NGO Cosmic Gardeners

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Seed stewardship – from isolation to a resilient population

Increasing genetic diversity of common crops in rural Croatia

Let's Celebrate Diversity Forum

Florence, 2026



Today’s presentation will include:

- participatory plant population development
- adapting crops to grow in low-input organic conditions
- increasing resilience of crops to pests and diseases
- adapting to climate, social and economic changes
- preservation and evolution - need for cooperation

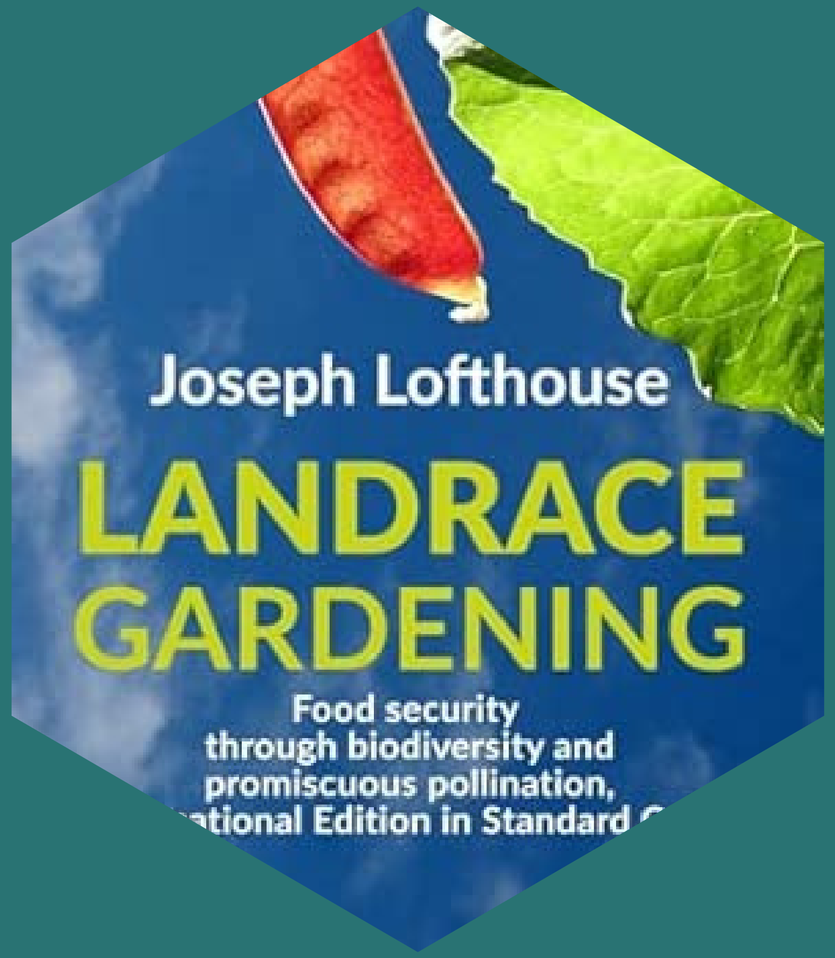
How it all started for me?






...and where it developed...
>10 kg of seeds
more than 40 crops growing in low-input organic conditions on 1000m2
500 kg of food for eating

What inspired it?





Joseph's work and the book opened my mind up to a new perspective and made me realize that:

- our crops are failing because of the inbreeding depression, sterility, uniformity and "purity"/ monoculture mindset
- plant diseases and low resistance to peast are a consequence of decrease of genetic diversity
- hybrids are not the biggest evil of humanity, but the most natural thing
- on-site breeding, seed keeping and selection must go hand-in-hand with food production for long term food security and sovereignty

IMPORTANT FACTORS

genetic diversity of seeds

+

exposure to local growing conditions (soil type, weather, “pests”, diseases)

=

adaptation, higher hutrition, resilience evolution

COMMUNITY (local, national, international)


SO, HOW TO DO IT?

First year...

Chose a piece of land or part of your garden

Choose your method

Choose a crop to adapt or to increase its resilience

Stop yourself from “improving”, adding or changing the environment



Choose a plant family you want to work with

Gather as many different varieties of that chosen crop

Sow in your soil as it is (when the time is right)

Decide the level of intervention




Allow nature to do the selection for you and sit back
Allow your plants to develop defense mechanisms
Allow your population to eliminate those which get disease
Harvest seeds from all the survivors


Second year...
Add more diverse seeds to your last year's survivors
Repeat the process
Allow nature to act and your plants to learn
Save seeds for next year





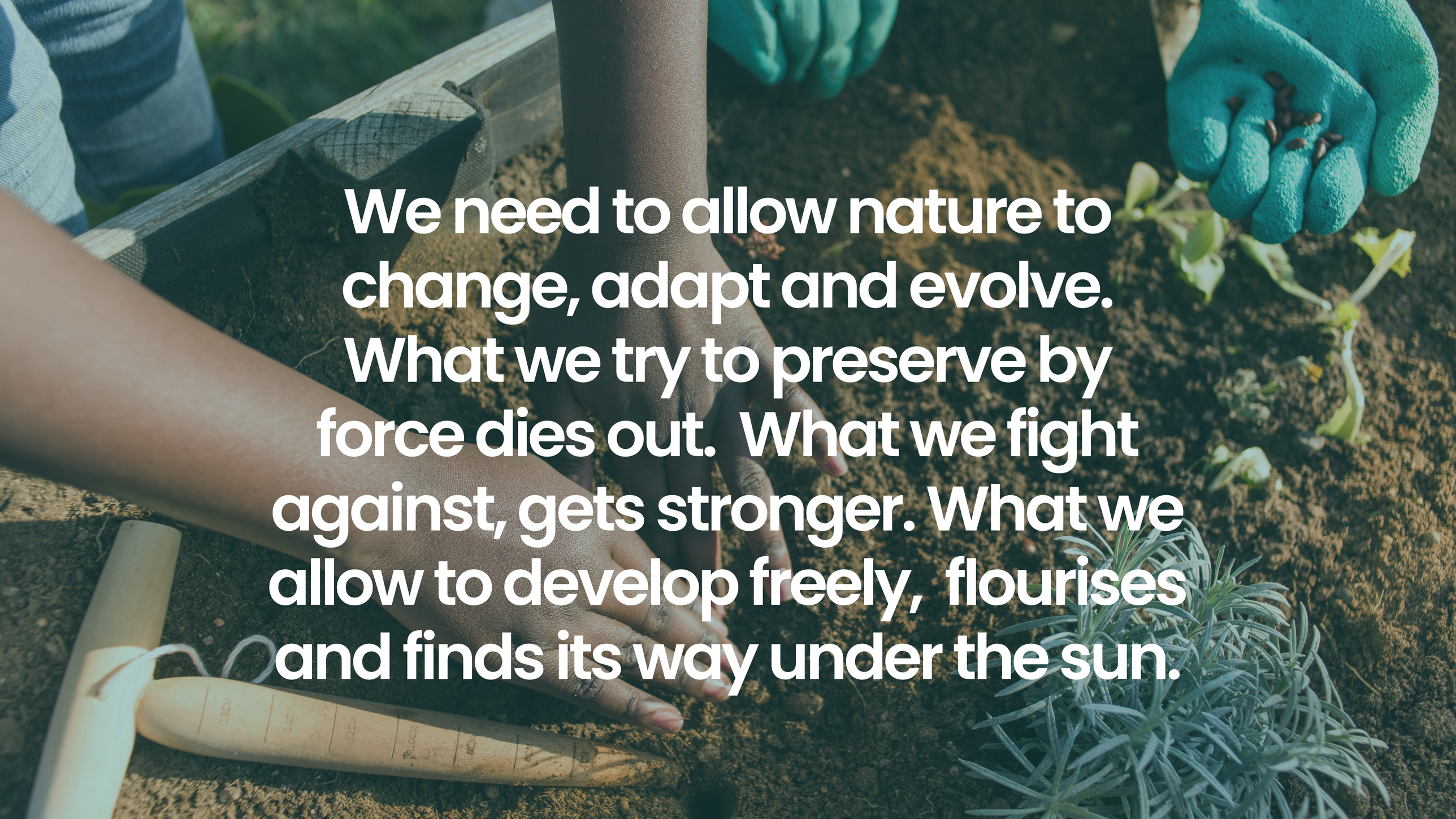
Thirdy year and beyond...

Repeat the process

Bigger abundance and resilience

Selection for qualities we need

Multiplying and sharing


We need to allow nature to change, adapt and evolve. What we try to preserve by force dies out. What we fight against, gets stronger. What we allow to develop freely, flourises and finds its way under the sun.

Adaptative agriculture

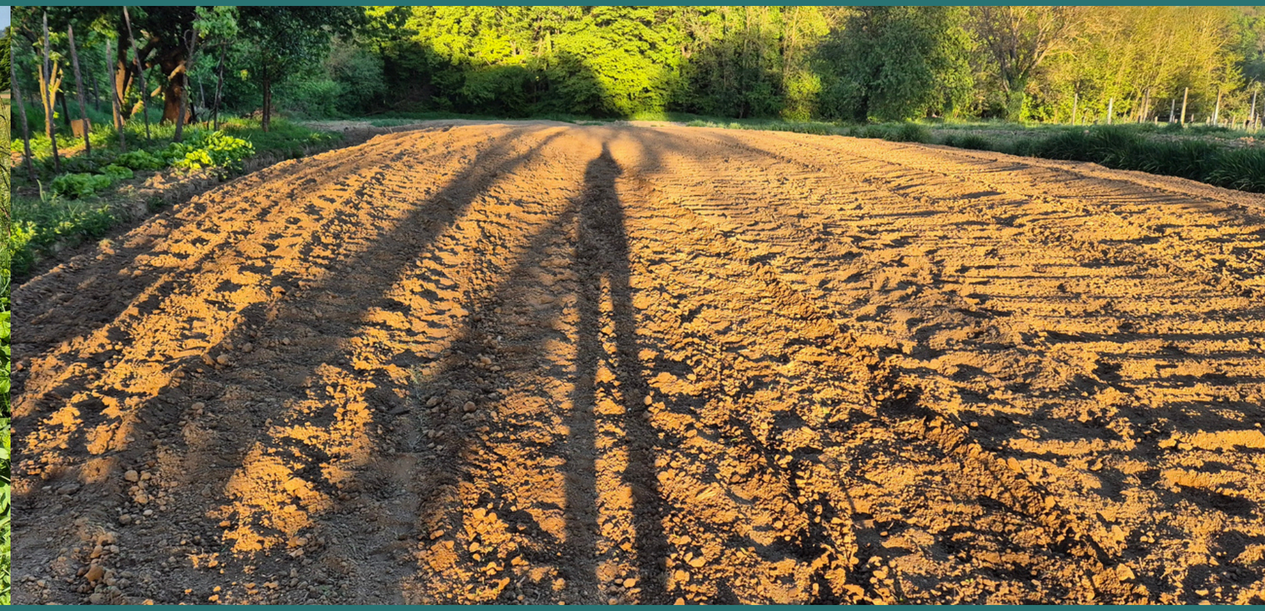
- development of locally adapted crops through on-site participatory plant population development, selection and seed stewardship
- free cross-pollination among varieties to renew genetic diversity
- allowing the local eco-system do to selection for us
- adapting plants to our real conditions instead creating indeal growing conditions
- developing dynamic plant populations for long term food security and sovereignty
- exchanging and sharing seeds in our communities - allowing low-cost access to food



DREAMS FOR 2026

5000m2 + 5000m2 = 40+ crops















THANK YOU!

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Lenovo





