

No Patents on seeds!

10-06-2026



De Bolster Organic Seeds

Family owned breeding company
Founded in 1978
Coöperation since 2023

100% organic seeds
Assortiment of 340 varieties

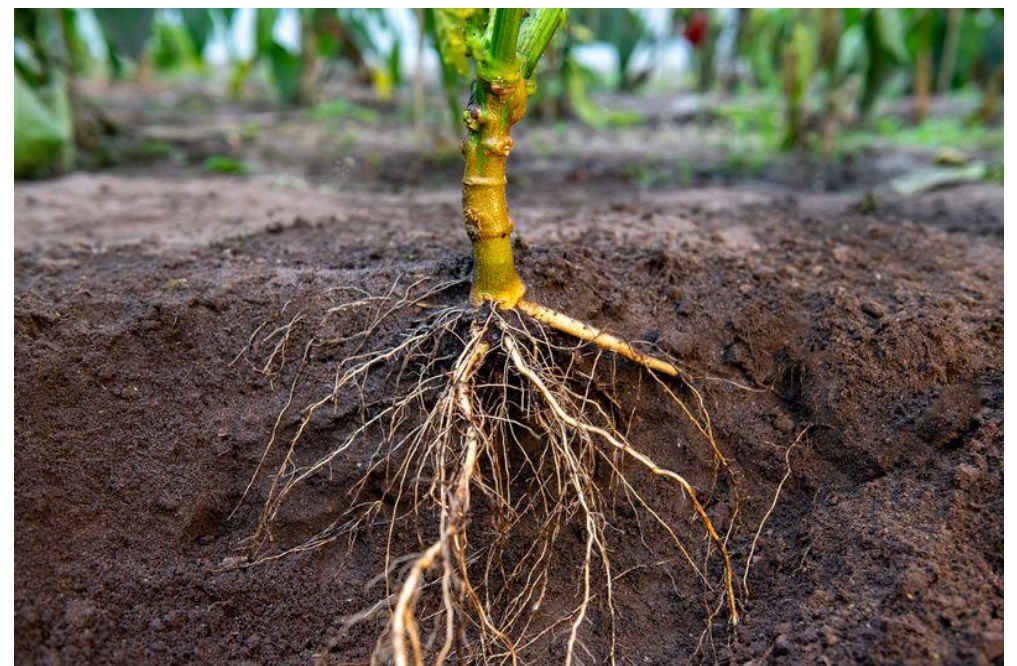
Frans Carree
Head of breeding department

+31 (0)6 15244786
fcarree@bolster.nl



Our values

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



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

- Licensing 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
- Freedom to operate in classical breeding
 - Limited scope of patents
 - Full breeders exemption
- Amendments to the NGT deregulation proposal
 - Amendment 1+2
 - Amendment 6+10
 - Amendment 33+34+36
 - Amendment 35
- Plant Variety Protection system



Thank you & time for questions



Frans Carree
Head of Breeding department

+31 (0)6 15244786
fcarree@bolster.nl