



Latest Developments on

Organic Seed

Organic legume breeding for establishing seed diversity and use for small-scale farming - a cooperation project between the Iberian Peninsula and Morocco

Small-scale farming is the basis for sustainable development and the empowerment of the local communities in the South. Partly it is based on traditional knowledge but in order to scale-up the production improving the seed quality; coordination and projects are essential. Lebende Samen is starting a collaboration between Morocco and the Iberian Peninsula. We have created a consortium between ICARDA, Global Diversify Foundation, Domaine Royal Agriculture and Sementes Vivas. This year we are in the process of fund raising for breeding of legumes (beans, peas). The main aims are to register new varieties and to train small scale farmers in organic agriculture. Different scientists and plant breeders will be working together with small-scale farmers in the three countries (Morocco, Portugal and Spain); targeting to optimize bean and peas usage in small-scale farming and to improve their resistance towards drought, ability of carbon sequestration and nitrogen fixation. More information will follow soon.

Obtaining Brassica varieties adapted to the organic production system

Sementes Vivas, INIAV and LIVESEED poster. The Portuguese Genebank (BPGV-INIAV) has been working together with Sementes Vivas in the LIVESEED project since 2018, with the aim of obtaining brassica varieties and seeds adapted to organic farming.

More information can be found [here](#).

Cooperatives: a model to improve organic seed production

Cooperation and mutual support in amongst the foundations of development and success. Cooperatives have established in Europe and worldwide to facilitate common actions in different fields. Unboundedly, cooperatives have the potential to play a vital role to the development of organic seed production in Central and Eastern Europe where the growth of the sector is rather limited. The greatest challenge is how to fund those initiatives when there is not any income from the sales yet?

More information can be found [here](#) (practice abstract from LIVESEED).

How to implement the organic regulation to increase production & use of organic seed

This booklet was produced within the LIVESEED project, an EU Founded project. To increase the availability of organic seed, there are needed more organic seed producers. In order to succeed that; different measures need to be taken European, national, and regional level. National strategies need to be formed to develop the organic seed production in Europe. This booklet gives a detailed overview and

illustrates best practice examples from different EU countries and highlights the Importance of well-organized and trustworthy national databases.

The booklet can be downloaded [here](#).

European Agriculture

Effects of Coronavirus on Agricultural Production – a First Approximation

The consequences of Covid-19 on agricultural production are multidimensional. There are risks related with food supply, lack of workers for harvesting, raise in prices of food products, difficulties related with trade and the mobility of agricultural products such as fertilizers and other external inputs and much more. However, according to the interesting article 'Effects of Coronavirus on Agricultural Production – a First Approximation' from ARC2020 which can be found [here](#) (article from ARC2020), EU is self-sufficient in meat and some grain production. Although, EU depends on non-EU trade for products such as soybeans, maize mostly for fodder and biofuels but also to coffee and bananas. In the article, the agribusiness sector is analyzed further under the shadow of Covid-19.

European Commissions' "Farm to Fork" Strategy

A sustainable food strategy is vital for achieving the goals of the EU's Green Deal. Therefore, the European Commission had announced that the "Farm to Fork" Strategy would be presented in spring 2020; describing the aims and activities needed to secure healthy and sustainable food system. It will contain both, regulatory and non-regulatory measures. Also, as the EU is committed to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals; the Farm to Fork Strategy will play a key role in their implementation across EU. However, due to the pandemic there might be a delay in the release of the EU Commission's official publication, so 40 civil society organizations including IFOAM EU, sent an open letter 15th April 2020 to the EU Commission demanding that the EU's Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies remain on schedule for April publication.

More information on the IFOAM EU [website](#).

European Citizens' Initiative "Save Bees and Farmers"

The European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) is an important instrument of participatory democracy in the EU, allowing one million citizens residing in one quarter of the Member States to invite the Commission to submit a proposal for a legal act. ECIs may address a wide range of topics. The ECI "Save Bees and Farmers" constitutes from different NGOs across Europe and is a call to all European citizens to support with their signature a bee-friendly agriculture to the benefit of farmers, health and the environment. If at least a million signatures are collected, the European Commission and the European Parliament will be obliged to address the ECIs' demands and support an agricultural model that allows farmers and biodiversity to thrive in harmony.

The ECI goes on until the end of September 2020 to collect the signatures in all 27 EU Member States.

Click [here](#) to sign the ECI on line.

Events

BRESOV Training course: "Organic Breeding and Seed Production"

BRESOV project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. It targets to tackle the nutritional challenges of a growing world population and changing climatic conditions by enhancing productivity of different vegetable crops in an organic and sustainable farming infrastructure. The project works on broccoli, snap bean and tomato as those staple vegetable crops have significant roles in meeting our global food and nutritional security goal, and under organic conditions can contribute to storing carbon and introducing nitrogen improving organic soil quality.

The training project It will take place 9 -11 October 2020 in Catania in Italy.

More information soon at the [website](#) of BRESOV.

European Organic Congress

The Congress will take place on 1-2 July 2020 (digital). Its 2020 edition is entitled 'Organic in Action' and targets to inspire the participants by looking at how the agri-food sector can improve the sustainability of food production across the food chain. The 'Farm to Fork' strategy and the European Organic Action plan will be discussed.

More information and registration (it will open soon) can be found [here](#).