Overview of financing sources of organic plant breeding

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LiveSeeding

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Overview of funding sources for organic breeding

Financing source	Type of financial contribution (examples)
Farmers	Purchase of reproductive material, royalties, subscriptions, other participation strategies
Food processors	Targeted support for a defined breeding goal (bilateral interaction single food processor – single breeder)
Retailers	Individual contribution based on annual profit
Consumers	Premium price at point of sale (as for the '1 cent initiative') to support breeding
Private NGOs, Foundations	Annual funding based on breeding goals and methods
Public donors	Tender for specific crops and breeding goals
Research donors	Call for competitive project proposals by government, private donors or non-profit stakeholders
Public-private co-funding	Private sector investment to leverage public funding
Cross-sector pool-funding	1-2 per mille of turnover at point of sale is provided to organic breeding initiatives (pool funding)
Green investment	Bank provides credit without interest rate
Crowd funding	Collect money for breeding project or infrastructure via crowd platforms

Selection of past projects on promoting organic plant breeding

Supporting organic plant breeding in Germany and Switzerland (2014-2019) Monika Messmer (FiBL CH) & Freya Schäfer (FiBL DE)

- Concept paper of a cross-sector pool funding strategy for organic breeding

LIVESEED – boosting the organic seed and plant breeding sector across Europe 2017-2021

- Results on Website ww.Liveseed.eu
- Marketing campaign #BreedingABrightFuture

Engagement.Biobreeding - Discuss funding animal and plant breeding across EU (2019-2023) Lazzaro Mariateresa & Monika Messmer (FiBL CH)

LiveSeeding - Organic seed and plant breeding to accelerate sustainable and diverse food systems in Europe (2022 – 2026)

- Lazzaro Mariateresa & Claudia Meier (FiBL CH)

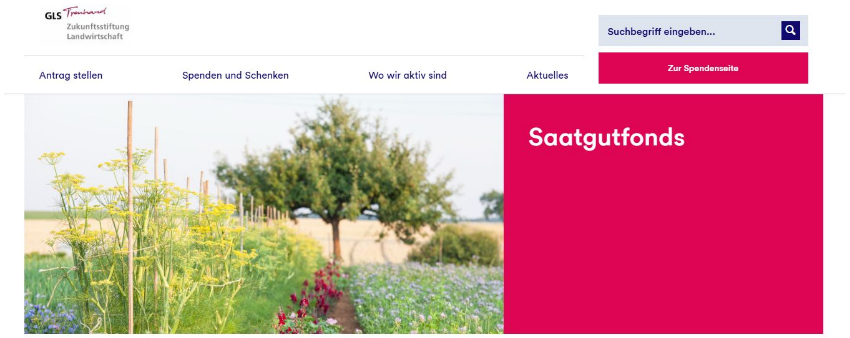
--> Analysis of financing & governance models of organic breeding initiatives

--> Awareness raising of added benefits for society and environment

--> European Task force to jointly promote financing of organic plant breeding

Overview of funding sources for organic breeding

Donations

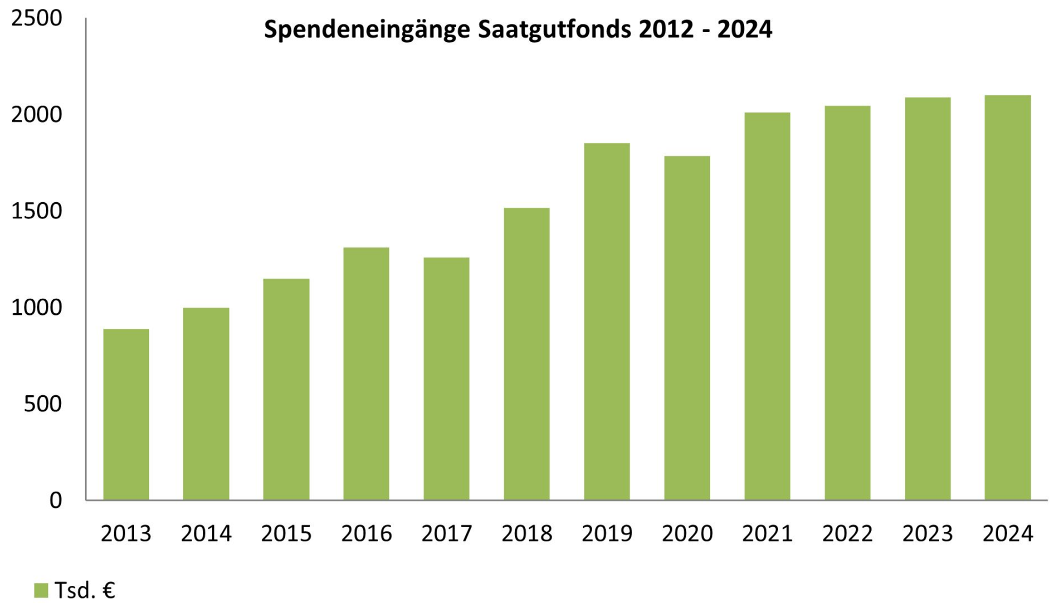


Donors: Seed Fund - GLS Saatgutfond (donators are private persons, foundations, processors and retailers),
Foundations

- In DE and CH very important funding resource for organic breeders
- Minimal administrative effort
- For non-profit initiatives

Limitations:

- purpose-oriented but limited in total volume
- for Germany only



Donations/ Private and philanthropic funding

Donors: Fondations

In terms of the type of projects most likely to attract philanthropic support, **pilot projects and scaling initiatives** rank highest, while advocacy and research are also of growing interest.

Overview of funding sources for organic breeding

Licenses, seed reproduction fees, variety development contributions

Donors: farmers, gardeners

- Generate a certain amount of money backflow that can be invested in breeding

Limitations:

- Contribution is low
- Return on investment does no cover costs of breeding

Sale of seeds / vegetative plant material

Donors: farmers, gardeners

- Generate a certain amount of money backflow that can be invested in breeding

Limitations:

- Contribution is low
- Return on investment does no cover costs of breeding

Overview of funding sources for organic breeding

Public funding – research projects

Donors: in DE and CH mainly: BLE, BMBF, EiP, BLW etc.

- Several public funds available

Limitations:

- Only for breeding research not for practical breeding work
- Long-term breeding activities difficult to finance through public funds
- High administrative effort for applications and reporting
- Often tied to a high proportion of own funds that are not available

Public funding at EU-level: HORIZON Europe

Limitations:

- Large consortia with small budgets for breeding activities
- High administrative level
- Long and difficult proposal process

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Overview of funding sources for organic breeding

Public funding – Start-up/investment

Donors: National or regional support for SME, Start-ups to promote local enterpreneurship, innovations, agroecological transitions, food sovereignty etc.

- Several public funds available like regional councils,low-interest credits, participative loans (ENISA)

Limitations:

- Scattered and difficult to get overview
- Sometimes very specific focus
- Often tied to a high proportion of own funds that are not available

Public funding at EU-level: European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development in line with Member State specific CAP Strategy plan, EiP Agri

- Focus on long-term structural change, environmental sustainability, and rural vitality
    - Investment support
    - LEADER bottom-up approach for community led projects
    - PRIMA for Mediterranean SME
- Limitations:
  - High administrative burden and complexity level
  - Long and difficult proposal process
  - Often own upfront payment needed and reimbursement delayed can cause cash flow issues

Overview of funding sources for organic breeding

Incentive charges for derogation on conventionally untreated seed

Donors: farmers, gardeners

- Price difference between organic/conventional seed is collected to support organic breeding
- For example: conventional seed price + 25% □ 25% paid to Bio Swiss breeding fund

Limitations:

- Private label association agreement, coordinated by Bio Suisse (in CH >90% organic farmers are member of Bio Suisse)

  □ difficult to be implemented in countries where more than one private organic label association is in place
- Legal regulation is not allowed as it could cause distortion of competition
- Will be obsolete as soon as 100% organic seed is reached

Overview of funding sources for organic breeding

Crowd funding / Matchfunding

Donors: consumers, citizen, broad public

Limitations:

- High administrative expenditure for usually small amounts

LiveSeeding project with TRIODOS Fondation in Spain

Participation of the value chain

Donors: Organic associations, processors, specialized trader, retailer, consumer

- High Oleic Organic Sunflowers: 12 companies join forces to invest for 7 years

Limitations:

- Benefits of the specific breeding program need to be communicated
- Pressure to be successful in breeding - donors want to see results/outputs (varieties)

Overview of funding sources for organic breeding

Ethical investment

Donors: ethical banks (GLS, Triodos), philantropic organisations, local sponsors

- Aliging capical with values often with focus on green transition
- opportunity to combine philanthropic "first-loss" capital with ethical bank loans

Types:

- "seed" funding to get started
- Loan with very low interest rate to invest in infrastructure
- Provide access to infrastructure (e.g. provide land, machinery, etc.)

Limitations:

- Challange to identify philandropic foundations and ethical banks interested in organic breeding
- Often personal contact needed
- Business plan needed in case of ethical banks
- Trade off between high societal value and low private profitability

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