

Brief Introduction to Requirements for Production of Organic Seeds and Planting Material according to Regulation (EC) 834/2007¹ and NOP

1. Scope:

- ❖ This document applies to **commercial production of seeds, seedlings and planting material**
- ❖ Farms producing seeds or planting material for their own fields do not need a specific certification for this purpose



2. Differences between standards:

	Regulation (EC) 834/2007		NOP	JAS
	Inside the EU	Outside the EU		
Certification scope	Crop Production	Separate Scope "Seeds"	Crop Production	Seeds and planting material are not certifiable according to JAS, because they are not intended for food
Organic seed database	Exists	Does not exist	Does not exist	
Special authorisation before using conventional seeds	Required	Required	Not required	

3. Requirements that are different from (other) crop production:

- ✓ NOP does not define any specific requirements for seed production or nurseries. Therefore, simply the crop production rules apply.
- ✓ The EU Regulation **exempts** commercial seed producers or nurseries from the requirement of **using organic seeds or planting material** themselves
- ✓ The EU Regulation **allows parallel production** (same species or variety) for seed producers and nurseries – provided a reliable system exists for separation at all levels (fields – including rotational crops-, inputs, equipment, storage, records)

All the other requirements for crop production apply, particularly prohibition of GM crops, and of chemical seed dressings.

4. Documentation:

- ✓ Recordkeeping requirements for seed producers and nurseries are higher than for a normal farm – especially when the company has parallel production.

Please be aware that this is only a selection of essential requirements of the organic standard, meant as an introduction. The operator, of course, has to learn about and meet all requirements of the respective standard.

¹ Inside the EU, the Regulation has to be implemented in a "conform" way (1:1), while outside the EU; it can be implemented only in an "equivalent" way. Please refer to the CERES document 4.1.1 for further details.