

No Patents on seeds!

De Bolster Organic Seeds



Family owned breeding company
Founded in 1978
Coöperation since 2023

100% organic seeds
Assortiment of 340 varieties

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Our values

- 100% Organic
- Varieties made for the needs of organic growers
- Free of patents
- Free of GMO



Situation in tomato breeding

- ToBRFV or the Jordan virus
- 3 patents granted, more that 20 still pending
- All of them on genes found in wild ancestors of tomato
- Different genes that fall under different patents



Consequences of patents in breeding

- The choice what we work on
 - Are there already a lot of patents in a crop?
 - Are the main characteristics patented?
- Uncertainty
 - What we work on, will it be patented by others?
 - Can we work on something that has a pending patent?
- Delay
 - Will a claimed patent be granted?
 - Extra research needed to check if a resistance falls under a patent -> amount increases.
- Extra work
 - Checks of our genebank material. Not only at acquisition, but with every new patent.
- Adventitious presence
 - Claims of patentholders
- Cost
 - Extra work
 - Discarded seedlots
 - Discarded breeding programs



Patents will lead to

- Market concentration
 - The big companies will claim as much patents as possible
 - NGT's will accelerate this
 - New concept -> no need to make varieties, just sell licences to patents
 - Companies without patents can not compete
- Growers and consumers will be affected
 - Less choice in breeding companies
 - Less choice in varieties
 - Higher prices



Licensing platforms

- Licencing platforms don't work
 - Already 2 different platforms, run by patent holders
 - You have to pay to get admission, you have to pay for a licence
 - Without patent portfolio you can't exchange patents
 - Multiple patents on varieties -> this gives an unsustainable situation
- What about: patents free of use for small companies?
 - In my view: a way to silence opposition to patents. It keeps small businesses small and dependent on patentholders



What do we need

- Clear rules, no uncertainties
- Freedom to operate in classical breeding
 - Limited scope of patents
 - Full breeders exemption, from breeding to exploitation
- Plant Variety Protection system



Thank you & time for questions



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