

Public event: Who pays for seeds?

Thoughts and discussion on financing organic plant breeding



Alternatives to conventional plant breeding and concentration of breeding in multinational companies exist, but plant varieties bred in organic breeding programmes are still rare. With the conventional breeding programmes investing increasingly in new GM technologies, it becomes more urgent to put the organic breeding initiatives on a broader basis. The interesting study “*Who pays for the seeds*” has analysed models to finance such an expansion of organic breeding activities. It will be presented by one of the authors, *Johannes Wirz*, who will also be available for discussion.

Date: Wednesday, 25th of May 2016

Time: 09:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Venue: European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), Room: VMA3 Rue Van Maerlant2, 1040 Brussels

For **registration** and the obligatory security control, please send the following information to **assistant.demeter.eu@gmail.com**:

- Name
- Country of residence
- Last name
- Organization
- ID number
- Lunch preference: vegan, vegetarian, no preference
- Nationality

In cooperation with:

Public Event

Agenda

“Who pays for seeds?”

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| 09.30 | Registration |
| 10.00 | Welcoming speeches
Dilyana Slavova (Section for External Relations, EESC)
Andreas Biesantz (Demeter International, EU Liaison Office)
Maria Heubuch (MEP, The Greens/European Free Alliance) |
| 10.30 | What can we learn from Elinor Ostrom’s “governing the commons” for governing plant varieties? Who pays for seeds? - presentation of the study ⁱ
Speaker: Dr. Johannes Wirz, Institute for Contextual Science, Goetheanum, Dornach, Switzerland |
| 11.15 | Visions for organic plant breeding, chances and risks of different financing models
Short interventions by breeders and other selected stakeholders Open discussion |
| 11.45 | Plenary discussion |
| 12.15 | Conclusions |
| 12.30 | Lunch |

ⁱKotschi, J. and Wirz, J. (2015): Who pays for the seeds - Thoughts on financing organic plant breeding. Study can be found online at:
[http://www.agrecol.de/files/Kotschi & Wirz%20Engl_12_05_15.pdf](http://www.agrecol.de/files/Kotschi_%20Wirz%20Engl_12_05_15.pdf)