

# Citizens' summary

## New EU Plant Reproductive Material Law

### WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

- Seeds, young plants, tubers and other types of "plant reproductive material" are fundamental to our future food supplies and, more widely to the productivity, diversity, and quality of all plant crops – in agriculture, horticulture, vineyards and forestry.
- EU legislation on how these items are traded needs to be simplified, updated and brought into line with other EU policies, by:
  - **improving registration procedures** – to ensure different varieties can be reliably identified and, in the case of agricultural crops, are suitable for cultivation and use
  - **strengthening certification and inspection**, to protect the identity, quality and health of plant reproductive material
  - **cutting red tape and costs** by making the rules more flexible and efficient across the EU  
making the **rules more compatible with policy aims** such as sustainable intensification of agriculture and biodiversity.

### WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED?

The new law will :

- replace 12 Directives with a single Regulation
- grant more responsibility and flexibility to businesses dealing in plant reproductive material
- enhance biodiversity and opportunities for niche markets through less stringent requirements for old varieties and heterogenous plant material, and for small local producers
- steer plant breeding towards environmental aims
- streamline administrative procedures to support innovation
- establish a level playing field by introducing the principle of cost recovery.

### WHO WILL BENEFIT?

All plant breeders, farmers, growers, horticulturists, gardeners, foresters, competent authorities and consumers.

### **WHY DOES ACTION HAVE TO BE TAKEN BY THE EU?**

- The EU is best placed to harmonise legislation on plant reproductive material and so ensure a level playing field for businesses across the EU
- The existence of European legislation since the 1960s has helped the EU become one of the world's biggest exporter of seed. Updated laws support it to maintain that position.

### **WHEN IS THE PROPOSAL LIKELY TO COME INTO EFFECT?**

- 2016.