

Workshop Phase 1

WS 1 - Open Source Seeds/Seeds as Commons (english)

Jack Kloppenburg, OSSi Project, USA
Johannes Kotschi, Agrecol, Germany

Through the millennia seeds were widely shared in an open access commons. The availability of seeds to farmers and breeders is now increasingly restricted by intellectual property rights and contracts. This Working Space will address the way in which "open source" mechanisms might be used to recover broad access to plant genetic materials and to provide "freed" seeds as an alternative to use-restricted corporate seed. The experiences of open source seed initiatives in Germany and the USA, and their relevance to the Global South, will be discussed.

WS 2 - G7 „New Alliance“ and the Situation in Africa (english)

Famara Diédhiou, FAHAMU, Senegal
Abdallah Mkindi, TABIO, Tanzania

In Africa the struggle about Seed is growing more acute. The "New Alliance for Nutrition and Food Security" is a program of the G7 to promote industrial agriculture and a driving force in this. In this workshop the current developments in the struggle for seed and agriculture will be shown as well as the resistance of the panafrican network AFSA "Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa".

WS 3 - „Seeds from Field to Table“ - raising consumer awareness (german)

Anke Kähler, Peter Plaumann
Die Bäcker, Germany

There is no food sovereignty without seed sovereignty. How can systemic and structural constraints to the distribution of reproducible and locally adapted seed be overcome? Development of „chains of appreciation“ on the example of ecologically bred grain varieties and bread.

WS 4 - Community Seed Systems- participative breeding (english/german)

In many countries farmers - often with the support of scientists - got together, organized themselves and developed systems for the conservation and distribution of a huge diversity of seeds. Often the so formed organizations also work on an improvement of cultivation methods and the socio-economic situation of small-scale farmers. In this workshop the diversity of great projects will be presented:

Farida Akhter, UBINIG Bangladesh

The Nayakrishi Andolon, a biodiversity-based farming system is based on a very strong community seed wealth network with seed huts in the villages and specialized knowledge for collection, preservation and regeneration of local variety seeds. The presentation will highlight the activities and how it has helped farmers' movement for preserving biodiversity and to build resistance against GMOs.

Chito Medina, MASIPAG

For MASIPAG, rice is life. In 1980s, the glaring spread of rural poverty in the Philippines prompted NGOs and a group of progressive scientists to initiate nationwide consultations with farmers. Here MASIPAG was born and its first project was born primarily to break the control of local as well as multinational fertilizer and pesticide companies, multi-lateral rice research institutes and distribution cartels over the rice industry. Over the last 17 years, MASIPAG has been at the forefront of development struggles in the Philippines pursuing, among other things, a holistic approach to development, community empowerment, and people's control over agricultural biodiversity as a contribution in the over-all effort of improving the quality of life of small farmers.

WS 4 - Community Seed Systems- participative breeding (english/german)

Debal Deb, Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, India

Seeds, Commons, Freedom and Sustainability –these are the issues of the projects „Vrihi“ (the largest non-governmental folk rice gene-bank in India) and the „Basudha“ Research Farm in Odisha (West-Bengal), where a team of farmers, activists, scientists and students works together to conserve India’s vanishing rice varieties; to demonstrate and support organic farming and traditional methods of multiple cropping; to research in the use of uncultivated foods from the wild; to research and document ecoforestry practices and to preserve and develop local knowledge of biodiversity and its uses.

WS 5 - Seed Saving Networks and Initiatives in Europe (german)

Susanne Gura VEN, Germany

Cornelia Lehmann VERN, Germany

Iga Niznik u. Mara Müller, Arche Noah, Austria

Sustainable use of the diversity of cultivated plants means cooperation in the exchange and development of varieties, knowledge and practical skills. Different examples of approaches on the cooperation of seed-savers will be showed and discussed here. Informationmaterial of the participants can be shown.

Susanne Gura (Dachverband Kulturpflanzen- und Nutztiervielfalt www.kulturpflanzen-nutztiervielfalt.de und Verein zur Erhaltung der Nutzpflanzenvielfalt (VEN, www.nutzpflanzenvielfalt.de),

Mara Müller und **Iga Niznik** Arche Noah Österreich, www.arche-noah.at,

Cornelia Lehmann Verein zur Erhaltung und Rekultivierung der Nutzpflanzen in Brandenburg (VERN, www.vern.de)

WS 6 - Current developments of the Indian Seed Market (english)

Prof. Ramachandran, Indian Statistical Institute, India

The Workshop of Prof. **Ramachandran** will deal with four themes: the struggle for productivity in agriculture, the importance of seeds and seed diversity, the rising costs of seeds of major agricultural crops in India, and three main features of seed diversity in the present era and the implications of these features for public policy.

Workshop Phase 2

WS 1 - Ecoseeds and Breeding: area of conflict between economy and legislation (german)

Gebhard Rossmann, Bingenheimer Saatgut Inc., Germany

Seeds in Europe are usually sold by specialists (seed companies), especially in vegetable farming there is practically no more self-supply; even so in organic agriculture. This results in a high degree of dependence which is steadily growing. For organic agriculture there is another aggravating factor: the use of breeding techniques that contradict its principles. The economic pressure on farms (and trade) reduces the view on varieties to appearance while other values are neglected – discussions on this issue are often suppressed. But this discourse must happen with everybody: producers to consumers. Organic agriculture has to find a way out of the the end it got into and this way can only be found in organic breeding. For this partnerships all along the supply-chain are needed as well as an appropriate seed-legislation (which the current is not). From these issues demands of organic breeders can be derived.

WS 2 - GMO Situation and Resistance (german)

Benedikt Härlin, SaveOurSeeds, Germany

There is not a great diversity of genetically modified seed around globally. GMO probably account for 15 percent of the global acreage world wide with soya and maize, cotton and some oilseed rape accounting for over 90 % in just a very few countries. However, these GMOs jeopardize the free exchange of seed, threaten to contaminate organic and certified non-gm produce, thus increasing their price. They have contaminated entire landscapes such as the Canadian prairies, where non gm-oilseed can no longer be grown. Finally, GMOs are the entry point of exclusive patent rights into the seed market and are owned by a handful of monopolies.

WS 3 - Seed Regulation and Alternatives to UPOV (english)

Suman Sahai, Gene Campaign, India
Susanne Gura, Aprebes, Germany

The workshop will discuss the ways in which countries are putting in place frameworks to regulate the seed trade, trying to walk the tightrope between the interests of farmers and breeders. The existing regulatory space will be described and specific examples like India will be discussed to unbundle the issues and conflicts. Specific alternatives to UPOV, like the CoFaB proposed by Gene Campaign and some of the propositions of APBEBES will explore the potential for mainstreaming the rights of farmers over their contribution to the development of new varieties

WS 4 - Community Seed Systems (english/german)

Abdallah Ramadhani Mkindi, TABIO, Tanzania

The presentation will dwell much on community (informal seed) systems, its strengths and the challenges it is facing. It will also touch the opportunities for strengthening community seed banking as solution and alternative. Seed laws issues might also be touched especially when I will be talking about quality declared seeds.

Shamika Mone, Organic Farming Association, India

My presentation involves documentation of seed keepers from 14 of states in India. This seed catalogue (recently published) is not an exhaustive compilation but is first of its kind for enhancing the exchange of traditional seeds among the organic farmers. The slides give brief

background descriptions of the seed keepers and the diversity that exists among the crops as

well as the seed keepers within India. I have analysed each seed keeper with a SWOT-analysis describing their strengths and weakness/ limitations and how such diversity within seed keepers have helped to strengthen the national seed movement. It involves some cases of community seed breeding as well.

Anja Christinck, seed4change, Germany

Farmers and 'scientific' plant breeders have different and highly complementary knowledge and skills. Basing a cooperation on collaborative advantages and institutional change can lead much further than what any one of these groups could achieve alone. This will be illustrated with examples from sorghum breeding in West Africa.

WS 5 - „ Seeds of Freedom“ Global Networks for Seedsouverignty (english)

Ruchi Shroff, Navdanya International, Italy

At the local level, hundreds of communities, networks and organizations and millions of seed keepers and seed defenders are saving seeds, working to protect and keep seeds free and fighting laws that undermine our seed sovereignty. However, at the global level, corporate control is trying to shape the future of seed. The Seed Freedom movement is working towards 'connecting the dots' of the many voices around the globe to add strength to the movement, to keep the seed free and scale up these responses through alliance building, campaigning, capacity building and establishing community seed banks. Through this increased strength it aims to create responses through geographic as well as issue based integration and thus generate new democratic energy among movements by joining forces.

WS 6 - Seeds as Commons - promoting the alternative agriculture (english)

Debal Deb, Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, India

Vinod Kosthi, RLS office Delhi, India

Those who till the land do not own it and those who sow the seeds do not have the control over it. A few hands dictate the lives of the millions and those who feed the entire planet do not have enough to eat.

Are we able to organize peasants and farmers collective in response to the neo-liberal attack on their lives, culture and agriculture? Is there a gap between our efforts and grassroots realities? How did farmers organize themselves at the same time in their own innovative way to resist and to redefine their agri-culture? Seeds provide a good framework to explore and discuss some of these questions in brief.