

# Recommendation for organic seed use harmonization

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*organic*  
**Revision**

## Background

EU reg. 1452/03 entered into force on Jan. 2004:

- **Producers** to use organic seeds (when available)
- **Competent authorities** to set up data-bases with organic seed availability
- **MS** to report annually on organic seed use and granted derogations



# What is the degree of dependence of organic farming from conventional seeds?

- Which are main obstacles to the use of organic seed?
- Which problems may be linked to un-harmonized implementation of the rule?
- What can be done at EU and MS level to make the situation fairer?



# A look to the situation of organic seed use (1)

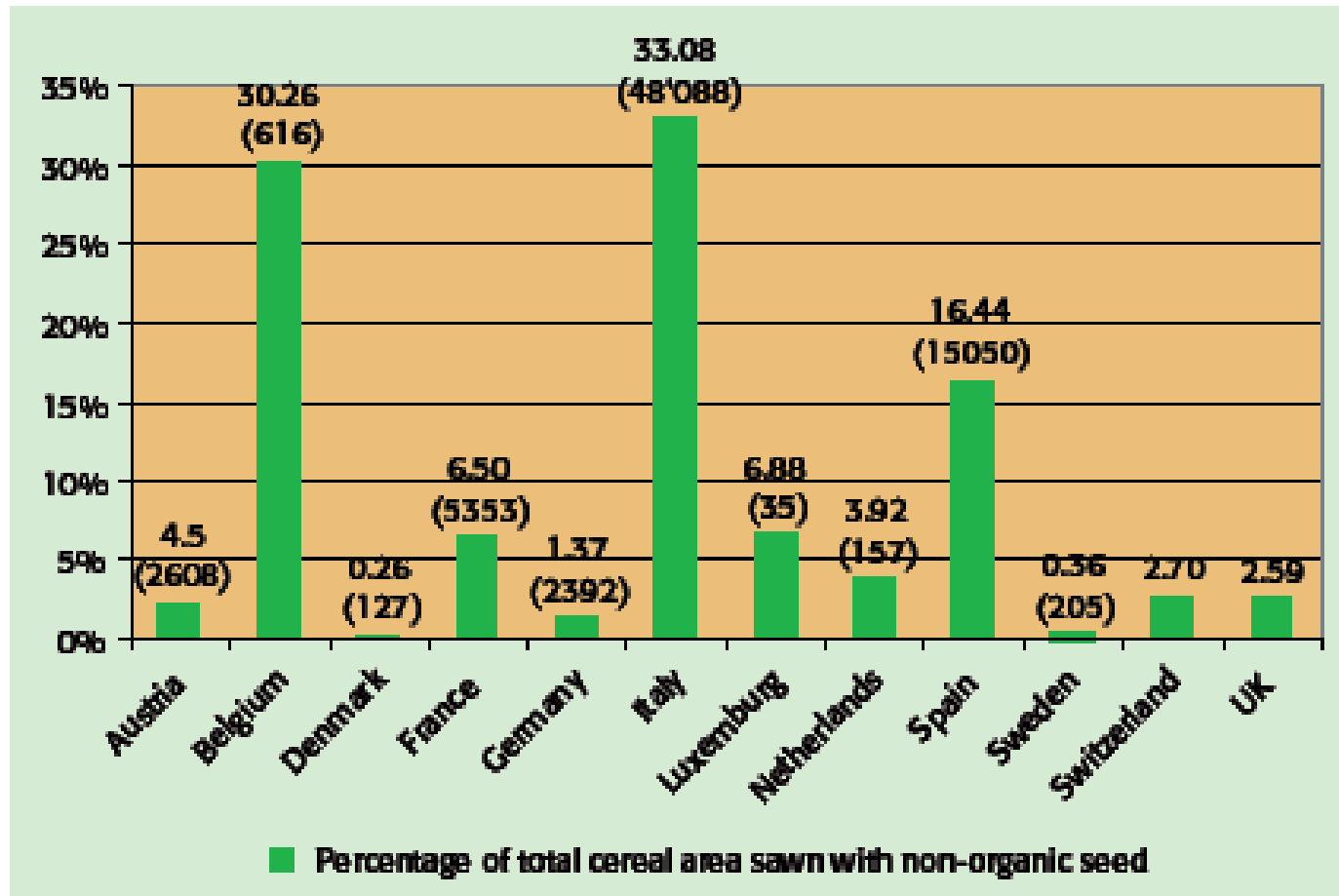
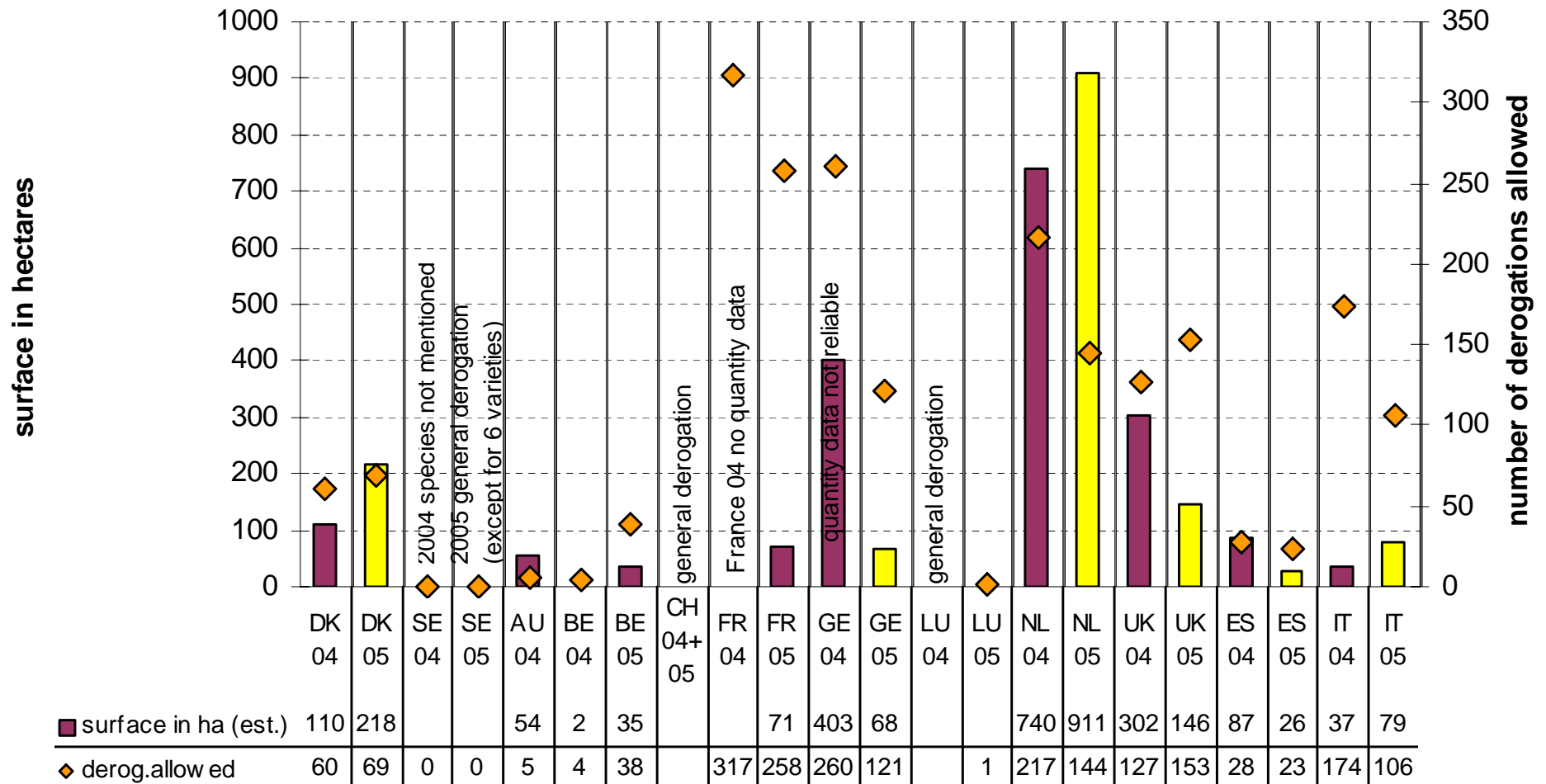


Figure 1. Share of cereal area sown with non-organic seeds.

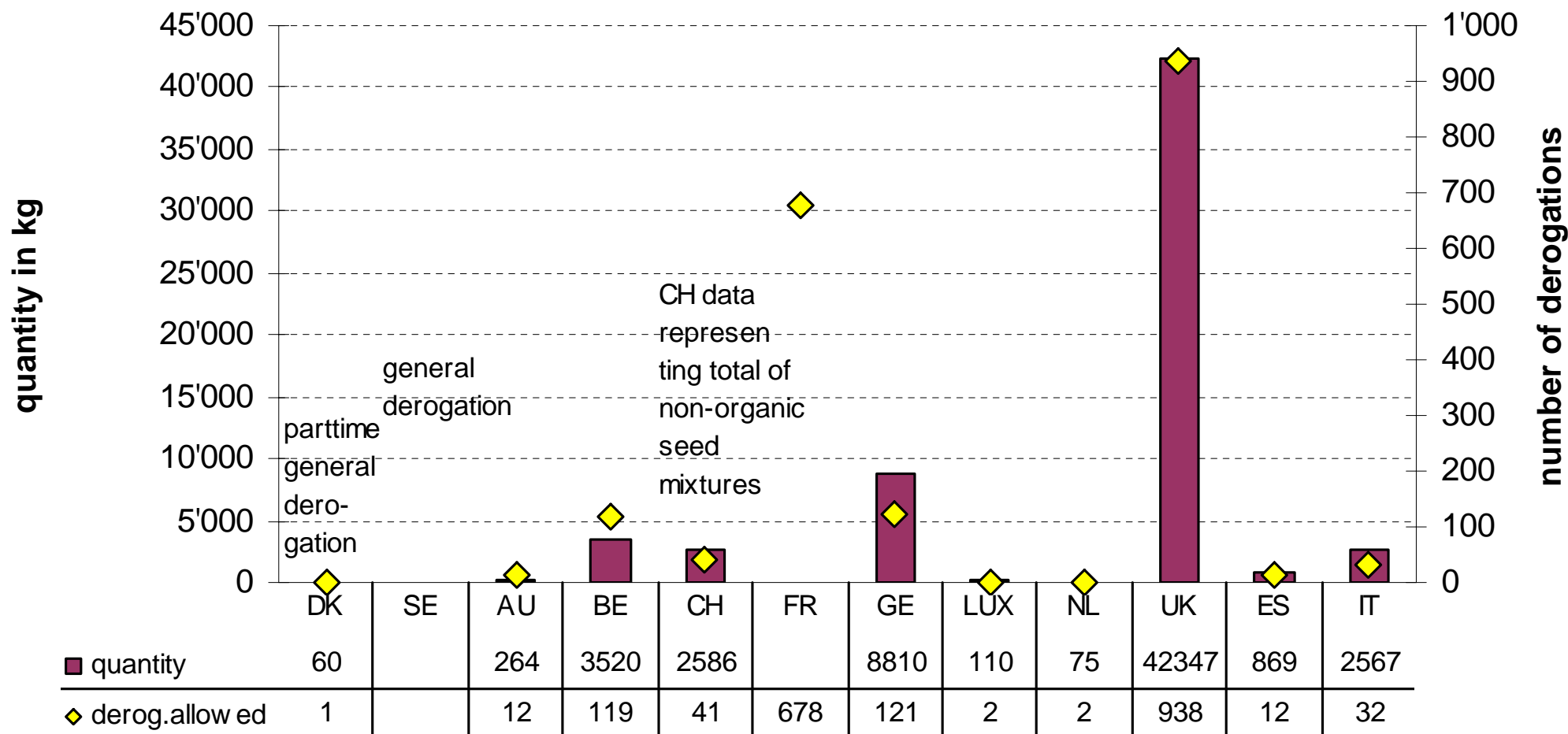


## Carot (Daucus carota) surface planted with conventional seeds (estimated)



# A look to the situation of organic seed use (3)

## Lolium perenne



1. to have a clear situation of the seed use in each MS

reporting common scheme

*The report shall contain, for each species concerned by an authorisation according to Article 5(1), the following information:*

*(a) the scientific name of the species and the variety denomination;*

*(b) the justification for the authorisation indicated by a reference to Article 5(1)(a), (b), (c) or (d);*

*(c) the total number of authorisations;*

*(d) the total quantity of seed or seed potatoes involved;*

*(e) the chemical treatment for phytosanitary purposes, as referred to in Article 3(a).*

# Proposed reporting scheme

Subject	Recommendation	Comments
Format	Excel file for internal use Protected Pdf-file for publication	Excel file easy to search and allow direct comparison
Species denomination	Latin name + English common crop names + Local Denomination	
Variety denomination	Entry of variety names according the common catalogue of varieties	
Sub-summaries	number of authorisations on <b>variety and on species level</b> or on crop group level	
Units	number of seeds and kilogram	Clarifying misleading enters ex. Onions (seeds or sets?)
Reasons	The reasons for derogation calls should be clearly indicated and also be counted and sub-summarized.	reasons classified according Article 5.1 of the regulation often missing.
Data reported on surface %	Data on seed derogation should be reported as percentage of seeded crop	No other possibility to evaluate the state of applicaion

## EU common annex or National annexes?

### Stakeholders suggested

- to start from National annexes, possibly shared among countries with common situation (climatic and market)
- To list subspecies and not only species: ex. “Cherry tomato” and not “tomato”.



# Derogation criteria

*actual derogation possibilities*



- (a) no variety of the species is registered in the database*
- (b) if no supplier is able to deliver the seed in needed time;*
- (c) if the variety is not registered in the database and none of the registered alternatives is **appropriate***
- (d) for use in research, test in small-scale field trials or for variety conservation purposes*



# How to evaluate appropriateness example with tomato

agronomic criteria (1)

climatic/growing conditions

World-wide/Northern areas/ Mediterranean

open field/ green-house

determinate/indeterminate

beef/salad/cherry/cocktail/plum/rootstock

early/medium early/medium late/late

semi-long life/long life



# How to evaluate appropriateness example with tomato



## agronomic criteria (2)

plant habit: compact/open/strong/balanced

truss type: 5 fruits/6 fruits

resistance to:

TMV/Cladosporium/Verticillium/Fusarium (2)/

Stemphylium/Silvering/TSWV/nematodes



# How to evaluate appropriateness example with tomato



## Market related criteria

weight group: 4 possibilities

colour at maturity: green, yellow, pink, red, green-  
shoulder (+ many sub-groups)

shape: round, oval, oblate, plum, fattened, ribbed



## commonly agreed criteria

- Basis seed for seed multiplication
- Specific soil conditions
- Tolerance or resistance against pests
- Climatic conditions or altitude

## debated criteria

- Contract production with prescription of the variety
- Market demand or processing quality
- Form or quality of the seed

## How to deal with a complicate situation

### Equivalence list

- set annually at National level by an expert group  
on species or sub-species level
- Adapt and use criteria for evaluation of variety offer  
stop general derogation regime



# Other areas needing harmonization



- 1) National thresholds for seed-borne diseases
- 2) definition of allowed seed treatments in organic
- 3) labelling of seed-lots concerning seed treatments
- 4) definition and promotion of organic breeding

