Dachverband Ökologische Pflanzenzüchtung in Deutschland e.V.

Organic plant breeding

- develops new varieties and populations for organic production systems
- is sustainable and promotes genetic diversity
- is based on fertile plants and preserves their full natural reproductive capacity
- takes a holistic approach that respects natural barriers to crossbreeding
- is creative, collaborative and open to science, intuition and new findings

Organic varieties are obtained through organic plant breeding:

- In breeding programmes based on crossing, organic breeding begins with the cross itself.
- In breeding programmes based on selection, organic breeding takes place over a defined minimum period that varies by crop species.

Requirements:

1. **Breeding steps**
   All breeding steps must be carried out under certified organic management.

2. **Starting material**
   Only genetic material that is also permitted for use as seed or planting material in organic farming may be used.

3. **Transparency**
   Organic plant breeders disclose the breeding techniques they use.

4. **Methods**
   - The genome and the cell are each respected as indivisible units.
   - The natural reproductive capacity of a plant variety is respected and preserved.
   - The use of methods and inputs prohibited in organic farming is forbidden.
   - Direct technical interventions in the genome or in an isolated cell are prohibited, as are techniques that reduce fertility in subsequent generations.

5. **No patents**
   Organic varieties and the breeding methods used to develop them must not be patented.