



## ECVC calls for the implementation of farmers' rights to seeds in Europe in its new publication

ECVC is pleased to announce the release of its latest publication, [\*Incorporating Peasants' Rights to Seeds in European Law\*](#).

This publication aims to review the current state of play concerning the respect of peasants' rights to seeds in Europe and to highlight which regulatory frameworks are problematic to the implementation of these rights. In particular, protection systems for intellectual property rights, such as UPOV, patents and marketing laws that reinforce their monopoly, are shown to be incompatible with respecting the collective rights of peasants to seeds.

In addition, this publication presents ECVC's demands for the full implementation of peasants' rights to seeds on a European and national level, based on Articles 5, 6 and 9 of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Agriculture and Food (ITPGRFA), as well as on Articles 19 and 20 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP). 20 years after the adoption of the ITPGRFA and almost three years after the adoption of the UNDROP, ECVC must underline that we are still a long way away from these rights being implemented in Europe. ECVC points out that the EU and Member States must ensure that the different regulatory frameworks concerning seed marketing, as well as the laws on intellectual property and all techniques of genetic modification, must take into account the rights, needs and realities of farmers.

In the context of the current revision of European seed marketing legislation, ECVC demands a legal recognition of farmers' seed systems and the creation of a separate regulatory framework for them, allowing farmers to undertake their seed activity outside the legislation in force for commercial seed companies.

Furthermore, given that the European Commission is looking to abolish the regulation of GMOs derived from "new genomic techniques", ECVC also points out that all plant genetic modification techniques, as well as the economic model of patenting the genetic information contained in the seeds that accompanies them, go against the rights of peasants, and that easing this regulatory framework in any way would definitively annihilate any possibility of effective application of these rights.

ECVC also published [\*its analysis\*](#) the European Commission's latest impact assessment on the proposed deregulation of GMOs and [\*its response to the\*](#) accompanying consultation, which closes on 22 October.

### Notes

*ECVC will organise an **online event to present this [publication](#) on Wednesday 3 November 2021 at 10am**. This webinar will be an opportunity to present and discuss ECVC's demands for a European regulatory framework that implements farmers' seed rights. [\*You can find more information about this event and register here.\*](#)*

### Contacts

Guy Kastler - ECVC Seeds Working Group: +33 603945721 (FR)

Antonio Onorati - ECVC Seeds Working Group: +39 3408219456 (EN, FR, IT, ES)