

Seed and Planting Material in Organic Farming

Summary from:

SRS Organic Standard

Version 01.01
from 29.05.2018

Based on

COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 834/2007 of 28 June 2007, as amended
COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 889/2008 of 5 September 2008, as amended

General rule

For the organic production of products other than seed and vegetative propagating material, **only organically produced seed and planting material shall be used**. The mother plant in the case of seeds and the parent plant in the case of vegetative propagating material shall have been organically produced for at least one generation, or, in the case of perennial crops, two growing seasons.

SRS may grant the authorisation for the use of the non-organic seeds/planting material in case the seed/planting material of the particular crop variety is not available for one of the following reasons:

1. variety not available in organic quality on the national market in sufficient quantity;
2. variety not available at all in organic quality on the national market;
3. and at the same time the import of seeds and planting material from abroad is not allowed or restricted by the national authorities.
4. SRS applies the provisions set below.

Exceptional rules

1. In case the organic seeds/planting material are not available, the operator shall make every effort to keep and use seeds/planting material from own harvest of organic or in

conversion crop, prior to using non-organic seeds/planting material. The evidence proving the efforts and their result shall be documented in detail.

2. In case it is not possible to keep own seeds/planting material at all; not in sufficient quantity and quality, or when new variety is to be cultivated in next season, **the operator may use non-organic seed/planting material under following provisions:**
 - sufficient evidence why it was not possible to keep own seeds/planting material,
 - the non-organic seed/planting material has not been genetically modified and not treated by unallowed substances.Substances allowed in organic farming equivalent to EU Regulation are listed SRS organic Standard – INPUTS INFO.
3. In case the non-organic seed has been treated for phytosanitary purposes prescribed in the country of use by a chemical treatment that is not allowed for organic plant production under this standard, the treated seeds/planting material can NOT be used in the organic production.
4. The **operator shall apply to SRS for the authorisation to use non-organic seed/planting material BEFORE SOWING/PLANTING.** SRS may grant the authorisation for the use of non-organic seeds (non-GMO and not treated with prohibited substances) only to individual operators, for individual species or varieties and only for one season. SRS will document the authorization in the operator files.

Application procedure: use of non-organic seed/planting material

Please submit following documents to apply for use of non-organic seed/planting material:

1. complete and detailed application form,
2. evidence that your effort to purchase organic seed/planting material was not successful,
3. explanation/evidence demonstrating why use of own organic or in-conversion seeds/planting material was not possible,
4. non-GMO declaration issued by the seed/planting material producer,
5. confirmation by the seed/planting material producer that the seed/planting material has not been treated by unallowed substances.

Please submit all documents to

seeds@srs-certification.com (for all application documents in English)

approval@srs-cert.cn (in case documents need to be translated from Chinese first)