expert group on list of species with general derogation and on specifying the data necessary to apply for derogation. Experts have been involved in decision making in an emergency situation when no organic seed was available due to unfavourable climatic conditions. Communications with society:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Field day at Priekuli and Stende (2 research centers of AREI), importance of organic varieties and organic seed, heterogeneous populations.                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ July 7th, 2019, Priekuli</li> <li>○ July 2nd, 2019, Stende</li> <li>○ July 3rd, 2020, Priekuli</li> <li>○ July 7th 2020, Stende</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Workshop on heterogeneous populations and varieties mixture and development of network – heterogeneous crop populations – February 13th, 2020. Riga</li> <li>3. Workshop for seed producers ‘How to became a certified seed producer’ (conventional and organic). April 5th, 2019. Priekuli</li> </ol>	From 2019 up to now
<b>The Association of Organic Agriculture, organic farmers and producers’ representatives participate in expert groups and express coherent opinion</b>	
No progress observed.	Period / Date

1.3.2. Non-committed, concrete actions by stakeholders (may be left empty)

<b>Representatives from other related field included in organic seed expert group</b>	
<p><u>Report from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA )</u>                  Representatives from seed retailers - “Kurzemes sēklas” Ltd, “Scandagra Latvija” Ltd and “Baltic Agro” Ltd included in seed expert group. The meeting with the representatives “Scandagra Latvija” and “Baltic Agro” took place on 05.12.2019. The meeting with the representatives of “Kurzemes sēklas” took place on 27.05.2020.</p>	Dec 5, 2018; May 05, 2020

1.4. Research

1.4.1. Committed Actions of the Declaration of Organic Seeds

<b>Researchers from AREI, University of Agriculture, TimacAgro organises trials for evaluation of suitability of varieties to organic growing conditions in different locations</b>	
<p><u>Report from AREI</u>                  Research projects supported by MoA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Demonstration of leguminous species under organic farming system in different regions, including non-traditional species in Latvia (3 locations in Latvia)</li> <li>- Demonstration of cereals and potato varieties created in Latvia which promising for organic farming (3 locations in Latvia)</li> </ul> <p>Research projects supported by Council of Science, Latvia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Genetically diverse populations of self-pollinating cereals for organic farming: agronomic performance, effect of environment, and improvement</li> </ul>	Period / Date



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<p>techniques (trials in 2 locations in Latvia, heterogeneous populations and varieties mixtures of barley and wheat, demonstrations and information available for stakeholders in field days and seminars)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Potato breeding for low input and organic farming systems: nitrogen use efficiency and quality aspects of potato protein (trials in 3 locations in Latvia, potato varieties and breeding material, demonstrations and information available for stakeholders in field days and seminars).</li> </ul> <p>Research projects supported by Rural Support service, European Regional Development Fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New technologies and economically viable solutions for the production of local feed for pig production: cultivation of non-genetically modified soybeans and new barley varieties in Latvia (trials in 3-4 locations of Latvia, soya and barley varieties, demonstrations and information available for stakeholders in field days and seminars)</li> </ul> <p>Collaborative projects with merchants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project with AmeLat, evaluation of potato varieties suitability for organic farming (trials in 3 locations in Latvia, demonstrations and information available for stakeholders in field days and seminars)</li> </ul>	
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#### 1.4.2. Regulatory and general developments concerning research

Regulatory and general developments compared to previous years of the LIVESEED project	
<p><u>Report from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)</u></p> <p>The development of organic breeding has been stimulated, starting from 2020 by increasing the state support for the breeding of organic varieties of certain species.</p> <p><u>Report from AREI</u></p> <p>Within the framework of research projects in 2019 and 2020 we have organized field trials and evaluated spring barley breeding material (including heterogeneous populations) and organically grown varieties in two locations: Vidzeme (Priekuli) and partly Kurzeme (Stende). The report of results for 2019 has been submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture and The Association of Organic Agriculture.</p>	2019-2020

### 1.5. Training/Information/Communication

#### 1.5.1. Committed Actions of the Declaration of Organic Seeds

The Ministry of Agriculture, State Plant Protection Service supports educational activities	
<p><u>Report from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)</u></p> <p>Training of organic farmers, including the training on the importance of seed production have been supported by MoA in the frame of activities of the Latvian Rural Development Program 2014-2020.</p>	2019-2020



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Training has been provided by the Rural Advisory Center. In 2019, 202 participants were trained and 151,500 euros were spent. 133 participants were trained and 99,750 euros (excluding VAT) were spent in 2020.

More data still expected from Agricultural data center.

Report from State Plant Protection Service (SPPS).

State Plant Protection Service provided online (ZOOM platform) lectures to organic farming consultants of Rural Advisory Center on the issues of SPPS competence, including the database of organic seeds and derogations issuing procedure.

**Researchers from AREI, University of Agriculture, TimacAgro carry out educational measures that could promote users to require transparency of production**

Report from AREI

1. *Field days at Priekuli and Stende (2 research centers of AREI), importance of organic varieties and organic seed, information on heterogeneous populations.*

a. *July 7th, 2019. Priekuli*

b. *July 2nd, 2019 Stende*

c. *July 3rd, 2020 Priekuli*

d. *July 7th 2020 Stende*

2. *Workshop on heterogeneous populations and varieties mixture and development of network – heterogeneous crop populations – February 13th, 2020. Riga*

3. *Workshop for seed producers. “How to become a certified seed producer” (conventional and organic). April 5th, 2019. Priekuli*

Articles in local press:

- *Sproģe M. 2019. Bioloģiskajai sēklkopībai jāveido labi pamati. Atbalsts tieši sēklas lietotājiem. Druva, 13.02.2019. – The organic seed production needs good base.*

- *Sproģe M. 2019. Ceļavārdi sēklām pavasarī. Druva, 10.04.2019.- Best wishes for seeds in the spring*

- *Zariņa L. 2019. Labību sējumu kopšana bioloģiskajā lauksaimniecībā, Agrotops Nr. 2 (246), 22.-23. – Cereal management in organic farming*

- *Zariņa L. 2019. Kas jāpatur prātā audzējot pākšaugu-labību maisījumus, Agrotops Nr. 6 (262), 32.-33. – What have to be kept in mind if cereal-legume mixtures are grown*

- *Skrabule I., Dimante I. 2019. Kartupeļi. Lauku Avīzes tematiskā avīze. Nr. 296 (9), 64 lpp. Magazine on topic – potato*

- *Sproģe M. 2019. Nacionālā selekcija vajadzīga. Kas par to maksās? Druva, 30.10.2019. National plant breeding is needed. Who will pay for it?*

- *Ločmele I., Legzdiņa L. 2019. Kas ir pašapputes sugu populācijas un pirmie rezultāti to veidošanā Latvijā. Agrotops Nr. 11 (267), 22.-25. What is self polinated populations and first results in development of them in Latvia*

- *Dimante I., Skrabule I. 2019. Vai Eiropa gatava jaunajai bioloģiskās lauksaimniecības regulai? Agrotops Nr. 12 (268), 22.-24. Is Europe ready for new regulation for organic farming?*

- *Graudīņš U. 2019. Kā augu selekcija var veicināt pārmaiņas vidē un sabiedrībā. Agrotops Nr. 12 (268). 10.-13. How plant breeding promote changes in environment and society*

- *Sproģe M. 2019. Selekcija un jaunas metodes. Druva. 18.12.2019. Plant breeding and new breeding techniques*

- *Sproģe M. 2019. Selekcijas loma nākotnes lauksaimniecībā. Saimnieks Nr.11., (185), 30.-32.lpp. The role of plant breeding in agriculture of the future*

- *Sproģe M. 2020. Sēklas apcirņos pārpārēm. Druva, 12.03.2020. Availability of seed is high*

- *Piliksere D. 2020. Bioloģiskajai audzēšanai perspektīvu kartupeļu šķirņu salīdzinājums. Saimnieks, Nr. 4 (190), 64., 66. lpp. Comparison of potato varieties perspective for organic farming*

- *Zute S., Vīcupe Z. 2019. Kuras auzu šķirnes veiksmīgāk pārcieta sausumu. Agro Tops Nr.4, 34 – 36. – Oat varieties more resistant to drought*

From 2019  
up to now



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<b>The Association of Organic Agriculture, organic farmers and producers’ representatives requires more support for educational, information and research activities</b>	
<p><u>Report from producers and processors representative dealing with organic potato processing (Aloja Starkelsen):</u> Processors are currently spending funds and engaging in projects for education and research.</p> <p><u>Report from producer’s representative “Aloja Agro”:</u> No actions have been taken.</p>	Period / Date

1.5.2. Non-committed, concrete actions by stakeholders (may be left empty)

<b>Participation in seminars organized by other experts</b>	
<p><u>Report from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)</u> MoA experts participated in the seminar “Let’s sow diversity” on 30.06.2019 and in the seminar “HETEROGENEOUS CROP POPULATIONS: research results, first cultivation experience, forthcoming changes in legislation” on 13.02.2020. MoA experts introduced the participants of the seminars about the legal requirements in organic seed production.</p>	2019/2020 0

1.5.3. Regulatory and general developments concerning training/information/communication

<b>Regulatory and general developments compared to previous years of the LIVESEED project</b>	
<p><u>Report from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)</u> It is proposed to grant support for training and consultations of farmers in the new programming period. Consideration of the proposal and decision is scheduled for 2021.</p> <p><u>Report from State Plant Protection Service (SPPS).</u> Up-to-date information is published twice a year on the website of the SPPS. During the growing season, a large number of telephone consultations are provided, focusing on the database and the use of organic seed. One month before the start of the derogations application period, seed retailers are individually informed about the possibilities of the organic seed database.</p>	2020

**1.6. Production and Use of Organic Seeds**

1.6.1. Committed Actions of the Declaration of Organic Seeds

<b>The Ministry of Agriculture, State Plant Protection Service proposes area-based subsidies in Agricultural policy documents to support organic farmers using organic certified seed</b>	
<p><u>Report from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)</u> MoA has proposed to grant additional support to farmers using certified organic seed in the new programming period. Consideration of the proposal and decision is scheduled for 2021.</p> <p><u>Report from State Plant Protection Service (SPPS).</u> No actions have been reported by SPPS.</p> <p><u>Report from Association of Seed producers (LSA).</u> It is not known whether specific support for users of certified organic seed is planned in the future. But this has been discussed in the meetings of the Ministry of Agriculture with the producers, where the conditions for receiving EU support payments in the next period 2021 -</p>	2020



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2027 have been discussed, which are still under development and may enter into force no earlier than 2023.	
<b>Researchers from AREI, University of Agriculture, TimacAgro promote cooperation in seed production, create EIP groups for research on seed production</b>	
<u>Report from AREI</u> No progress observed.	Period / Date
<b>The Association of Organic Agriculture, organic farmers and producers' representatives request additional support for the use of organic certified seed</b>	
<u>Report from producers and processors representative dealing with organic potato processing (Aloja Starkelsen):</u> There has been discussion on support, but it is clear that changes in the support system can only be introduced in the new EU's CAP. Discussions on the new CAP payments and conditions are not over.  <u>Report from producer's representative "Aloja Agro":</u> No actions were taken.	ongoing

### 1.6.2. Non-committed, concrete actions by stakeholders (may be left empty)

<b>Actions taken to promote the production and use of organic seed</b>	
<u>Report from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)</u> In the autumn of 2019, MoA authorities had meeting with the representatives of JSC "Rīgas dzirnavnieks" and JSC "Dobeles dzirnavnieks" on the importance of certified organic seeds. The information was provided to processors to inform organic farmers supplying organic grain for processing on the importance of the use of certified organic seeds that can help increasing yields and reducing the spread of diseases and weeds.  <u>Report from producers and processors representative dealing with organic potato processing (Aloja Starkelsen):</u> I have already mentioned the activities to attract new seed growers. For me, as a processor, the main problem is the very unstable volume of organic seed grown. There is a danger of meeting the need for production.	Period / 2019 up to now

### 1.6.3. Regulatory and general developments concerning production and use of organic seeds

<b>Regulatory and general developments compared to previous years of the LIVESEED project</b>	
<u>Report from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)</u> Amendments are made to Cabinet Regulation No. 485 " Procedures for the Supervision and Control of Organic Farming " to provide for the possibility for farmers to use heterogeneous propagating material.	Period / Date

## 1.7. Other

### 1.7.1. Committed Actions of the Declaration of Organic Seeds



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The Ministry of Agriculture, State Plant Protection Service strengthens control institutions	
<p><u>Report from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)</u></p> <p>Amendments are being drafted to Cabinet Regulation No. 485 “Procedures for the supervision and control of organic farming” to include a section on the procedure for approval of control bodies. The requirement to evaluate the effectiveness of control institutions is specified and the catalogue of sanctions is clarified in order to strengthen control institutions. Amendments are being made to the Law on Agriculture and Rural Development to authorize the Cabinet of Ministers to develop a unified price list for paid services of control institutions. Work has begun on the development of a price list for paid services of control institutions.</p> <p>No actions have been reported by <u>State Plant Protection Service</u></p>	<p>ongoing</p>

### 1.8. Summary of Progress – Latvia

- Additional conditions for the information to be included in the database were introduced to make the database more user-friendly. Other recommendations were not included yet, a technical update for the database is expected for 2021.
- A new criterium that farmers should prove that it has been tried to purchase the organic seed before a derogation to use non-organic seed is authorised – has been rejected.
- Expert group worked on list of species with general derogation and on specifying the data necessary to apply for derogation. Processor representatives have been added to the composition of the expert group.
- Several research projects on breeding for organic ongoing; demonstration of several species under organic farming system in different regions, including non-traditional species in Latvia.
- Training of organic farmers, including the training on the importance of seed production have been supported by Ministry in the frame of activities of the Latvian Rural Development Program 2014-2020. Decision on budget for following period still open.
- Ministry has proposed to grant additional support to farmers using certified organic seed in the new programming period (in the context of the new CAP). Consideration of the proposal and decision is scheduled for 2021.

## LITHUANIA

### 1.9. Database

#### 1.9.1. Committed actions of the Declaration of Organic Seeds

LTD Agrolitpa proposes technical improvements (direct modification by users,...) for the database	
<p>LTD Agrolitpa has applied to the State Enterprise Agricultural Information and Rural Business Center, which manages the Lithuanian database of organic seeds; with a proposal to make technical changes so that the database data can be updated as quickly as possible.</p>	<p>Period Date 2019-2020</p>



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No technical updates were carried out during the reporting period, as Regulation (EU) No. 2018/848 introduces new requirements for the database and the update will be carried out in response to the new requirements.	
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1.9.2. Non-committed, concrete actions by stakeholders (may be left empty)

**Working group on the new regulation**

In 2020, the Minister of Agriculture established a working group consisting of representatives of the organic sector - representatives of the competent authorities, producers and scientists - to instruct in the preparation of proposals for the new Regulation (EU) No. 2018/848 implementation principles and coordination of the implementation progress. One of the issues to be addressed by the working group is under Reg. 2018/848 Art. 26 Paragraph 1 and Art. 26 Paragraph 2 (a) which requires the exchange of databases on organic plant propagating material (excluding seedlings, but including seed potatoes) available during the conversion period in the territory of Lithuania. According to the primary data there is an intention to improve the current seed database or to join to an international EU based database. The OrganicXseeds project is being considered as one of the options.	2020
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1.9.3. Regulatory and general developments concerning the database

**Regulatory and general developments compared to previous years of the LIVESEED project**

The number of published organic seeds suppliers has not changed recently and only 6-8 (depending on the season) producers provided organic seed to the Lithuanian market.	2019-2020
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**1.10. Derogations**

1.10.1. Regulatory and general developments concerning derogations

**Regulatory and general developments compared to previous years of the LIVESEED project**

Lithuanian organic farms are subject to the rule that if they do not have the opportunity to buy sufficient seed and / or plant propagating material of the desired variety and species produced by organic production (the supply of organically grown seeds can be checked in the Lithuanian organic seed database at: <a href="http://www.vic.lt/paslaugos/e-paslaugos/lietuvos-ekologisku-seklu-duomenu-baze/">http://www.vic.lt/paslaugos/e-paslaugos/lietuvos-ekologisku-seklu-duomenu-baze/</a> ) the certification body may issue to an operator, with the exception of organic seed farms or farms growing seed under contract, an authorisation to use non-organically grown seed and / or propagating material for one season in the current year.	
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Authorizations shall not be granted for non-organic seeds of the species listed in the general authorization of the certification body ( <a href="https://www.ekoagros.lt/media/1/documents/seklu_sara%C5%A1as_2020_m._be_leidimo_.pdf">https://www.ekoagros.lt/media/1/documents/seklu_sara%C5%A1as_2020_m._be_leidimo_.pdf</a> ) and for certified seed of plant species. This authorization is approved by the certification body in January-February, taking into account the recommendation provided by the State Enterprise Agricultural Information and Rural Business Center, which	
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<p>administers the database of organic seeds, and in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania.</p> <p>Operators wishing to obtain an authorization for the use of non-organic seed and / or plant propagating material shall submit an application to the certification body for the authorization of the use of non-organic plant reproductive material / seeds on an organic farm. The number of permits issued by the certification body for the use of certified non-organic seed: 2019 - 3338; 2018 - 3893; 2017 - 4257; 2016 - 4309; 2015 - 2714.</p> <p>During inspections, the certification body recorded a number of non-compliances with the requirements for the use of seed. In 2019 it identified 367 cases when unauthorized propagating material was used - conventional non-certified, organic non-certified (from another organic farm) or conventional certified propagating material without the authorisation of the certification body. The number of cases where unauthorized propagating material is used decreased. In 2019 367 cases were identified, in 2018 – 550, in 2017 - 349; in 2016 - 600; in 2015 - 638. The reasons for this decline may be complex, however, this change was probably influenced by a change of provisions in the catalogue of sanctions. When non-organic seed is used for the second time in a row without the authorisation of the Control Authority (PI Ekoagros), then the producer is subject to a sanction (non-certification of production).</p>	
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### 1.11. Research

#### 1.11.1. Non-committed, concrete actions by stakeholders (may be left empty)

<b>The Institute of Agriculture of the Lithuanian Center for Agrarian and Forest Sciences is developing new varieties suitable for organic production</b>	
<p>New organic varieties are being developed. The institute’s program includes a small part of research devoted to organic, and we do targeted work to develop new genotypes using hybridization techniques. For example, a new winter wheat variety DS 7259-2 has been developed, which is resistant to hard bunt, tall and broadleaf. It is now registered with the State Crop Service and has been under investigation for 2 years. The variety synthesizes a large amount of protein of an extensive type. An essential feature of this organic wheat is its resistance to hard bunt, as it is not possible to treat organic seeds with synthetic pesticides.</p>	<p>2018-2021</p>

#### 1.11.2. Regulatory and general developments concerning research

<b>Regulatory and general developments compared to previous years of the LIVESEED project</b>	
<p>The question regarding the most appropriate to local conditions plant varieties list remains relevant. The main attention is given to crop varieties because they represent the largest amount of production of organic products. The Institute of Agriculture, a branch of the Lithuanian Agricultural and Forestry Science Center, has a certified organic field, in which cereals are tested before being transferred to VCU testing in order to identify cereal varieties adapted to organic farming. Promising lines with characteristics suitable for organic farming - yield and disease resistance - are selected for these studies. However,</p>	<p>2019-2020</p>



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<p>the research of the institute is only indicative. There still no official VCU testing for organic farming in Lithuania.</p> <p><u>Private initiatives:</u></p> <p>The Academy of Sustainable Farming of farmer V. Genys was established in 2019 in May by the decision of two founders - LTD “Agrolitpa” and the owner of the organic farm Valentinas Genys.</p> <p>The main activity of this institution is educational. The organic nine-field crop rotation is exposed in 10-hectare field at Valentinas Genys organic farm, where plants of various species and varieties are sown every year following crop rotation.</p> <p>About a hundred of different varieties are sown every year, so it is possible to choose the most suitable varieties for organic farms. All crops are grown organically and in no-tillage farming conditions.</p> <p>Various observations are made in these demonstration experiments, and the experience gained and accumulated by Valentinas Genys is passed on to all those interested. Various techniques for the insertion of catch crops and weed control in an organic no-till farm are also tested and demonstrated here.</p> <p>V. Genys Academy of Sustainable Farming annually organizes a conference “Practical experience of V.Genys sustainable farming in the context of climate change. Soil process management”. The first practical conference took place in 2019, on the 1st of August. About a hundred of participants took part in the theoretical part at Taujėnai manor later everybody went to the fields of Valentinas Genys Academy. The second practical conference took place in 2020, on 15th of July. A large group of participants (over a hundred) listened to lectures at the Farmers Circle farm, which is developing an organic concept, and later everyone went to the fields of Valentinas Genys Academy, where they were interested in demonstration of varieties and techniques.</p>	

## 1.12. Training/Information/Communication

### 1.12.1. Committed Actions of the Declaration of Organic Seeds

<b>PI Ekoagros prepares a proposal for the Agency for Rural Business and Market Development to develop organic production trainings for organic producers</b>	
<p>PI Ekoagros prepared the letter and received a reply that the training programs requirements approved by the Minister of Agriculture are devoted to the topic of organic seeds. The training program is intended for farmers seeking to certify organic farming, those wishing to start organic farming and those interested in organic farming, environmental protection in agriculture and the production of safe and healthy food. The following topics related to organic seed production are covered during the training: Selection of varieties in organic farming. Requirements for organic seed production. Lithuanian National List of Plant Varieties. Requirements for the acquisition of propagating material for organic production. Requirements for the renewal of organic seed.</p> <p>The trainings are held regularly, several times a year. The training program under the program "Basics of Organic Farming" are administered by the Rural Business and Market Development Agency. The trainings are organized by institutions approved by the agency. Currently, four institutions have been approved that can organize these trainings.</p>	<p>2019 March</p>



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### 1.13. Production and Use of Organic Seeds

#### 1.13.1. Regulatory and general developments concerning production and use of organic seeds

Regulatory and general developments compared to previous years of the LIVESEED project	
<p>In Lithuania, the areas of all approved organic seed crops is increasing significantly: in 2013 - 1270 ha, in 2015 - 3362 ha, in 2017 - 7828 ha, in 2019 - 11.602 ha (without potatoes).</p> <p>A number of organic seed producers in Lithuania in 2019 was over 190.</p> <p>Dynamics of the total organic certified area: 2019 - 246,631 ha (8,4%); 2018 - 244,346 ha (8,1%); 2017 - 239.002 ha (7,9 %); 2016 - 225,542 ha (7,6%) ; 2015 - 220.163 ha (7,4% of the agricultural land area).</p>	2019

### 1.14. Other

#### 1.14.1. Committed Actions of the Declaration of Organic Seeds

PI Ekoagros, LTD Agrolitpa, LTD Scandagra and Lithuanian association of seed producers prepare a proposal for the State Plant Service of the Ministry of Agriculture formulating a definition of variety suitable for national organic production	
<p>The draft letter has lost its relevance and was not prepared because in the newly adopted Organic Production Regulation (EU) 2018/848 Art. 3 (19) an organic variety suitable for organic production is defined.</p>	Period / Date

### 1.15. Summary of Progress – Lithuania

- The seed database still requires considerable improvement, also to incorporate the new requirements of the new Regulation (EU) No. 2018/848.
- A considerable achievement is the establishment of a working group, consisting of representatives of the organic sector to instruct in the preparation of proposals for the new Regulation (EU) No. 2018/848.
- The number of cases of unauthorized use of propagating material has decreased, probably due to a stricter catalogue of sanctions.
- There is limited research on breeding for organic in public institutes. However, there is still no official VCU testing for organic farming in Lithuania. Private initiatives play an important role in educational activities and in organizing demonstrational fields.
- Training programmes for current and upcoming organic farmers now include material on organic seed.
- In general, the area of land used for growing organic seed crops is showing a clear increasing trend.



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## Annex I: Overview of Organic Regulation

The following tables show relevant articles in the organic regulation and give support to the evaluation on national developments/progresses in this report.

### 1.1. Database (T1)

EC No 889/2008	
<b>Article 48: Database</b>	<p>1. Each Member State shall ensure that a computerised database is established for the listing of the varieties for which seed or seed potatoes obtained by the organic production method are available on its territory.</p> <p>2. The database shall be managed either by the competent authority of the Member State or by an authority or body designated for this purpose by the Member State, hereinafter referred to as 'manager of the database'. Member States may also designate an authority or a private body in another country.</p>
<b>Article 49: Registration</b>	<p>3. Each Member State shall decide in which period of the year the database has to be regularly updated for each species or group of species cultivated on its territory. The database shall hold information with regard to that decision.</p>
<b>Article 51: Registered information</b>	<p>1. For each registered variety and for each supplier, the database referred to in Article 48 shall contain at least the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the scientific name of the species and the variety;</li> <li>(b) the name and contact details of the supplier or his representative;</li> <li>(c) the area where the supplier can deliver the seed or seed potatoes to the user in the usual time needed for the delivery;</li> <li>(d) the country or region in which the variety is tested and approved [...]</li> <li>(e) the date from which the seed or seed potatoes will be available;</li> <li>(f) the name and/or code number of the control authority or control body in charge of the control of the operator</li> </ul> <p>2. The supplier shall immediately inform the manager of the database if any of the registered varieties are no longer available. The amendments shall be recorded in the database.</p> <p>3. Besides the information specified in paragraph 1, the database shall contain a list of the species listed in Annex X (Species for which organically produced seed or seed potatoes are available in sufficient quantities and for a significant number of varieties [...]).</p>
<b>Article 52: Access to information</b>	<p>1. The information in the database referred to in Article 48 shall be available through the internet, free of cost, to the users of seed or seed potatoes and to the public. [...]</p> <p>2. The Member States shall ensure that all users [of seed and seed potatoes] are informed, at least once a year, about the system and how to obtain the information in the database.</p>
<b>Article 53: Registration -fee</b>	<p>3. Each registration may be subject to the levying of a fee, which shall represent the cost of inserting and maintaining the information in the database [...]. The competent authority of the Member State shall approve the amount of the fee charged by the manager of the database.</p>



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## 1.2. Derogations (T2)

EC No 889/2008	
<b>Article 49: Registration</b>	2. Any variety which has not been registered in the database shall be considered as unavailable.
<b>Article 6: Specific principles applicable to agricultural activities</b>	(i) without prejudice to Article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 2100/94 and to the national plant variety rights granted under Member States' national law, the possibility for farmers to use plant reproductive material obtained from their own farms in order to foster genetic resources adapted to the special conditions of organic production;
<b>Article 45: Use of seed or vegetative propagating material not obtained by the organic production method</b>	3. Species for which it is established that organically produced seed or seed potatoes are available in sufficient quantities and for a significant number of varieties in all parts of the Community are set out in Annex X. The species listed in Annex X may not be subject of authorisations pursuant to paragraph 1(b), unless these are justified by one of the purposes referred to in paragraph 5(d).
	4. Member States may delegate the responsibility for granting the authorisation referred to in paragraph 1(b) to another public administration under their supervision or to the control authorities or control bodies referred to in Article 27 of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007.
	5. Authorisation to use seed or seed potatoes not obtained by the organic production method may only be granted in the following cases: (a) where no variety of the species which the user wants to obtain is registered in the database referred to in Article 48 (b) where no supplier, meaning an operator who markets seed or seed potatoes to other operators, is able to deliver the seed or seed potatoes before sowing or planting in situations where the user has ordered the seed or seed potatoes in reasonable time; (c) where the variety which the user wants to obtain is not registered in the database referred to in Article 48 and the user is able to demonstrate that none of the registered alternatives of the same species are appropriate and that the authorisation therefore is significant for his production; (d) where it is justified for use in research, test in small-scale field trials or for variety conservation purposes agreed by the competent authority of the Member State.
<b>Article 45: Use of seed or vegetative propagating material not obtained by the organic production method</b>	6. The authorisation shall be granted before the sowing of the crop.
	7. The authorisation shall be granted only to individual users for one season at a time and the authority or body responsible for the authorisations shall register the quantities of seed or seed potatoes authorised.
	8. By way of derogation from paragraph 7, the competent authority of the Member State may grant to all users a general authorisation: (a) for a given species when and in so far as the condition laid down in paragraph 5(a) is fulfilled; b. for a given variety when and in so far as the conditions laid down in paragraph 5(c) are fulfilled
<b>Article 45: Use of seed or vegetative propagating material not obtained by the organic production method</b>	9. Authorisation may only be granted during periods for which the database is updated in accordance with Article 49(3)
	1. The authorities or bodies designated to grant authorisations in accordance with Article 45 shall register all authorisations and shall make this information available in a report to the competent authority of the Member State and to the manager of the database.
<b>Article 54: Annual report</b>	
<b>Article 55: Summary report</b>	The competent authority of the Member State shall, before 31 March each year, collect the reports and send a summary report covering all authorisations of the Member State from the previous calendar year to the Commission and to the other Member States.[...] The information shall be published in the database [...]. The competent authority may delegate the task of collecting the reports to the manager of the database.



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