Organic seeds: a way forward

Biodiversity, farmer’s rights, consumers expectations: how to organise the sector and how to influence a new European seed legislation

Wednesday, 12 February, 15h - 16h

Room Milan /Mailand, Biofach NCC Mitte

Speakers:
- Andrea Ferrante, AIAB
- Gebhard Rossmanith, Bingenheimer Saatgut
- Antje Kölling, IFOAM EU Group

Moderation: Dominique Marion, FNAB

The EU is currently revising its legislative framework for the marketing of seed and plant propagating material. The legislation determines what kind of seed can be sold on the EU market and has contributed to difficulties for farmers, gardeners and organic breeders to bring seed to the market that is adapted to organic conditions.

A proposal for a new law was presented by the EU Commission in May 2013 - but this proposal does not sufficiently facilitate the marketing of landraces, farmers’ breeds, open pollinated varieties, populations and cross composites.

We need a new law that abandons undue burden for farmers, gardeners and small breeders. This is also of importance for the global organic movements, as other countries might use the EU seed law as a model.

The European Parliament is most likely to reject the current proposal. Civil society must now develop a vision and a common strategy to reach a legislation that puts agro-biodiversity as well as the diversity of markets and actors at front.

This workshop will shed light on the current state of play and stir discussions on further strategies.

Look up our seed position at:
www.ifoam-eu.org/en/what-we-do/seed