

Training in crop conservation and plant-improvement.

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I have spent most of my life in a rich, densely populated and industrialized country. Crop failure is no matter of life or death, landraces are scarce and the seed industry supplies most of the demand. Hybrid varieties are much in use and their share in the seed trade is increasing. I was brought up in a backyard garden for self supply, ran a market garden for organic vegetable seed production and got a PhD in plant breeding. My main topics in research are site specific adaptation and strategies in organic breeding.

It is a common concern of many of us to develop means to pass on knowledge. As an introduction to the input I will present at our workshop you find below the major topics we have touched during a European meeting a year ago. In the meantime new ideas came up: 1) Arranging common workshops centered on conservation and breeding of one crop. 2) Arranging mutual visits and journeys for educational purposes.

Please bring along any material you employ in teaching and exchange!

Let's Liberate Diversity

3rd European Seed Seminar Halle / Saale, Germany, 19.-20.5.2007

Working Group 6: Practical training in reproducing seeds

Moderation: Bernd Horneburg

15 to 20 people from rather different settings took part in the workshop. The range covered by our clients is marked by the extremes

a) Communities with a lot of conscious and intuitive knowledge in handling seeds in daily life, and

b) people who have not been involved in farming or gardening in the past and want to learn how to grow crops and how to save seeds simultaneously.

Our group has a wide range of experiences in training. Training is often done in mutual exchange. We want to stress the importance that our work is no expert knowledge.

We established a permanent working group on our topic. If you want to join in, please contact

Peter Zipser, Arche Noah, Austria, peter.zipser@arche-noah.at ;

Helena Sanchez Giraldes, Heritage Seed Library, England, Hsanchez-giraldes@hdra.org.uk or

Bernd Horneburg, University of Göttingen, Germany, bhorneb@gwdg.de

The following list gives an overview on topics of major importance to us:

International co-operation and free flow of knowledge	Coopération internationale et la libre transmission de savoir vivre
Recuperating traditional knowledge	Prendre comme base les savoirs traditionnelles
Use or create a partnership based on sustainability	Utiliser et créer un partenariat sur du long terme
Pollination biology	La biologie de pollunation
Selection methods	Methodes de sélection
Improving food quality	Améliorer la qualité alimentaire
Crop morphology	Morphologie des plantes
Population size and population dynamics	La quantité et la dynamique de population
Seed transmitted pathogens	La contamination de la semence par pathogene
Seed production of individual crops	La production de semence des differentes espèces
Methodology of field trials	La methodologie des experiences en champs
Information for farmers and consumers	Informers les paysans et les consommateurs
Legal training	???