



Save the date

Conference

Organic Plant Breeding in Europe: Seed for future food systems

29th November 2018, Brussels

The event will take place in the Representation of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia to the European Union. Rue Montoyer 47, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium on 29th November from 9.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Tasty bread, delicious vegetables, fruit with high vitamin content – this is what you expect and usually get if you buy organic. The fundamental basis of all these products is seed. And each grain of seed has a long history: Generations of farmers and breeders have left their traces in the genome of vegetable and cereals. Organic farmers today grow both, traditional varieties and “modern industrial” varieties. Traditional varieties offer a wide range of taste and biodiversity, but are often not suited for producing larger quantities. “Modern industrial” varieties are bred to perform best with artificial fertilisers and pesticides– but not under organic farming conditions.



Numerous initiatives in Europe have started to develop “modern” varieties for organic farming. An IFOAM standard for organic plant breeding exists since 2014. But organic plant breeding is not yet mainstream.

This event aims to explore the chances organic plant breeding offers to produce high quality food, increase biodiversity on our fields and increase climate change resilience of farming systems. Successes and perspectives of organic plant breeding will be presented together with the results of the project ‘Promoting Organic Plant Breeding in Europe’. Political conditions that would enable greater uptake of organic plant breeding and organic varieties will be discussed.

The project ‘Promoting Organic Plant Breeding in Europe’...

...was initiated by the Demeter International e.V. EU Liaison Office in Brussels in January 2016. Organic plant breeding provides organic farmers with varieties which are adjusted to the low-input production system of organic agriculture. Increased organic plant breeding and cultivation will enhance the availability of regionally adapted varieties, agro-biodiversity, sustainable agriculture and environment protection.

Aiming to promote the development and use of organic varieties on a European scale, the project ‘Promoting Organic Plant Breeding in Europe’ provides a platform for networking and discussion among organic plant breeders and stakeholders.

The agenda will follow soon!

Please register [here](#)

For further questions, please contact: assistant.eu@demeter.net