

Innovation Centre
for Organic Farming

How to increase the production and use of organic vegetable seed?

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Promilleafgiftsfonden
for frugtavlens og gartneribrug

Innovation Centre for Organic Farming

About us:

We are a research and development centre,
supporting the development of sustainable organic
farming in Denmark

Established in 2021 as a nonprofit, and independent
organisation



Learn more: www.icoel.dk/en

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Project – towards 100 % organic vegetable seed by 2037

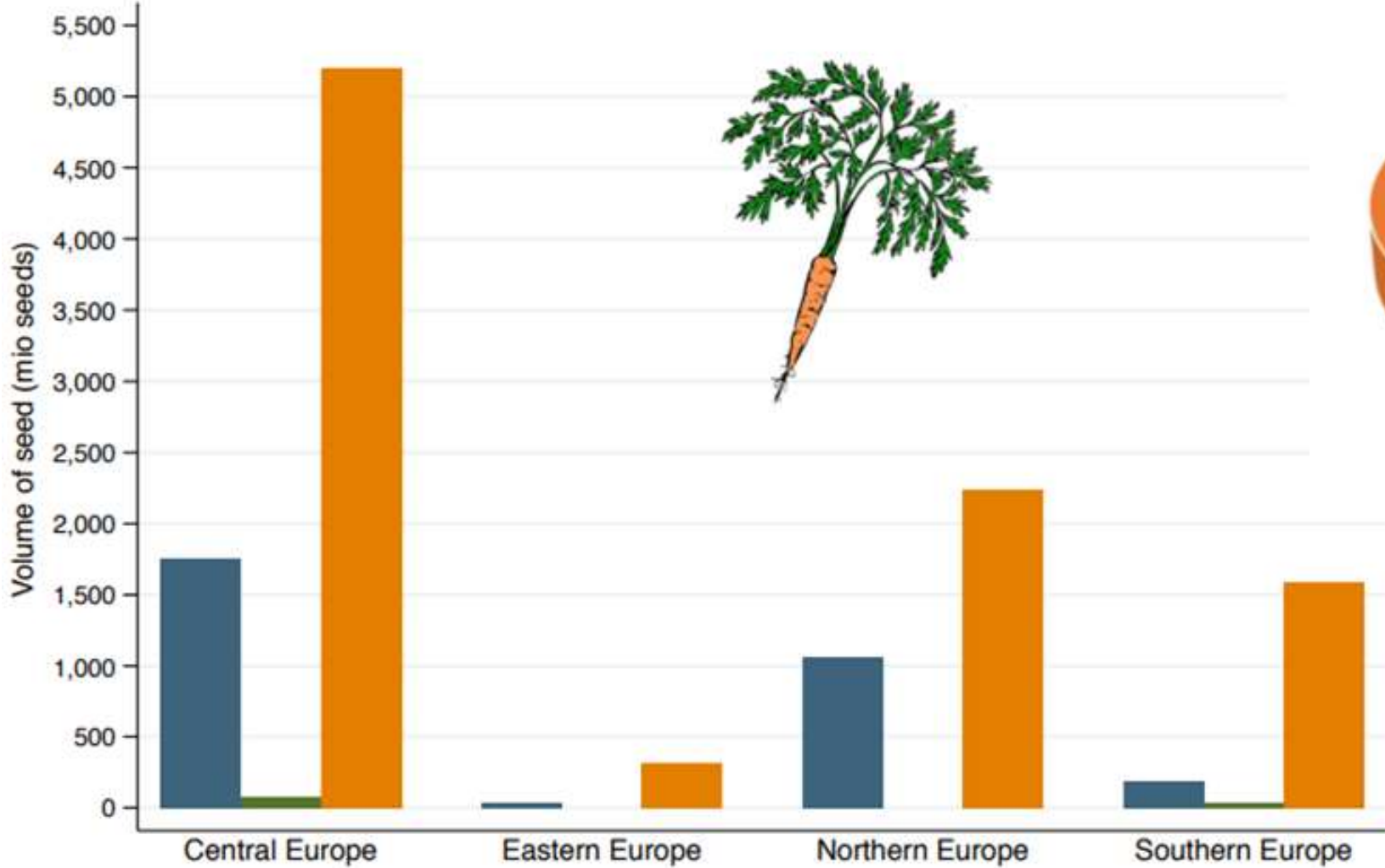
Seed production status

- Challenges & bottlenecks
- Seed quality
- Variety assortment
- Derogations

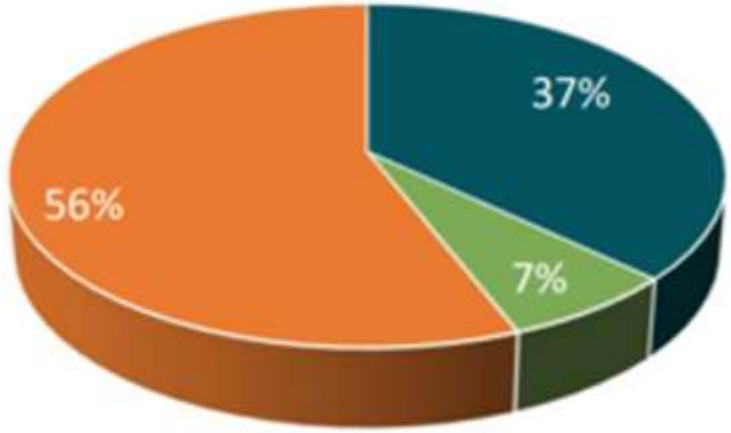
Action plans and goals

- Market analysis
- Expert groups
- Category 1 crops
- Progress monitoring

Organic seed use – example for carrot

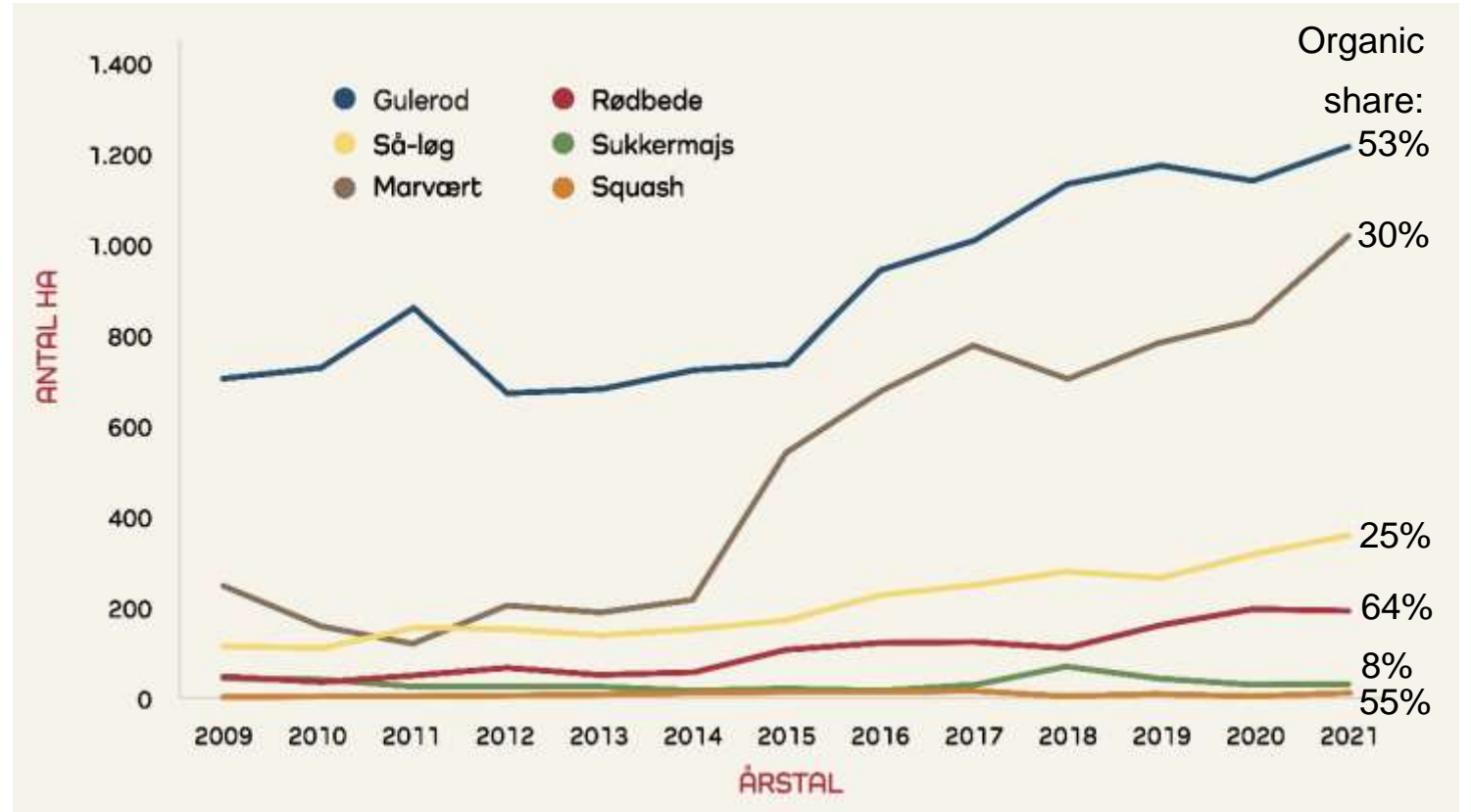


Vegetables in total (EU and Switzerland)



- Organic seed supply
- Organic farm saved seed
- Untreated conv. seed supply

Production area in Denmark





Two different markets for organic seed

Wholesale -> uniformity, yield and shelf life are essential -> mainly F1 hybrids

- Fresh market
- Processing industry
- Ingredients
- Catering
- Etc.

Direct sale -> greater diversity in shape, flavour, taste -> OP varieties and F1 hybrids

- Farm shops
- Speciality shops
- Meal/veg boxes
- Restaurants
- Etc.

Growers demand – engros market

Increased variety assortment with:

- Tested and suitable traits for organic production
- High seed quality
- Uniformity for high-yield production
- Competitive and affordable seed prices
- Reasonable trade terms

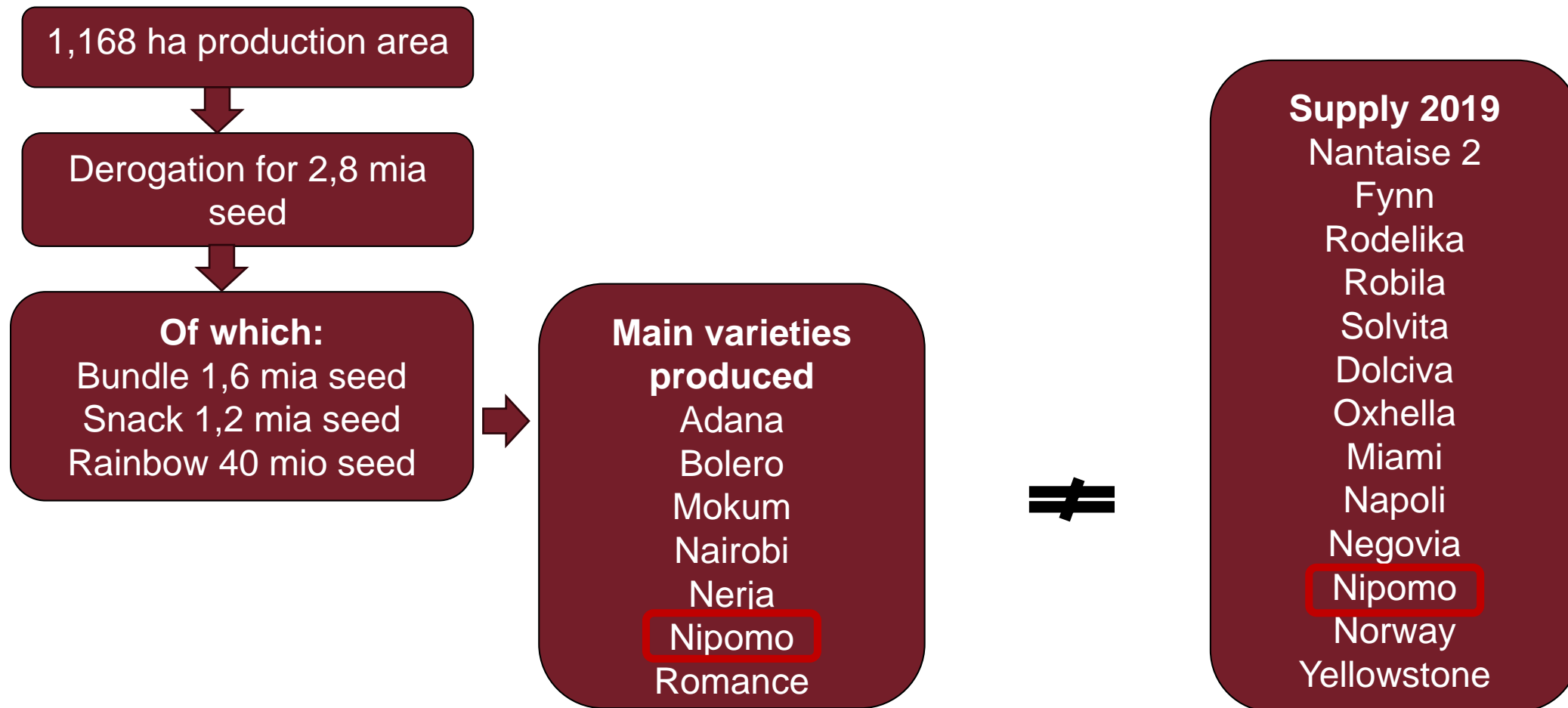


'The supply-demand paradox'



Growers – demand for suitable varieties

Example of organic carrot production in 2019



Seed production challenges (Supply)

Carrot example:

Biennial crop – vulnerability in open field production in terms of pests and diseases:

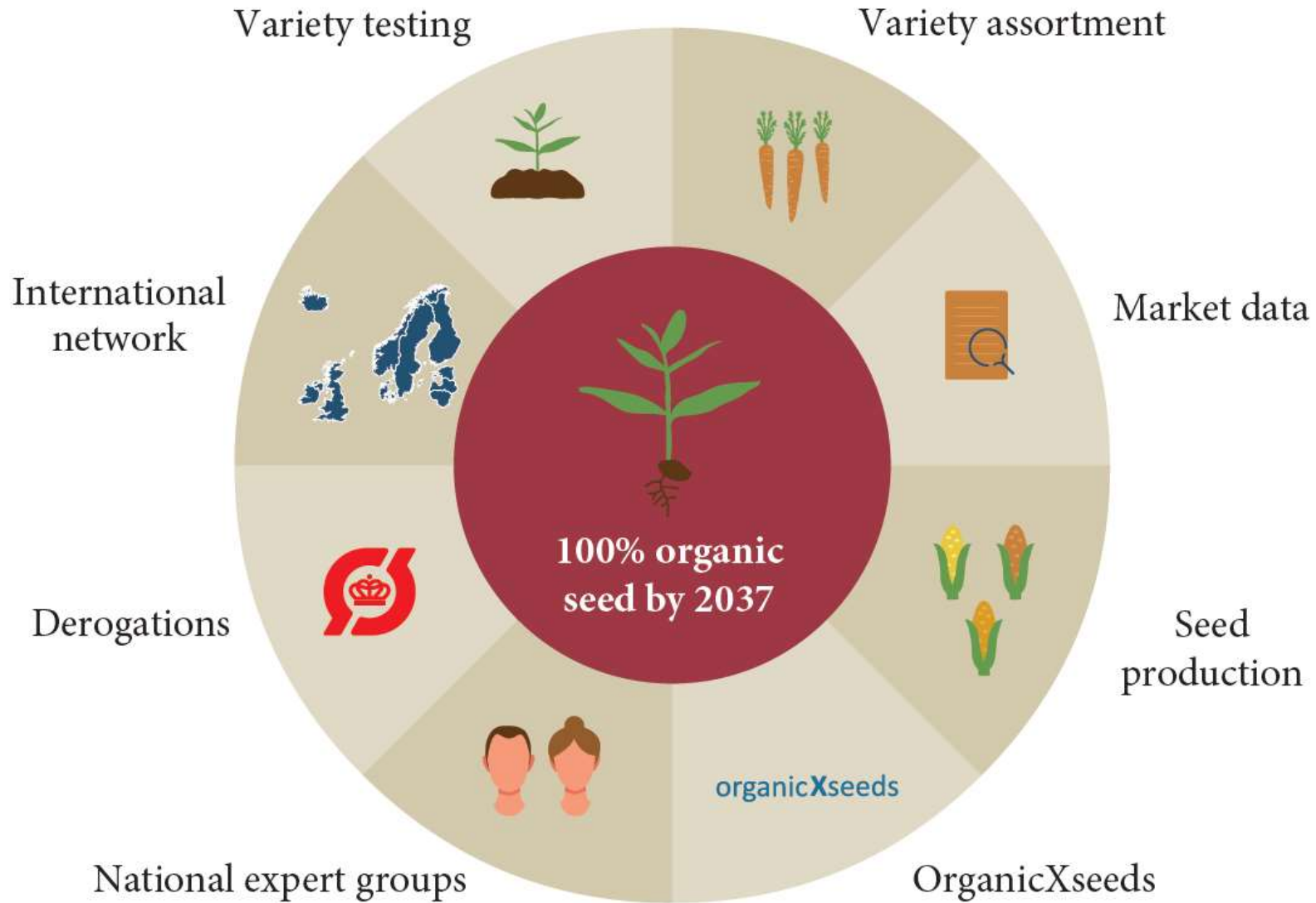
The Lygus Bug

Damage to the seed ->

- Reduced seed yield
- Reduced seed quality
- Reduced seed germination



Towards 100% organic seed in Denmark



Actions

Supporting Expert groups



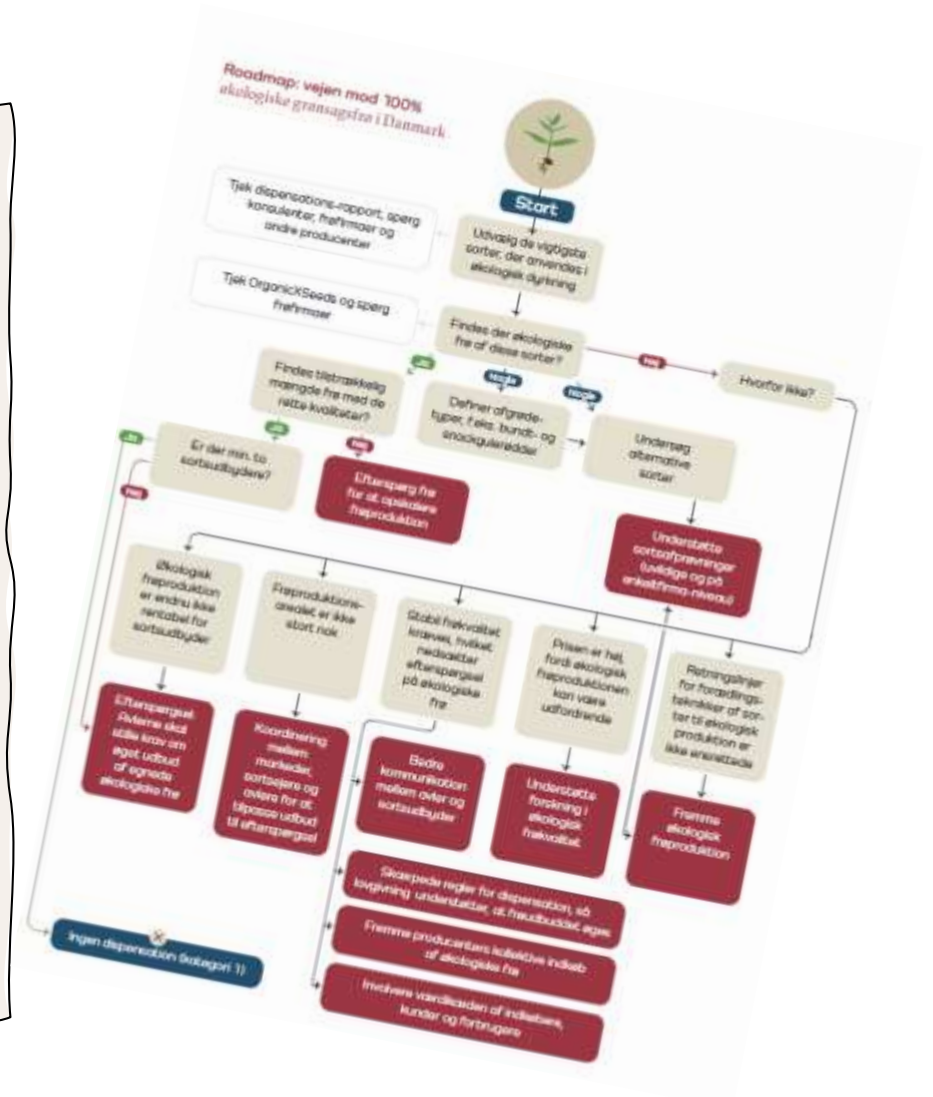
International network

Why?

- Very little vegetable breeding in Denmark – our production depends on other seed markets
- Sharing of market information to collectively increase the OS demand
- Focus on equal seed distribution among countries - uniform conditions across national borders
- Exchange of experience regarding variety testing
- Uniformity in terms of derogation practice
-

Step-by-step action plans

- Crop specific action plan (roadmap)
- Variety supply and demand
- Dialogue between stakeholders – growers, seed suppliers, food sector
- Challenges and possibilities
- Goals and subgoals (step-by-step)
- Progress monitoring
- Distribution of responsibilities (pull-push)



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Thank you
for listening..



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