



4/5/6th September 2025

FARM to FORK SEED to PLATE

Regional seeds and varieties
for the future of our food

FINAL REPORT



SUMMARY



Let's Liberate Diversity! Forum: a growing community

Conference / Farm to Fork – Seed to Plate

Regional Seeds and Varieties for the Future of our Food

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Diversity Fair

Field Visit / Vegetable seed production

at the LTA, André Zewen's Farm and LUGA

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#Credits

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Let's Liberate Diversity! Forum: a growing community

From September 4–6, Luxembourg hosted the 14th edition of Let's Liberate Diversity! Forum, which brought together more than 120 participants from over 20 countries across Europe and beyond. Over the course of three days, the Forum featured a rich program with contributions from more than 50 speakers, including farmers, researchers, academics, and representatives of NGOs.

Day 0: Let's Liberate Diversity! General Assembly

The opening day was dedicated to the General Assembly of the European Coordination Let's Liberate Diversity! (EC-LLD).

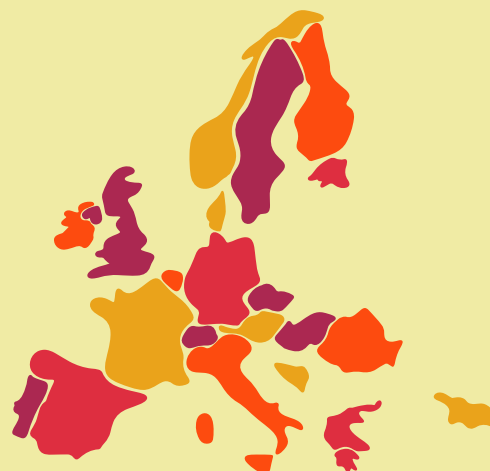
Highlights included the adoption

of a new statute, the launch of upcoming initiatives on European seed legislation reform, the presentation of new projects and partnerships, and the welcoming of a new member: Polerani, a seed saver organisation from Bulgaria. With this addition, EC-LLD now brings together members from 23 countries.

Day 1: The start of the 14th Let's Liberate Diversity! Forum! with workshops and a first social dinner

From the second day onward, the Forum came alive with its symbolic ritual: the handover between the 2024 and 2025 editions. This year, the gesture was marked by the passage of a maize cob from

► p.4



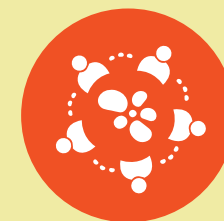
Who we are

The European Coordination Let's Liberate Diversity (EC-LLD!) is an international nonprofit organization dedicated to the **dynamic management of plant genetic resources** for food and agriculture. Our core belief is that the **diversification** of our food systems can be achieved through the collaborative efforts of various stakeholders involved in **cultivated biodiversity**.

As an influential platform, EC-LLD! serves as a unique space for facilitating the **exchange of practices and information** among farmers, seed savers, NGO members, and emerging small enterprises, fostering local actions on agrobiodiversity and promoting participatory dialogues.

The Coordination boasts a robust network of **23 members** with a network of **170 national organizations** operating across 20 European countries with a membership base exceeding **35,000**.

In collaboration with approximately **15,000 farmers**, we actively engage in the conservation and management of around **40,000 plant varieties**.



Maxime Schmitt, representing MSPM and host of the 2024 edition, to Frank Adams of SEED Luxembourg, co-organizer of the 2025 Forum.

The 2024 French edition, held alongside the “Sème Ta Résistance” event, had welcomed more than 500 participants, you can see the full report of the previous edition here. This year’s program featured 18 workshops, offering a wide range of spaces for exchange and learning. Farmers, researchers, seed savers, activists, and policymakers came together to explore pressing issues such as European legislation, the implications of new genomic techniques (NGTs), and strategies to strengthen seed sovereignty and biodiversity. The workshops combined practical experiences from the field with policy discussions and collective reflections, creating opportunities to share knowledge, build alliances, and set future priorities, including through the launch of a global survey designed to map

the ecosystem of actors working on farmers’ seeds. Beyond the workshop sessions, participants also enjoyed moments of conviviality, including a shared social dinner that strengthened connections and celebrated the spirit of the Forum.

Day 2: Morning workshops, tastings, and a diversity market

The second day of the Forum closed in the morning with the workshop sessions and an open circle for sharing outcomes and next steps. In the afternoon, panel tests, tastings, and the diversity market took place. We were honored by the presence of Luxembourg’s Minister of Agriculture, M. Hansen, who took part in the activities and met with producers.

Participants joined guided tastings of local apple varieties from Switzerland and Luxembourg, sampled beers brewed with traditional grains, explored seven varieties of legumes, and enjoyed Gentil Pasta made with local Tuscan cereals—turning theory

into a tangible experience of agrobiodiversity. Many of these foods not only help preserve agricultural biodiversity in the fields but are also nutritionally superior. In fact, numerous scientific publications confirm that flours from local grains have beneficial health properties, particularly for people with diabetes. Meanwhile, a lively market featuring more than 25 producers further showcased the richness of Luxembourg’s local and traditional products.

Day 2: Closing the day with the conference “ Patents Vs Biodiversity”

Alongside the workshop discussions, the day celebrated how cultivated biodiversity can reach our plates. A public conference addressed the timely and contested theme of “Patents vs. Biodiversity.”

The event provided a space for dialogue among farmers, legal experts, researchers, and civil society, examining the growing tension between intellectual

property regimes and the collective stewardship of seeds and genetic resources. The debate highlighted the risks that restrictive patents pose to farmers’ rights and food sovereignty, while also showcasing avenues for advocacy and collaboration to protect biodiversity as a common good.

Day 3: Field Visits and Goodbyes

The final day of the Forum took participants out into the field, with visits to the hosting Agricultural Technical High School and a local seed company. These encounters added a practical dimension to the discussions.

As the Forum drew to a close, attention turned from the program itself to the spirit that animated it. Beyond the discussions, workshops, and field visits, convivial moments, shared meals, informal exchanges, and celebrations, proved essential for fostering collaborations, building common narratives, and giving new energy to the movement.





Extraordinary Assembly
Luxembourg, September 3rd 2025



**The next edition will take place on 22nd–24th May 2026
in Scandicci (Florence), hosted by Rete Semi Rurali.
We look forward to seeing you there!**

Conference / Farm to Fork – Seed to Plate

Regional Seeds and Varieties for the Future of our Food

*The conference **Patent Rights versus Biodiversity** aimed to provide information on the future of seeds and thus of food production at a time when the need to preserve regional varietal diversity is more important than ever.*

The session began with four keynote speeches. **Riccardo Bocci** (RSR, ECLLD) spoke about the relationship between crop diversity, regional seed systems and participatory plant breeding.

Stephanie Klaedtke (ITAB) discussed the extent to which on-farm plant breeding and seed propagation represent a perspective for agroecological food production that can ensure long-term harvest security and food quality.

Christophe Golay (Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights) referred to the rights of peasants as defined by the United Nations, and the pressure they face from international free trade agreements and seed laws.

Magdalena Prieler (Arche Noah) described the tension between the market rules for seeds and the work for crop diversity by organisations, farmers and gardeners against the background of the planned legal reform for the marketing of seeds in the European Union.

Following speeches, the session moved on to a panel discussion with representatives from the cereal, fruit and vegetable sectors from different European countries. Questions touched on regional diversity, plant and seed health, variety development, agroecology, practical experiences and economic aspects.



**PowerPoint
Presentations
[here](#) and [here](#)**

████████████████████

Who participated – occupation:

Employed: 29

Self-employed: 14

Researcher: 25

Farmer: 20

Teacher/Professor: 8

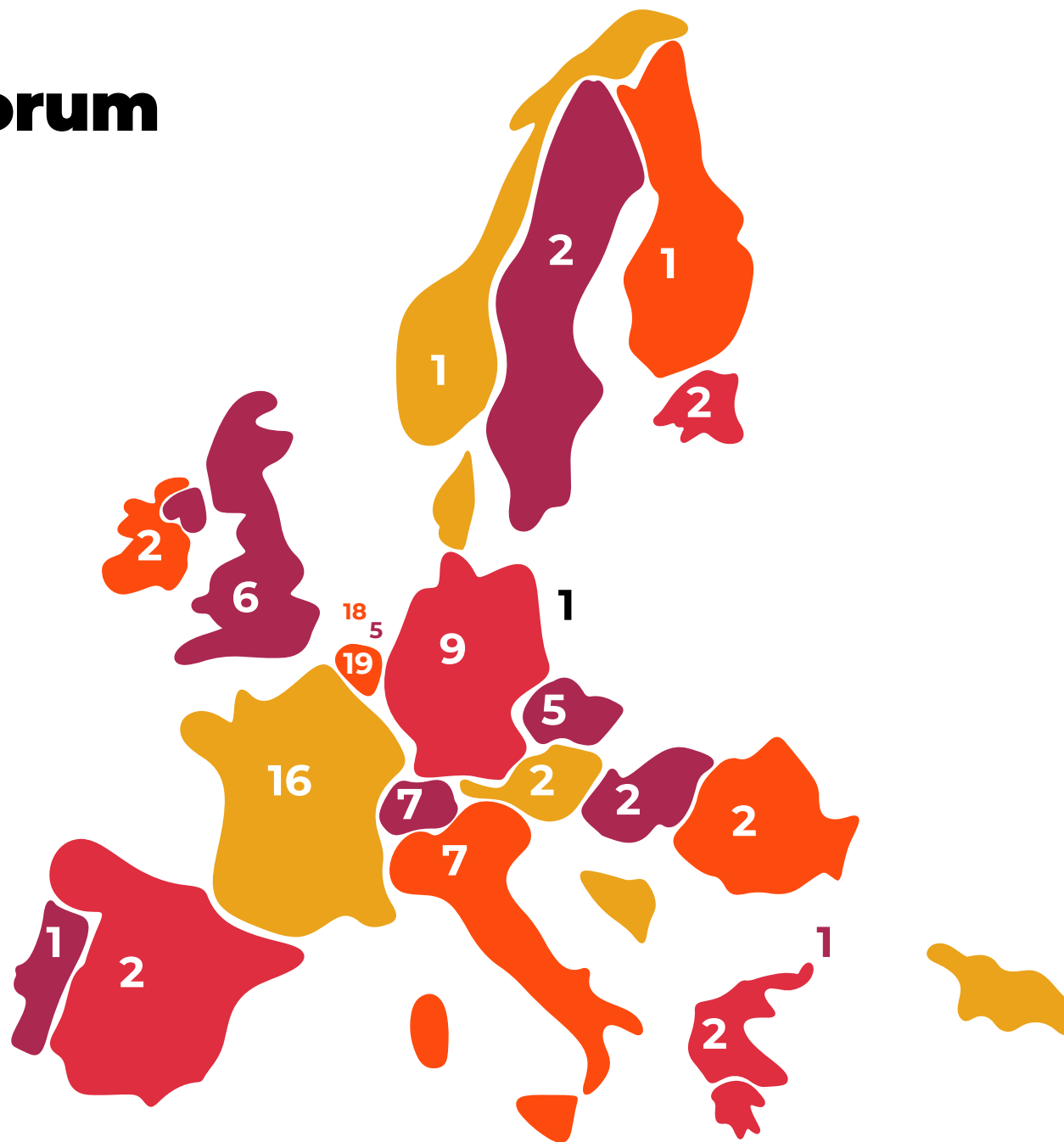
Advisor: 10

Policy-maker: 1

Student: 4

Others: 23

Among the 23 “Others” entries, roles clustered around breeding & genetic resources (e.g., breeders, seed producers, genebank managers; n=7), media/communications (n=4), community seed/garden participation (n=4), NGO/civil society leadership (n=3), project/programme management (n=2), technical agronomy (n=2), and philanthropy (n=1).



Diversity Fair

The **Diversity Fair** took place at the Lycée Technique Agricole in Luxembourg on the 5th September 2025.

The fair showcased a wide range of European initiatives, from seed networks and community gardens to agroecology, traditional varieties, sustainable food systems, and educational projects.

We were honored to welcome Minister of Agriculture, Food, and Viticulture **M. Hansen** to the event.



Field Visit / Vegetable seed production

at the LTA, André Zewen's Farm and LUGA

Forum participants were taken to visit the **organic vegetable seed production at the LTA**, which began in 2012. The seeds were initially used for educational purposes in class and for internal use, as well as being distributed to amateur gardeners in Luxembourg. Since 2021, organic vegetable seeds have been produced for professional market gardeners. The project 'From Seed to Plate' is supported by various Luxembourg ministries, the Interreg project IMAGINE and the Œuvre Nationale de Secours Grande-Duchesse Charlotte.

The second half of the field trips took participants to **André Zewen's walnut farm**. On 23 hectares of land, Zewen has planted 1,150 walnut trees. In a context where climate change is upsetting the ecological balance, Zewen remains committed to organic farming and biodiversity.

He refuses to use chemical treatments, including copper, even though it is authorised in organic farming. This stance is grounded on a holistic approach to farming which includes the wellbeing of his flock of sheep, the health of the soil and the ability to offer healthy products.



Tasting / Participatory tasting of local legumes varieties

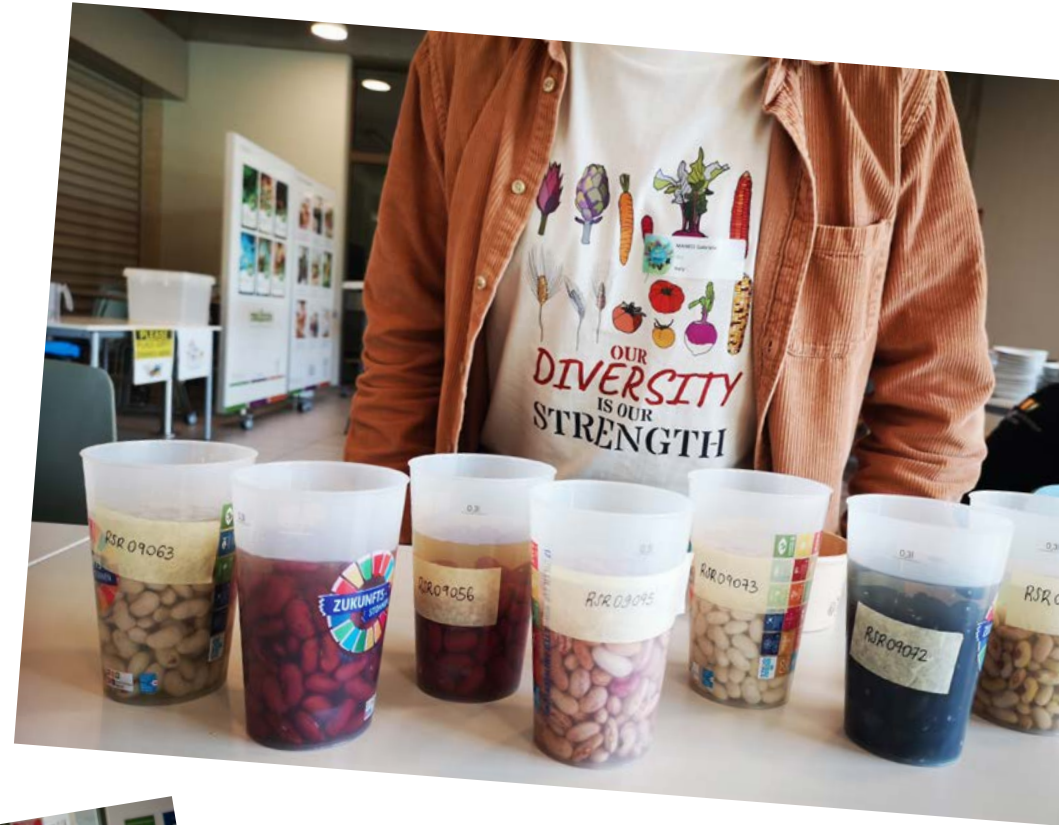
*Guided by **Rachele Stentella (RSR)** participants assessed the culinary properties of six common bean accessions under on-farm evaluation.*

The accessions had been selected following a year-long evaluation of stress susceptibility, abiotic and biotic damage (from pests, fungi, bacteria and viruses), and grain yield.

Beans were evaluated along six parameters: seed coat resistance, texture (structural parameter), flavour, persistence (taste parameters), aroma (olfactory parameter) and colour (visual parameter). Participants discussed their perceptions (a bit too much)! Some varieties were very well appreciated, with some participants requesting to collaborate in the multiplication of the accessions.

Conducting hedonic tests in this context provided the opportunity to involve “expert” panelists and generate more reliable data. Furthermore, interaction between participants allowed for the refinement of the panel methodology and the exchange of information on genotypes. It also served to close the circle from seed to plate, and emphasised the importance of the supply chain in supporting diversified seed systems and added value to the work of participating institutions.

This methodology could also be useful for evaluating heterogeneous material, since it allows us to evaluate how its taste characteristics vary from year to year in line with adaptation dynamics in the field.



**PowerPoint
Presentation
[here](#)**



14th Let's Liberate Diversity! Forum
Final report 2025

Tasting / Viva la Pasta

Discover Local Italian Wheat Varieties

Viva la Pasta is a project born from the alliance of several Tuscan farms that, building on the recognition gained at the European level through their work with “resilient cereals”, are stepping forward once again to share innovative ideas and practices.

Their aim is to promote conscious access to food that is healthy, nutritious, environmentally friendly, and rooted in participatory relationships from seed selection to the plate.

The LLD Forum hosted the project's first public appearance, which provided project contributors with the opportunity to meet the public through talks and dedicated pasta tastings, and welcomed other producers who share the values behind.



Workshops

Summaries and main outcomes

Networks and movement building

Seed Policy and legal Framework

Technical Practices &
On-farm management



WS1. EU seed law reform: How to support small seed producers' large contribution to cultivated biodiversity?



WS1. EU seed law reform: How to support small seed producers' large contribution to cultivated biodiversity?

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

This workshop empowered participants to understand and influence the EU seed law reform. While current proposals risk marginalizing nano-enterprises, informal seed systems, and biodiversity, the legislative process remains ongoing—and participation is urgently needed.

Through interactive scenario work and collective storytelling, we explored how legal definitions and regulatory burdens impact real actors across the seed system.

Participants imagined worst- and best-case futures, and identified concrete steps toward inclusive, biodiversity-friendly regulation.

The goal was to improve access to information, foster stronger engagement, and motivate people to act—whether through advocacy, legal input, or grassroots organizing. By the end, participants left informed, inspired, and connected to a shared vision for seed sovereignty in Europe.



Speakers

Magdalena Prieler (Archenoah)

Paul Grabenberger (Archenoah)

Susanne Gura (DKNV)

Organizers



WS2. The UN Declaration of the Rights of Peasants (UNDROP): how to realise the right to seeds in seed policies



WS2. The UN Declaration of the Rights of Peasants (UNDROP): how to realise the right to seeds in seed policies?

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

Starting with an overview of the laws, regulations, and policies impacting seed use in the EU, the speakers provided a historical account of the development and adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants (UNDROP). They then examined specific provisions regarding the right to seeds, and described the latest developments in the implementation of UNDROP.

The speakers then presented the newly launched European Citizens' Initiative for the right to food, which includes demands related to seed policy. The discussion then focused on the ongoing reform of the EU seed marketing rules. The speakers analysed how current legislation, the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council of the EU define farmer seed systems, agrobiodiversity conservation, and market pathways.

Participants were invited to reflect on the potential opportunities and challenges in implementing UNDROP within this context. They agreed that awareness of the UNDROP and its provisions on the right to seeds is growing. However, the concrete implications of these provisions are still not fully understood by many actors largely due to the complexity of the legal landscape. The European Citizens' Initiative on the right to food was seen as a possible way to address policy fragmentation and incoherence.

The discussion highlighted the importance of linking peasant rights to food sovereignty and clarifying State obligations within the framework of existing international agreements as a promising pathway for future progress.



Speakers

*Christophe Golay
(Geneva Academy)
Fulya Batur
Guy Kastler (ECVC)*



**PowerPoint
Presentation
[here](#)**

Organizers



WS3. Don't waste your efforts! **How to foster technical seed** **quality?**



WS3. Don't waste your efforts! How to foster technical seed quality?

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

This 3rd edition of the workshop showed a continuing interest in seed drying and conservation practices. Stephanie Klaedtke began with a presentation touching on seed aging, drying and storage to provide attendees with some background knowledge. In particular, the presentation covered testing and preserving seed vigour, seed aging processes and consequences for seedlings, optimal moisture levels and other storage conditions, as well as drying methods. Following this presentation, the workshop was divided into subgroups that addressed some of the topics that had come up when participants introduced themselves at the start of the workshop. The topics included: seed quality for low-tech

and medium scale enterprises, harvest and post-harvest considerations, and pest control.

Both the presentation with theoretical background knowledge and the knowledge exchange among participants led to fruitful discussions and learning. The organisers also learned from participants' contributions and exchanges, and ideas for future experimentation (e.g. on the control of bruchids) were collected.



Speakers

Sophie Quié (RSP)

*Stephanie Klaedtke
(ITAB)*



**PowerPoint
Presentation**
[here](#)

Organizers



WS4. Seeds and Sovereignty: What's Happening in Global Policy?



WS4. Seeds and Sovereignty: What's Happening in Global Policy?

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

The objective of the workshop Seeds and Sovereignty: What's Happening in Global Policy? was to help participants understand the stakes, opportunities, and challenges in engaging with these processes, and to foster a collective discussion on strategies for advocacy, collaboration, and influence at the international level.

The session began with a deep dive into the major international negotiations shaping the future of farmers' seeds and cultivated biodiversity. Led by Gabriele Maneo (ECLLD) and François Meienberg (ProSpecieRara), the session covered the current status and evolving dynamics of key policy

frameworks, including the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), the Treaty's Multilateral System, and the Global Plan of Action of the Commission for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

With this policy context in mind, they examined how these international agreements influence national and local seed policies, access and benefit-sharing arrangements, and farmers' rights. Following the presentation, the session opened up the stage for participants to exchange their views, providing opportunities to share experiences, raise critical questions, and identify entry points for coordinated civil society and farmers' engagement in these global policy arenas.



Speakers

Francois Meienberg
(Pro Specie Rara)

Gabriele Maneo (EC-LLD!)



**PowerPoint
Presentation**
[here](#)

Organizers



WS5. Seed Health, Plant Health



WS5. Seed Health, Plant Health

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

At the start of the session, the organisers presented the MARAQUAS-BIO project in France, which will start in 2026 and focus on seed health and quality of organic and farmers' seed with a participatory approach. Participants were first encouraged to reflect on the meaning of a 'systemic approach' to seed and plant health, and then shared their thoughts. Organisers Sophie and Stephanie gave four topics - evaluating seed and plant health, ensuring seed health in seed networks, seed testing and treatments, and caring for healthy soils - around which discussion groups were formed. Additionally, one participant proposed the topic 'selecting for plant health and resistance on-farm'. Susanne Gura also gave a presentation on risk management in industrial agriculture using an example from EU Plant Health Policy and the Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus (ToBRFV).

Finally, Gaspard de Tournemire presented findings from the SemAVie project regarding the importance of seed microbiota for better management of common bean blight.

The high number of participants, much higher than expected, shows a great interest of participating seed growers in the topic of seed and plant health. The 5 key topics which emerged from this workshop could be taken up for more detailed discussion in future workshops or projects, or probably even constitute topics for dedicated workshops.



Speakers

*Gaspard de Tournemire
(ITAB)*

Sophie Quie (RSP)

Stephanie Klaedtke (ITAB)

Susanne Gura (DKNV)



**PowerPoint
Presentations
[here](#)
and [here](#)**

Organizers



WS6. Local Food Policies for Cultivated Biodiversity: From Vision to Action



WS6. Local Food Policies for Cultivated Biodiversity: From Vision to Action

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

The main objective of this workshop was to contribute to the development of local food policies that integrate cultivated biodiversity in European municipalities. Participants were introduced to the content and collaborative process behind the Granollers Manifesto “Fostering Cultivated Biodiversity in European Municipalities”, which was launched in April 2025. They learned about the process and results behind the Manifesto and were invited to work in groups to co-develop local roadmaps to activate food policies that promote cultivated biodiversity in their own contexts.

The session moved into a space for collective reflection, where participants explored how social movements can help shape local roadmaps to catalyse municipal action.

The goal was to strengthen alliances and foster a shared strategy to make cultivated biodiversity a political and practical priority in sustainable food systems at the local level.

By combining information, inspiration and exchange, the workshop aimed to empower actors working on food and biodiversity to connect local initiatives with broader policy frameworks and accelerate the agroecological transition of food systems.



Speakers

Cyrille Pacteau (RSP), Francesca Gori (RSR)

Judit Fehér (KVANN), Maria Carrascosa (Red De Municipio per la Agroecologia)

Organizers



WS7. From Grassroots to Policy: Strengthening Global Farmers Seed Networks



WS7. From Grassroots to Policy: Strengthening Global Farmers Seed Networks

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

The session was run simultaneously online and in-person. Online participants contributed via a shared Miro board, while in-room participants wrote on physical post-its. The workshop was co-organised by the European Coordination Let's Liberate Diversity!, IFOAM Seed Platform, Oxfam Novib, Seeds4All, Going to Seed, Farmer Seed Network China and Farmer Seed Network Kenya.

This workshop surfaced a coherent, practice-oriented rationale for a global seed network and a largely consistent set of expectations and contributions. Participants emphasized wanting a global seed network to exchange knowledge and practices, for collective advocacy and policy influence, and for movement cohesion and visibility. Participants wanted to prioritise advocacy and policy outputs such as joint campaigns or policy

recognition, as well as a seed-system outcomes (e.g., global seed exchange).

The general consensus was that maintaining the network would require mostly online efforts combining emails/newsletters, social media, moderated forums and shared document workspaces. Multiple ways to organise were discussed, including multi-level coordination with safeguards against centralisation, thematic working groups with rotations, shared information infrastructure and equitable participation rules.



Speakers

Adèle Pautrat (Seeds4All)

Julia Dakin (Going to Seed)

Nout Van Der Vaart (Oxfam Novib)

Gabriele Maneo (EC-LLD!)



**PowerPoint
Presentation
[here](#)**

Organizers



WS8. Climate resilience and pesticide reduction through organic breeding



WS8. Climate resilience and pesticide reduction through organic breeding

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

In the workshop were presented the concept of organic breeding, dynamic seed management and various examples of how organic breeding and dynamic seed management can strengthen each other.

What we aim for is co-creation of innovative solutions. For example the dynamic adaptability to biotic and abiotic stresses. Plant health is the result of a complex of disease pressure, mineral availability and soil health dynamics, weather conditions and farming practices (such as soil preparation, manuring, intercropping, green manure, and crop rotation. Participatory approaches allow a better evaluation as it brings together more and broader knowledge (different types of knowledge, perspectives and experiences, farmer based and science based).

Hence participatory breeding is social innovation.

An alternative narrative on plant breeding is needed, based on: plant-soil interactions, epigenetics, good farming practices and social networks (including markets). The complexity of agro-ecological and organic farming practices stimulate the development of different types of breeding approaches, but in all cases embedded in farming using more participatory and collaborative approaches.



Speakers

Benedikt Haug (BioSaat)

Edwin Nuijten (ECO-PB)

Kostas Koutis (Aegilops)

Marc Lateur (CRA-W)

Organizers



WS9. Our daily bread – Cereal genetic diversity



WS9. Our daily bread – Cereal genetic diversity

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

The workshop explored why many people find modern bread harder to digest, tracing the issue to highly selected, genetically uniform wheat and industrial baking processes. It showed how traditional, genetically diverse long-straw wheat varieties, grown and processed using slower, artisanal methods, had offered better digestibility, richer flavour and higher nutritional value, while also supporting on-farm biodiversity and more resilient agroecosystems.



Speakers

Fazia Smail
(Atelier du Pain Vivant)

François Kieffer
Rosario Floriddia
(Organic Farmer)

Organizer



  **Lycée Technique
Agricole**



WS10. Territorial dynamics in Wallonia, Luxembourg, and Grand Est



MINISTÈRE DE L'AGRICULTURE
ET DE LA PÊCHE

WS10. Territorial dynamics in Wallonia, Luxembourg, and Grand Est

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

The session presented a seed initiative in Luxembourg aimed at food sovereignty through local seed autonomy. It set out four drivers: building regional reserves of locally adapted seeds as crisis buffers; using on-farm evolutionary processes (genetic, epigenetic, plant-microbe) for continuous adaptation; maintaining high inter- and intra-varietal diversity for resilient agroecosystems; and valuing the nutritional quality of agroecologically grown varieties rich in secondary metabolites. These aims were linked to EU Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategies, with scenarios on numbers of local seed producers and market gardeners and objectives such as greater cultivated diversity, regional self-sufficiency, job creation and pesticide-free production.

The second part described how the system is organised around artisan seed producers, growers, gardeners, schools and public authorities, supported by a central facility for cleaning, testing and storing seed and by production notebooks.

Slides summarised seed processing, storage, marketing and labelling, and the role of public services in quality control. The presentation closed with regulatory concerns around NGTs, patents and seed marketing reform, and priorities: training new seed producers, diversifying varieties, securing finance, cooperative structures and networking with neighbouring regions.



Speakers

Benoît Delpeuch

*Frank Adams
(SEED, RMRM)*

Loes Mertens

Sofia Balthazar

Yvan Michaud

Organizers



Lycée Technique
Agricole

WS11. NGTs: State of the Art



WS11. NGTs: State of the Art

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

The focus was to give an update on the ongoing negotiations concerning the Deregulation of New Genomic Techniques (NGTs) in the EU, which will start again this October with Denmark. The presentation gave a tour of the current state of affairs of NGT plants currently in the development pipeline and already on the fields. So far, two NGT-corn varieties (US) and one NGT-tomato (Japan) are in commercial cultivation, but 49 new varieties are in development.

Market approval exists mainly in China, Brazil, US. Speakers then gave an overview of the consequences of a possible deregulation of NGTs, including contamination of non-NGT varieties and populations, and possible changes in plant physiology. This will result in a continuous reduction of potential source material for organic breeding projects, not only because of spontaneous and unintentional contaminations but also because of patents related to NGTs. The presentation finished with a call to participants to pressure EU lawmakers and their country's agriculture ministers.



Speakers

Eva Gelinsky

Lena Hüttmann

Organizers



WS12. Variety development and Utilisation Strategies of old fruit tree cultivars



WS12. Variety development and Utilisation Strategies of old fruit tree cultivars

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

The workshop highlighted how traditional fruit varieties had offered much more than diverse flavours, providing a wide range of harvesting times, storage options and uses. It underlined how this fruit diversity had contributed to natural resistance against stress factors, and examined why preserving a broad genetic base in fruit crops was crucial. Participants also looked at legal obstacles to maintaining and sharing diverse varieties and critically questioned the claimed benefits and real usefulness of biotechnological breeding in this context.



Speakers

Hans-Joachim Bannier
(Pomologen-Verein E.V.)

Organizer



WS13. From seed savers to diversity developers: towards a new narrative



WS13. From seed savers to diversity developers: towards a new narrative

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

The session examined how the diversity movement could better explain its work in ways that are accessible, coherent and resistant to industrial co-optation. Starting from the question of why positive narratives and proper terminology matter, the presentation framed diversity actors' contributions as essential to sustainable food production, resilient food systems and long-term food security, countering trends of standardisation, centralisation and privatisation in the seed sector. It highlighted the limits of defining agroecology or seeds "by negation" and showed how terms such as Semences Paysannes have built identity and legitimacy across Europe, even as industry actors now repurpose language on "genetic diversity" or "local adaptation."

The second part focused on constructing a positive narrative in practice: using movement-aligned terms like "diversity varieties," engaging carefully with official categories, and distinguishing between public-facing vocabulary and technical language for policymakers. The presentation closed by stressing an inner attitude of confidence, clarity and "realistic optimism," emphasising what diversity actors stand for and presenting on-farm and in-garden work with evolving varieties as an active response to social and ecological needs.



Speakers

Adam Alexander
(Seed Detective)

Frank Adams
(SEED, RMRM)

Susanne Gura
(DKNV)



**PowerPoint
Presentation**
[here](#)

Organizers



WS14. Recent Developments in Patents and Plant Variety Protection



WS14. Recent Developments in Patents and Plant Variety Protection

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

The session began with an overview of the history of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV), its members' positions on variety protection, and their consequences for farmers' rights. The main discussion point was on the conditions that drive states to join UPOV against the interests of their own farmers. The discussion also addressed the ongoing reform of plant reproductive material (seeds in Europe), the complexity and legal uncertainty of which is likely to create for various players in the European seed sector.

On the back of these conversations, the presentation moved on to the European Patent Office's (EPO) practice regarding the patentability of products, obtained by "essentially biological processes."

With regard to the patentability of plants derived from NGTs, the EU's adoption of deregulation

would not necessarily force the EPO to do so as well, though this scenario would be unlikely.

Experts have proposed a total exemption for plant breeders. Currently, only a partial exemption is available. To exemplify the impact of the current patent landscape on small breeders, Nordic Maize Breeding was invited to give their personal account navigating legal frameworks and competing against large companies profiting from patents.



PowerPoint Presentations
[here](#), [here](#)
and [here](#)



Speakers

Denis Meshaka
(InfoOGM)

Francois Meienberg

Grietje Raaphorst
(Nordic Maize Breeding)

Organizers

info**OGM**



 **Nordic Maize breeding**
Breeding for diversity in agriculture

WS15. Evolutionary populations: a paradigm shift in seed systems within a climate change context



WS15. Evolutionary populations: a paradigm shift in seed systems within a climate change context

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

The workshop aimed to deepen understanding of evolutionary populations (EPs) as a necessary alternative to conventional seed systems under climate change. It traced a shift from homogeneous, “fixed” varieties to EPs that allow dynamic, in-field selection on key traits, strengthening resilience and robustness in the face of uncertainty. Organisers linked EPs to new perspectives on plant health, farmer empowerment and food sovereignty, and illustrated these ideas through case studies from the UK and USA, where farmers and breeders collaborate around open-source, EP-based seed stewardship.

Open discussions addressed the practicalities of growing different species as EPs, including collaboration, group dynamics and decision-making in selection. The final part considered economic implementation: funding options for experimental, collaborative work; financial and regulatory constraints; and what would be needed to support farmers using EPs at scale. By engaging experts and practitioners, the session sought to sketch pathways for practical implementation, economic viability and policy evolution to back these dynamic seed systems. By engaging experts and practitioners, we hope to outline pathways for practical implementation, economic sustainability, and policy evolution to support these dynamic seed systems.



Speakers

Holly Silvester
(Gaia Foundation)

Jérémy Bertrand
(PEPs Collective)

Maxime Schmitt
(MSPM)

Nate Kleinman
(EFN-US)

Sofía Correa
(PEPs Collective)

Organizers



WS16. Seed Diversity Down to Earth



WS16. Seed Diversity Down to Earth

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

The “Seed Diversity Down to Earth” workshop sought to open a space for dialogue and collective reflection on what is concretely missing—in different regions, on farms, in training centers, cooperatives, and elsewhere—to enable a genuine (and economically viable) transition toward agroecological seed systems rooted in local contexts and biodiversity. To ground the discussion, Julian Martens, Fazia Smail and Tijs Boeles were invited to share their experiences and insights. Through their contributions, six major areas of barriers were identified, each encompassing specific and interrelated challenges: limited access to diverse seeds, lack of training opportunities, cultural and mental barriers, insufficient on-the-ground infrastructure, unadapted supply chains, and lack of sustainable and accessible funding.

Following the speakers’ presentations, participants engaged in smaller group discussions focused on deepening the analysis of three of these barriers. These conversations laid the groundwork for a collective mapping of both the challenges and potential pathways to overcome them.

The insights from the workshop were captured by a graphic facilitator.

The results of this process are presented in the following page >>



Speakers

*Adèle Pautrat
(Seeds4All)*

*Fazia Smail
(Atelier du Pain Vivant)*

*Julian Martens
(CRA-WA)*

*Tijs Boeles
(De Groentelaar farm)*

Organizers



seeds4all



SEED DIVERSITY. DOWN TO EARTH



BARRIERS

— TO SEED DIVERSITY ON THE GROUND —

ACCESS TO DIVERSITY

Market gardeners

- ✗ Lack of R&D on open-pollinated varieties
- ✗ Lack of diversity breeders
- ✗ Consumers expect standardized products

"We need more diversity breeders + growers locally."

Combine market gardening + seed production?

- ✗ time-consuming
- ✗ fewer gains
- ✗ lower profitability

Participative breeding programs
e.g. "Semences d'ici"

"Is it sustainable?"

Subsidised schemes...

TRAINING

Farmer-Baker:

Training as a baker

Very conventional:

- ✗ Biodiversity
- ✗ Farmer's seeds

Peer Learning + on-farm training

Yes, but...

Training journey relying on individual efforts

"It's all on You!"

CULTURE SHIFT

Wheat Production

ancient + organic

Lower yields

Higher prices

Who is gonna pay the cost?

Beer

Negotiation w/ brewers

... what goes into the beer?

Instability in recipe + product

Local focus + Terroir

Relentless effort to persuade + support

INFRA-STRUCTURE

Major obstacle: Access to ...

- ✗ Land
- ✗ Tools
- ✗ Machines

Production facilities

Inter-generational Transmission

→ conflicting vision

Huge investments for rarely used machinery

Collaborative approaches

How? With whom?

"I want to make a local beer that is also accessible"

participative farmer-led

FEAR

"I wish I could share the RISKS."

Need for Network building

Investment: Time & Energy

"When I am at the brewery I am not at the farm..."

Market pressure: MONEY > Local diversity

Sustainable FUNDING

"There is no funding for alternative BREEDING approaches!"

Bringing people together & creating awareness is unpaid work!

TRAINING 1

New CURRICULA for seed work

Integrate alternative knowledge in conventional agricultural schools

Official RECOGNITION of cross-disciplinary professions

Supported by: Public Institutions

Farmer-baker

FUNDING 3

Diverse plant BREEDING = Public interest!

"Ask for a fairer share of the cake."

Attractive COMMUNICATION

- Storytelling
- Visual Campaigns

→ Get CONSUMERS on board.

"EVERYONE has the right to healthy + local food!"

Responsibility of public authorities
e.g. "Sécurité sociale de l'alimentation"

WORK GROUPS

INFRA-STRUCTURE 2

Need for innovation & resource sharing

- Develop adapted machinery
e.g. "Atelier paysan" (CFR)
- Build Cooperatives
e.g. "CUMA" (CFR)

DYI

Join forces!

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS



WS17. Gene bank conservation vs. ecosystemic evolution



WS17. Gene bank conservation vs. ecosystemic evolution

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

The “On-farm Development of Vegetable Varieties” presentation showed how vegetable diversity is renewed when varieties are continuously selected in farmers’ fields rather than treated as fixed genetic products. It contrasted static gene bank conservation with “ecosystemic evolution,” where plants adapt through interactions with soil, climate, pests, diseases and farming practices, and stressed the need to work on both diversity across regions and ongoing evolution over time to respond to climate and input pressures.

The talk then outlined practical selection work and its main tensions: keeping varieties recognisable while allowing change, deciding how much variability to maintain, and balancing farmer selection with natural selection.

Examples with cabbages and beans illustrated how traits such as frost and pest resistance can be strengthened, while current rules for registering amateur varieties and organic heterogeneous material were identified as key obstacles for small breeders wanting to share their evolved material.



Speakers

Annika Michelson (Maadjas)

Frank Adams (SEED, RMRM)

Roman Lenz

Tristan Lienhard

Ute Boekholt



**PowerPoint
Presentations**
[here](#) and [here](#)

Organizers

Maadjas

Samenbau
Nordost



WS18. Propagation of wild plants for natural greening and renaturation in Luxembourg



WS18. Propagation of wild plants for natural greening and renaturation in Luxembourg

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

Participants learned how each individual can make a contribution against species decline by creating wildflower meadows and perennial beds from native wild plants. The workshop provided insights into wild plant propagation, perennial plant production and seed production as well as the partners involved.

The possible uses of wild plants and the professional creation of flower meadows were also explained. Insights into quality assurance and the impressive diversity of wild plants rounded off the workshop.



Speakers

Patrick Espen

*Vanessa Duprez (SICONA,
Wëllplanzesom Lëtzebuerg)*

Organizers



WS19. Symbiotic Seeds



WS19. Symbiotic Seeds

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

As an open invitation “Symbiotic Seeds” offered a space for conversations framed by examples of iconic art works presented in a visual slide show, in magazines and books, and an audio-story at the public market fair. Participants were invited to engage with artistic positions related to seeds and biodiversity expressed in land art, sculpture, drawings, community projects, exhibitions, philosophy and writing. Through conversations and in writing, the participants brought in their own seed stories into the “Symbiotic Seeds” exchange.

The workshop opened up to practice relational thinking and undo categories. The relationship of a plant with its microbiome is much more part of what the plant is, than what science had ever considered before. In this new paradigm, seeds, microbiome and humans evolve together. As such, the perspectives of biologists, farmers, plant breeders, philosophers, and artists are needed to explore possible forms of practices, relationships and their meanings together. Research funding would need to cater to approaches that enable this intermingling of viewpoints.



Speaker

Sina Ribak



**PowerPoint
Presentation
[here](#)**



What seeds for tomorrow?

A podcast mini-series by SEED CARRIERS

*The **Seeds4All** project has long been working to understand how the EU regulatory framework on seeds and cultivated biodiversity impacts the daily reality of agroecological seed and food operators.*

Europe is now at a decisive turning point. The rules that govern our seeds are being rewritten as we speak, with powerful forces seeking to tighten their grip on seed and food production. Efforts must be accelerated to amplify what the European agroecological seed movement is bringing to the future of our food, and how it should be urgently supported by both EU and local decision makers.

With that purpose in mind, Seeds4All joined forces with SEED CARRIERS to produce the mini audio series WHAT SEEDS FOR TOMORROW?

Featuring the voices of legal experts,

farmers, and seed growers, this podcast uncovers what truly drives the agroecological seed movement and the political shift required to keep its vital practices alive and growing. Bringing forward concrete, biodiversity-rooted approaches already thriving across Europe, it strives to push back against the prevailing narrative that questions the ability of agroecological seeds to feed communities and face today's agri-food challenges.

Because in truth, the guiding principle of diversity—of crops, actors, practices, lands and more—lies at the heart of any resilient and sustainable future.

Technical info and credits

The interviews forming the basis of this podcast were conducted during the 14th edition of the Let's Liberate Diversity forum.

This podcast mini-series is co-authored and narrated by Adèle Pau-trat and Alexandra Baumgartner.



It's a joint project by Seeds4All and SEED CARRIERS, supported by the European Coordination Let's Liberate Diversity! and the ARC2020 association. Additional support comes from Natasha Foote. Music is by Andrew Morrisson.

Mixing and Mastering by Julia Häller. Pictures of diversity by Adèle Viollette. Graphic Design by Emmanuel Crivelli / Dual Room.

[Listen now!](#)



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[Here you can see all the photos](#)
(feel free to use them **quoting the author**)

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seeds4all



SEED
Som bre d'Erhalen
an d'EntwZicklung
vun der DiversiZ



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