

Bioverita Regulations

Preamble

The way plants grow and mature is crucial for the food quality achieved. The immediate and more remote environment has an effect on quality. People or animals that feed on plants have to deal with these qualities in their metabolism. This can have both positive and negative effects. The characteristic quality of food depends, however, not only on the cultivation conditions, but also on the breeding process, which forms the varieties and impresses upon them an orientation to certain cultivation conditions. Therefore breeding is equally responsible for the achievable quality as the cultivators and the cultivation system. Breeding is a creative process. Plant breeders make an important contribution to the further development of crop plants.

Methods

Organically compatible methods and breeding techniques.

The aim of the applied breeding methods is to maintain and strengthen the overall organism of the plant through diversification and regional adaptation. The breeding methods are based on the aims, needs and guidelines of the organic farming sector as well as the individual qualifications and objectives of the breeders. The compatibility of the techniques used in organic breeding with the principles of organic farming must be checked regularly. The techniques which are compatible with the principles of organic farming and recognized by bioverita are listed separately in Annex 2. This annex is regularly checked by the bioverita label commission and updated as necessary. The updated Annex 2 is then submitted to the Board for approval.

Recognition as a bioverita breeder

Breeders can be:

- Individuals
- Entire breeding operation
- Breeders' organizations of various legal forms

In order for varieties from organic (organic and biodynamic) breeding to be awarded the bioverita label, the breeder must become a recognized bioverita breeder. They must also apply for membership of the association.

The following provisions apply to the recognition as bioverita breeders:

- The breeder applies in writing for membership of the bioverita association
- The breeder submits a written application to the CEO of bioverita for recognition as a bioverita breeder (separate form). The application will be examined by the label commission according to the regulations.
- Breeding is carried out on farms certified by organic associations. The authorized organic associations are listed in Annex 1 at the end of the document. At the request of the label commission, the board of bioverita may decide on adding other organic associations.

Bioverita breeders are recognized for periods of 4 years each. An audit is carried out during this period. The individual stages of the assessment will be recorded and signed by the breeder.



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The breeders report annually on the progress of their work and the propagation of bioverita varieties (according to the bioverita checklist). The recognition of the breeder is carried out by the board at the request of the label commission of the bioverita association. The breeder will receive a written confirmation from the bioverita office within 3 months.

The recognized bioverita breeders are listed on the bioverita homepage. The basis for the assessment is the alignment with the bioverita mission statement. Only the breeding techniques described in Annex 2 may be used for varieties approved for bioverita. If, in certain cases, the breeder wishes to use techniques which are not mentioned in Annex 2, they must first obtain the consent of the label commission. In the breeding process, only varieties which may be cultivated organically may be used. Each breeder has to develop their own mission statement, which includes the specific characteristics of their work and all cultivated plants bred by them and must be made available to bioverita.

Recognition of bioverita varieties

The bioverita varieties are recognized by bioverita's label commission at the request of the breeder (individual or organization) to the bioverita office (using the bioverita form). Bioverita varieties can only be obtained from recognized bioverita breeders. Not all varieties of a bioverita breeder must be recognized as bioverita varieties.

Bioverita varieties may be: varieties registered in the European varieties catalog or varieties in the process of being registered, niche varieties (only Switzerland), heritage and amateur varieties, as well as population varieties or composite crosses. Newly cultivated varieties or varieties which have been in a long-term conservation breeding under organic conditions. For these varieties, the label commission has to examine in particular the question of whether breeding activity has taken place during the development of these varieties and whether any techniques have been used that are incompatible with the bioverita model. The selection of conservation varieties must have taken place for at least 3 generations under certified organic conditions and differ in at least one feature from the initial variety (for example an umbrella variety). Bioverita varieties and their properties may not be patented or restricted through exclusive rights and must remain freely accessible to every breeder and grower. Bioverita maintains a list of all recognized varieties. The list is publicly available on the Internet.

The genesis of each species is to be disclosed by the breeder in the application for varietal recognition. It must be shown to the label commission how the continued preservation of the bioverita varieties is carried out and documented (according to the checklist in the annual report). The partners shall openly and transparently inform the organs of bioverita, where seed is produced from the bioverita varieties. Only organic seeds can be awarded the bioverita label. Equivalent certification systems, for example Demeter certification in Germany for biodynamic plant breeding, are recognized. The bioverita office will inform the breeder in writing about the decision of bioverita varieties recognition within 3 months. The office will document the recognized bioverita varieties. If varieties are withdrawn from the market, the partners shall also inform bioverita immediately. The bioverita breeder undertakes to send a sample of the varieties which he removes from the market to the gene bank of the respective country and to at least one conservation organization in the respective country.



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Recognition as a bioverita partner

Processors and traders who wish to market products from organic plant breeding with the bioverita label must have entered into an agreement with the association and can become members of the bioverita association. The management board decides the nature of the partnership. The prerequisite for recognition as a bioverita partner is that a processing contract or commercial contract has been concluded with one of the organic associations listed in Annex 1. The bioverita office will inform the management board and the partners about the recognition in writing.

Bioverita partners undertake to actively promote the use and marketing of bioverita varieties and to use the highest possible proportion themselves. At regular intervals, but at least once a year, a meeting will be held between representatives of the bioverita partner and representatives of bioverita. The partners are informed by bioverita at least once a year about ongoing work and activities.

Recognition of bioverita products

Only certified organic products can be awarded recognition. Products made from bioverita varieties can be awarded the bioverita label. It is possible for both processed and unprocessed products to be awarded recognition. The management board decides on the recognition of unprocessed and processed products at the request of the partner. The flow of goods must be transparent and open. The association has the right to carry out inspection at any time. The data will be treated confidentially.

Financing

There are costs for setting up and maintaining bioverita. These costs can be covered by revenue of the use of the bioverita label. Corresponding financing models are agreed with partner companies in the respective agreements. The association is financed via:

- Membership fees
- Donations, grants and gifts
- Legacies and bequests
- Project charges
- Public contributions
- Licensing income
- Any income from own assets

The management board is responsible for the budget, which is approved annually by the general meeting.

Annex 1: Approved organic associations.

Bio Suisse, Demeter, Bioland, Naturland, Gää, Bio Austria.