Brief Introduction to Requirements for Production of Organic Seeds and Planting Material according to Regulation (EC) 834/2007\(^1\) and NOP

1. Scope:
   - This document applies to commercial production of seeds, seedlings and planting material.
   - Farms producing seeds or planting material for their own fields do not need a specific certification for this purpose.

2. Differences between standards:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certification scope</th>
<th>Regulation (EC) 834/2007 Inside the EU</th>
<th>NOP</th>
<th>JAS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organic seed database</td>
<td>Crop Production</td>
<td>Separate Scope &quot;Seeds&quot;</td>
<td>Crop Production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special authorisation before using conventional seeds</td>
<td>Exists</td>
<td>Does not exist</td>
<td>Does not exist</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Requirements that are different from (other) crop production:
   - NOP does not define any specific requirements for seed production or nurseries. Therefore, simply the crop production rules apply.
   - The EU Regulation exempts commercial seed producers or nurseries from the requirement of using organic seeds or planting material themselves.
   - The EU Regulation allows parallel production (same species or variety) for seed producers and nurseries – provided a reliable system exists for separation at all levels (fields – including rotational crops, inputs, equipment, storage, records).
   - All the other requirements for crop production apply, particularly prohibition of GM crops, and of chemical seed dressings.

4. Documentation:
   - Recordkeeping requirements for seed producers and nurseries are higher than for a normal farm – especially when the company has parallel production.

\(1\) Inside the EU, the Regulation has to be implemented in a "conform" way (1:1), while outside the EU; it can be implemented only in an "equivalent" way. Please refer to the CERES document 4.1.1 for further details.

Please be aware that this is only a selection of essential requirements of the organic standard, meant as an introduction. The operator, of course, has to learn about and meet all requirements of the respective standard.