CHALLENGES FOR ROYALTY COLLECTION IN ESTONIA

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- 31 seed producers
- 11 variety representatives
- ECRI
- KEVILI

➤ Board (7 members)
➤ Active manager

OUR MISSION:
To promote certified seed production and usage in Estonia
1. Contract between variety owner/representative and Estonian Seed Association
2. Seed Association collects data from farmers about their FSS use
3. Seed Association issues a FSS royalties invoice to the farmer based on collected data
4. Received payments are forwarded to variety representatives once a year
5. Each variety representative will receive information about their own varieties
FSS royalties collecting through Estonian Seed Association

- 8 contractual partners and Estonian Seed Association as an authorised representative (2019)

- Crops: cereals and pulses, oil crops, potatoes, lucerne

- The rates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop Type</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cereals and pulses (152 varieties)</td>
<td>3.00 EUR/ha</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oil crops (18)</td>
<td>5.80 EUR/ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potatoes (2)</td>
<td>25.60 EUR/ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alfalfa (2)</td>
<td>3.50 EUR/ha</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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- 25% Estonian PVP, 75% EU protected
The system: what works?

- Cooperation between variety representatives through the Seed Association; a joint message
- Continuously developing system exists
- Online declaration form + other options to share FSS data
- Legislative background (both EU and EST)
The challenges

- Knowledge of farmers
- Spreading information
- Principles and attitude of farmers towards handling seeds as a crucial input of production

- Traditionally high rate of FSS vs relatively new concept of PVP
- The usage of „black seed“ (brown bagged)
The challenges (2)

- Need to present overlapping information to different parties
- Unprotected varieties
- Foreign varieties vs breded in Estonia
- The transparency of the system
- Soft attitude toward collecting the royalties
Seed usage in most common crops production in Estonia (2019)

2019 declared FSS: 38,000 ha
Estimated real FSS use: 180,000 ha

Source: Statistics Estonia (crops general area), Estonian Seed Association (FSS data and estimates)
Conclusions

The amount of information and collected FSS fees is at the critical minimal level:

- To ensure breeders’ legal rights protection in Estonia and avoid loss of reputation for our country
- For Estonian farmers to have continuous access to new varieties and the best production input
- Thereby to guarantee the competitiveness of Estonian crop production
The future

• Collecting FSS royalties is breeders right and discussion continues to find the best way to implement it.

• Information from national databases

• Intensive increase of knowledge must be achieved

➢ Farmers look for more information on varieties, FSS fees, breeding, feedback – common knowledge about seed sector

• Individual contacts with farmers

• Legal possibilities to protect variety owners rights
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