

Introduction:

Seed laws in Europe are to be changed in 2011. The seed industry wants to secure intellectual property rights and the possibility of patenting its crop varieties. It also seeks to benefit from a stronger control or even a prohibit all farmers' non-registered varieties. Both aspects will affect the diversity of agricultural crops. Currently, a large amount of traditional varieties are disappearing. It is estimated that 75% of plant genetic diversity has been lost since 1900. The new proposed Seed Legislation will intensify this trend.

The Project:

To stop the decline of agricultural crop diversity, we are starting a European seed-project.

Starting in spring 2011, young people from different European countries will explore the biodiversity of agricultural crops in Europe. We will research traditional and rare varieties of agricultural crops from different countries and cultivate these plants using ecologically sound practices in many different places in Europe.

We will also research the current situation of seed policy in the different European countries and how the European seed policy influences the variety of agricultural crops. Moreover we will discuss the standardization of the seed legislation that is planned at the EU level for 2011.

In several European cities (currently Lisbon, Barcelona, Göttingen, Witzenhausen, Brussels) we are planning information Campaigns (action days, seed exchanges, debates).

Through our monthly newsletter, we will give updates on our research and developments, as well as share the experiences of our own garden projects. Two delegates of each group attend Europe-wide events about 'Diversity in Agriculture', such as the 6th Annual Meeting of the European Seed Association in Szeged / Hungary and the Day of Action for European Seed Sovereignty in Brussels.

A seed exchange camp will take place in October, near Barcelona. For a week long, young people will engage in workshops around the issues of seed policy, crop diversity and seed sovereignty.

Moreover, the participants will have the opportunity to exchange the seeds that have been harvested in the end of the season.

Background:

The European seed legislation aims towards becoming a standard for all European countries in 2011. 10 companies, among them Bayer, Monsanto, Syngenta und Limagrain already control 67% of the world commercial seed market. They no longer want to miss the remaining market share, when they have the possibility to impose their registered varieties - which usually only thrive with the help of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and irrigation - upon the rest of the world.

However, it is not these

genetically homogeneous industrial seed varieties which will be able to feed the world in the future, but the diverse, regional varieties which are able to adapt to climate change.



We want diversity on our fields and on our plates! Let's sow resistance against the monopolization and privatization of seeds !

By nature seeds are nomadic, let us help them to travel!