



## A new start for the organic seed sector in Italy

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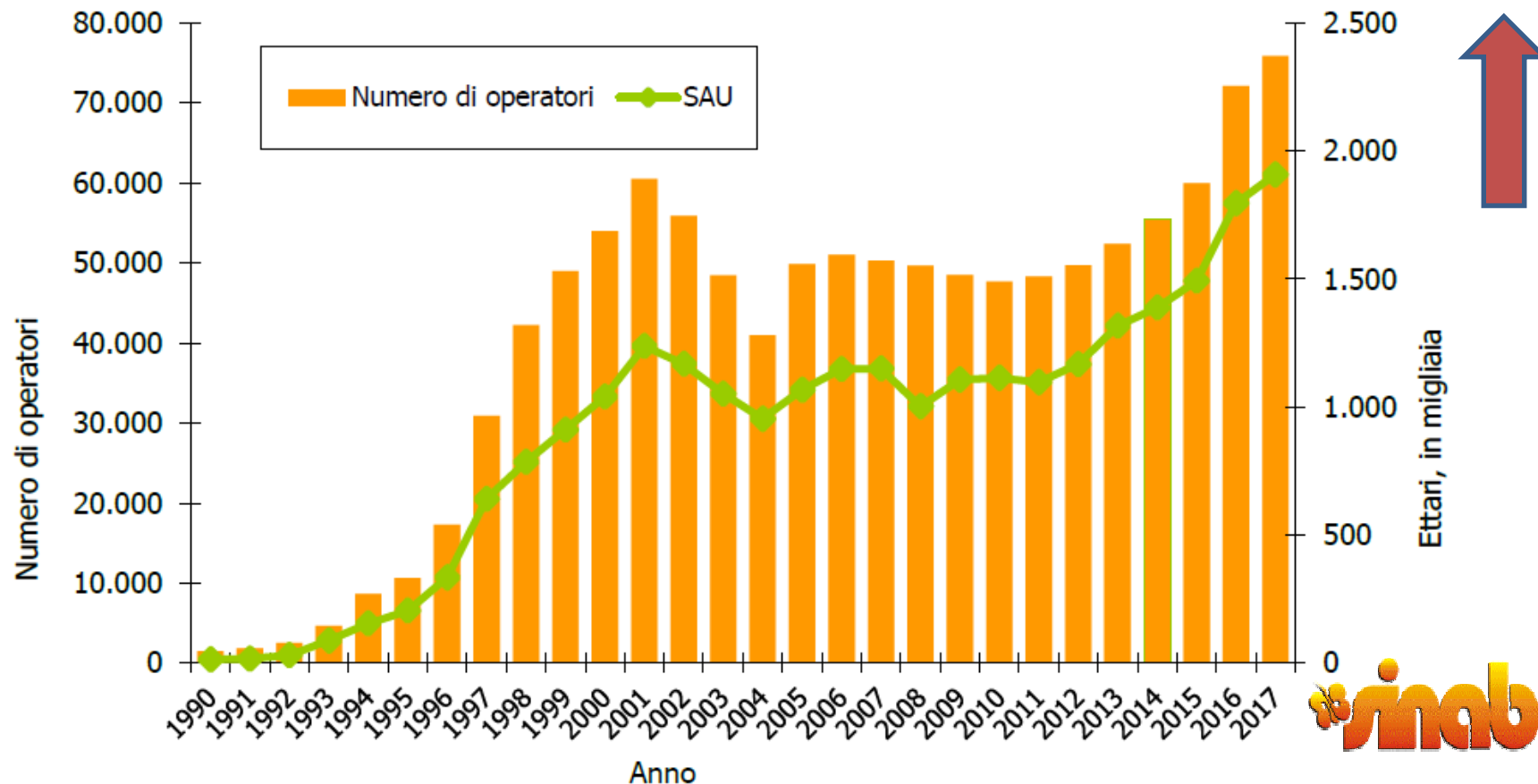
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# The Italian organic sector does not stop its growth

Andamento storico di operatori e superfici in Italia dal 1990 al 2017  
(Valori assoluti)

15,4 % of  
the UAA

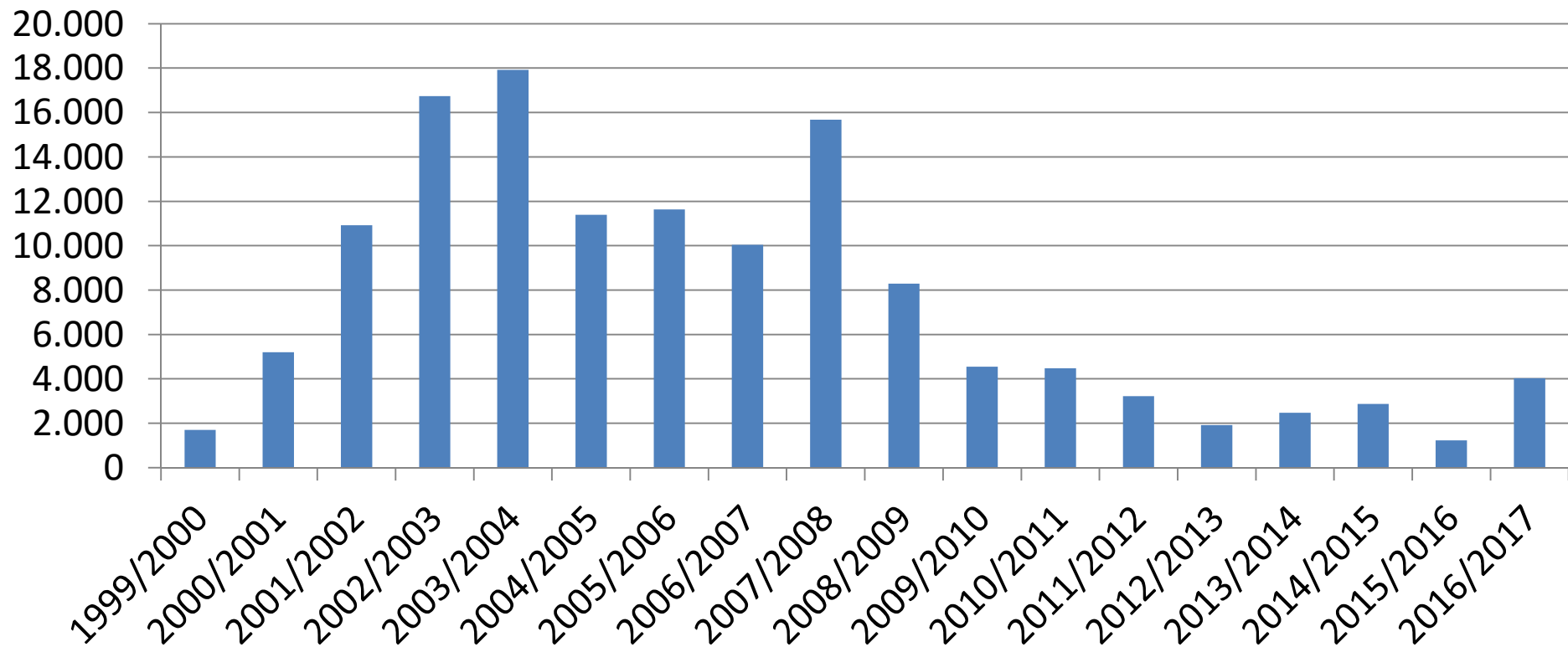


## What about the IT organic seed production?

- Organic seed area is about 3-4 % of the total seed production area.
- Derogations granted in 94 % of the cases
- Total quantity of conventional seeds is growing each year in line with the expansion of the organic market
- Few amounts of organic seeds available in the national database
- Varieties available are not always adapted for organic needs

# What about the IT organic seed production?

**Availability of organic seeds in the CREA-SCS database (tonns)**



# What about the IT organic seed production?

- Lack of awareness of consumers
- Organic seeds cost more than conventional but...
- The market does not give a prize to products obtained from organic seeds
- Producers are not so interested to purchase organic seeds
- Seeds companies are not so interested to produce organic seeds and populate the database

# Why the organic seed sector should be improved?

- ✓ How can the organic sector be reliable walking on such “conventional feet”?
- ✓ Organic is a different way to produce, it cannot be based on a plant breeding focused on the intensive agriculture needs
- ✓ Biodiversity only reached by improving the diversification of the cropping system and of the whole supply chain
- ✓ The sector cannot rely on derogation for ever. Consumers might be more aware in the future.

## What the Ministry has done?

- 2 “Organic Seed National Plan” have been funded
- Research projects have been supported
- A new informatic system has been introduced (National Decree n. 15130/2017)
- Group of experts supporting the functioning of the database (list of varieties)
- Stakeholders, researchers and autothorities are involved in the process
- Italy supported innovative rules in the new Organic regulation (Reg. 848/2018)



## Some news from Reg. (UE) n. 848/2018

- ✓ organic variety suitable for organic production means a variety which is characterized by a high level of genetic and phenotypical diversity between individual reproductive units.
- ✓ the organic breeding activities shall be conducted under organic conditions and shall focus on enhancement of genetic diversity, reliance on natural reproductive ability, as well as agronomic performance, disease resistance and adaptation to diverse local soil and climate conditions.

## Some news from Reg. (UE) n. 848/2018

- ✓ Research in the UE shows that there could be benefits of using on plant heterogeneous material, in particular with regard to organic production, for example to reduce the spread of diseases, to improve resilience and to increase biodiversity. (whereas n. 36)
- ✓ Introduction of simplified procedures to allow the production and the marketing of organic heterogeneous material of particular genera or species (implementing rules will be discussed in the next future)

# Conclusions

- ✓ **A new awareness within the EU and MSs Authorities towards the organic seed issue**
- ✓ **The Italian Ministry showed concrete efforts to improve the organic seed production**
- ✓ **A new database is ready**
- ✓ **A research project is currently on-going to support the process**
- ✓ **Possibility to share experiences and best practices at EU level**

# Conclusions

- **What we really need is that all the involved parties (especially seed producers and farmers) remain strongly committed to finalize the on-going process.**
- **We need to plan as soon as possible the first (sub)crops which can only be used as organic.**



**Thank you for your attention!**