

# “Les semences paysannes”

## Seed Diversity and Participatory Research for Organic Farming

Véronique Chable

September 2020, 23<sup>rd</sup> – Agrocampus Ouest

UC “The challenges of Agroecology”

# The presentation in few words,

- Year 2000: Organic agriculture is looking for seed
- The conceptual foundation of organic farming
- Organic farming, health and microorganisms, the holobiont hypothesis
- Research paradigm and plant breeding, diversity is a key component of sustainability
- The revival of peasant seed, participatory research and collective organisation

# Our organic context

Organic agriculture needs seed

# Regulation for Organic Agriculture: CE/1935/95

## Organic production with organic seeds

The biological seeds with special regard to the vegetable seed sector [1999]

*Quagliotti, L.*

*Portis, E. (Turin Univ. (Italy). Dipartimento di Valorizzazione e Protezione delle Risorse Agroforestali)*

### Resumen



From the year 2000 EC regulation 1935/95 will force organic growers to use seeds that have been produced through biological methods for at least one generation. The biological seeds are difficult to find in trade and often show poor quality (i.e. low germination capacity, physical purity, sanitary conditions, etc.). Therefore, the problems related to plant breeding, agrotechnical methods, safeguard of genetic resources and seed certification are particularly important

[http://agris.fao.org/agris-search/search.do;jsessionid=0844075C835B9A1E52C74DFE832D80EB?request\\_locale=es&recordID=IT2001060274&sourceQuery=&query=&sortField=&sortOrder=&agrovocString=&advQuery=&centerString=&enableField=](http://agris.fao.org/agris-search/search.do;jsessionid=0844075C835B9A1E52C74DFE832D80EB?request_locale=es&recordID=IT2001060274&sourceQuery=&query=&sortField=&sortOrder=&agrovocString=&advQuery=&centerString=&enableField=)



# The origin of the question 20 years ago

- European regulation
- Evolution of breeding methods, more and more incompatible with organic principles
- Empowerment of farmers and collective organisation

# Agroecology/organic agriculture

A first look at DIVERSITY of concepts!

# From where agroecology and organic agriculture knowledge come from?

## • Agroecology

- 1928** – Bensin, 'Agroecological characteristics description and classification of the local corn varieties Chorotypes'
- 1930** – Friederichs, 'Die Grundfragen und Gesetzmäßigkeiten der land- und forstwirtschaftlichen Zoologie'
- 1938** – Papadakis, 'Compendium on crop ecology'
- 1942** – Klages, 'Ecological crop geography'
- 1956** – Azzi, 'Agricultural ecology'
- 1965** – Tischler, 'Agrarökologie'
- 1979** - Cox and Atkins, 'Agricultural ecology: an analysis of world food production systems'
- 1983** – Altieri, 'Agroecology'
- 1984** – Douglass (ed.), 'Agricultural sustainability in a changing world order'
- 1987** – Arrignon, 'Agro-écologie des zones arides et sub-humides'
- 1990** – Gliessman, (ed.) 'Agroecology: researching the ecological basis for sustainable agriculture'
- 1991** – Caporali, 'Ecologia per l'agricoltura'
- 1995** – Altieri, 'Agroecology: the science of sustainable agriculture (3rd edition)'
- 1997** - Gliessman 'Agroecology: ecological processes in sustainable agriculture'
- 2007** – Gliessman, 'Agroecology: the ecology of sustainable food systems'
- 2007** – Warner, 'Agroecology in action: extending alternative agriculture through social networks'

## • Organic agriculture

- 1924** – Rudolf Steiner's Agriculture Courses based on Anthroposophy approach
- 1928 : creation of Demeter*
- 1938** – Ehrenfried Pfeiffer, 'Bio-Dynamic Farming and Gardening' and association
- 1940** – Sir Albert Howard, 'An agricultural testament'.
- 1946 : Creation of the Soil association*
- 1930** - Organic-biological agriculture Hans Mueller and Hans Peter Rusch then, influence on Bioland creation.
- 1960** – « Agriculture biologique » by AFAB (French Association Française of Organic agriculture)
- 1964 : creation of Nature&Progrès in France*
- 1975** – Masanobu Fukuoka, 'The One-Straw Revolution' and 'The Natural Way of Farming'
- 1978** – Bill Mollison and David Holmgren, 'Permaculture'
- 2006** - Ernst Götsch, Syntropic agriculture  
<https://lifeinsyntropy.org/en/>

# From where agroecology and organic agriculture knowledge come from?

- **Agroecology**

**1928** – Bensin, 'Agroecological characteristics description and classification of the local corn varieties Chorotypes'

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**1942** – Klages, 'Ecological crop geography'

Re-thinking  
agriculture on the  
basis of ecological  
knowledge and re-  
questioning the food  
systems organisation

**2007** – Warner, 'Agroecology in action: extending alternative agriculture through social networks'

- **Organic agriculture**

**1924** – Rudolf Steiner's Agriculture Courses based on Anthroposophy approach

*1928 : creation of Demeter*

**1938** – Ehrenfried Pfeiffer, 'Bio-Dynamic Farming and Gardening' and association

Re-thinking  
agriculture  
which renews  
the vision of the  
life



# Agroecology / organic agriculture

## Let's Miguel Altieri explain ...

- **“Those who adhere to organic agriculture have the highest degree of consciousness consistency of their thinking.**
- Their approach to the problems distinguishes them from industrial agriculture, not by the refusal of “progress”, but by the rejection of a project and a particular **vision of life**, and the management designed and developed in the Western part of the World.

## Howard 1940

Instead of breaking up the subject into fragments and studying agriculture in piecemeal fashion by the analytical methods of science, appropriate only to the discovery of new facts, **we must adopt a synthetic approach** and look at the wheel of life as one great subject and not as if it were a patchwork of unrelated things. All **the phases of the life cycle are closely connected**; all are integral to Nature's activity; all are equally important; none can be omitted.

Sir Albert Howard (1940) *An Agricultural Testament*, Oxford University Press, New York and London

# « Organic pionners »: life at the central place

**Biodynamics** is thus not just a **holistic agricultural system** but also a potent movement for new thinking and practices in all aspects of life connected to food and agriculture.

<https://www.biodynamics.com/what-is-biodynamics>

**Fukuoka** called his agricultural philosophy shizen nōhō (自然農法?), most commonly translated into English as "natural farming". It is also referred to as "the Fukuoka Method", "the natural way of farming" or "Do-Nothing Farming". The system is based on **the recognition of the complexity of living organisms** that shape an ecosystem and deliberately exploiting it.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Masanobu\\_Fukuoka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Masanobu_Fukuoka)

From the inspiration of  
the pioneers  
to scientific evidences

# An Agricultural Testament *by* Sir Albert Howard, 1943

Oxford University Press  
New York and London

- It was observed in the course of these studies that the **maintenance of soil fertility is the real basis of health and of resistance to disease.**
- **The various parasites were found to be only secondary matters:** their activities resulted from the breakdown of a complex biological system -- the soil in its relation to the plant and to the animal -- *due to improper methods of agriculture, an impoverished soil, or to a combination of both.*

***AND UNSUITABLE SEED***



# An Agricultural Testament (1943)

- The **mycorrhizal association** therefore is the **living bridge** by which a fertile soil (one rich in humus) and the crop are directly connected and by which food materials ready for immediate use can be transferred from soil to plant. **How this association influences the work of the green leaf is one of the most interesting problems science has now to investigate.**
- Is the effective synthesis of carbohydrates and proteins in the green leaf dependent on the digestion products of these soil fungi? It is more than probable that this must prove to be the case. **Are these digestion products at the root of disease resistance and quality?** It would appear so.

**If this is the case it would follow that on the efficiency of this mycorrhizal association the health and well-being of mankind must depend.**



## RESEARCH

*e-Xtra\**

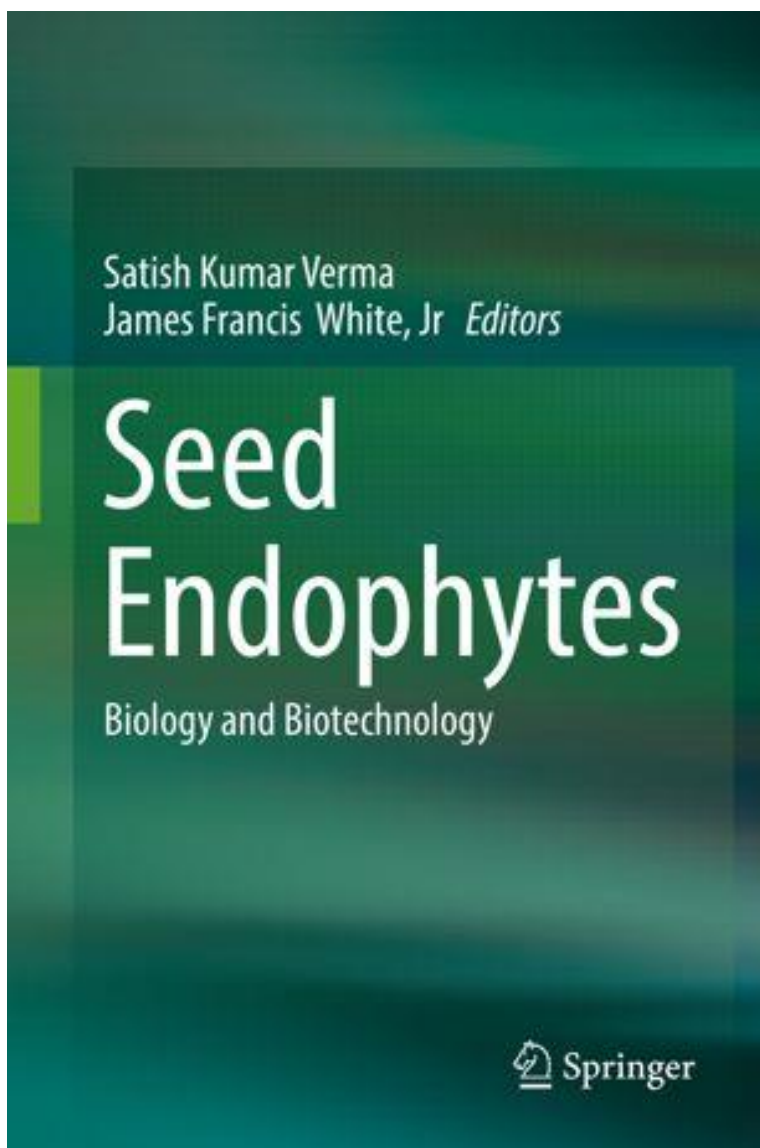
## Tomato Seeds Preferably Transmit Plant Beneficial Endophytes

Alessandro Bergna,<sup>1,2</sup> Tomislav Cernava,<sup>2,†</sup> Manuela Rändler,<sup>2</sup> Rita Grosch,<sup>3</sup> Christin Zachow,<sup>1</sup> and Gabriele Berg<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Austrian Centre of Industrial Biotechnology, Petersgasse 14, 8010 Graz, Austria; <sup>2</sup>Institute of Environmental Biotechnology, Graz University of Technology, Petersgasse 12, 8010 Graz, Austria; and <sup>3</sup>Department Plant-Microbe Systems, Leibniz Institute of Vegetable and Ornamental Crops, Theodor-Echterweg 1, 14370 Gröden, Germany

Accepted for publication 28 September 2018.

Endophytes with plant growth-promoting activity can improve the health and development of plants during all life stages. However, less is known about their stability and transmission across plant genotypes, habitats, and generations. By combining community and isolate analyses, we found that each plant habitat and genotype harbored distinct bacterial communities and plant growth-promoting bacteria (PGPB). Soil, root endosphere, and rhizosphere were the habitats with the highest bacterial diversity, while seeds hosted more selective communities. Seeds generated under field conditions showed traces of a bacterial community composition connected to the suppression of plant pathogens. In contrast, seeds of the successive generation grown in a pathogen-free and low-nutrient environment showed a predominance of bacteria that facilitate the uptake of nutrients. These modifications of the microbiome can be explained by an adaptation to prevalent environmental conditions.



The ISME Journal (2018) 12:1167–1170  
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41396-017-0028-2>

isme

PERSPECTIVE



## Saving seed microbiomes

Gabriele Berg<sup>1</sup> • Jos M. Raaijmakers<sup>2</sup>

Received: 10 May 2017 / Revised: 10 October 2017 / Accepted: 9 November 2017 / Published online: 15 January 2018  
© International Society for Microbial Ecology 2018

Plant Soil (2018) 422:35–49  
DOI 10.1007/s11104-016-3113-9



REGULAR ARTICLE

## The *Cucurbita pepo* seed microbiome: genotype-specific composition and implications for breeding

Eveline Adam<sup>1</sup> • Maria Bernhart • Henry Müller •  
Johanna Winkler • Gabriele Berg

Rybakova et al. *Microbiome* (2017) 5:104  
DOI 10.1186/s40168-017-0310-6

Microbiome

RESEARCH

Open Access



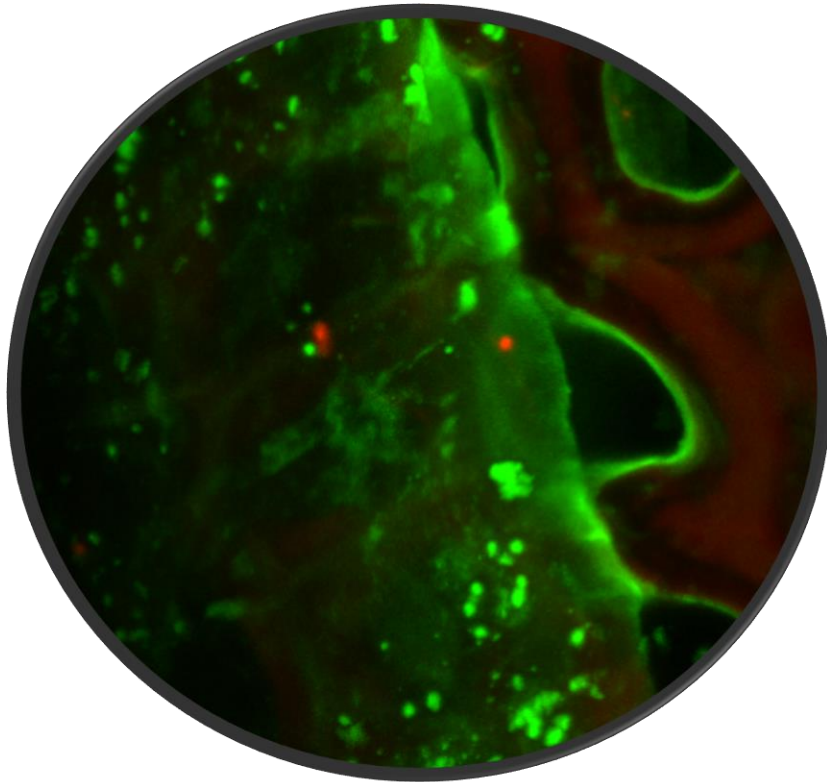
## The structure of the *Brassica napus* seed microbiome is cultivar-dependent and affects the interactions of symbionts and pathogens

Daria Rybakova<sup>1</sup>, Riccardo Mancinelli<sup>1,2</sup>, Mariann Wikström<sup>3</sup>, Ann-Sofie Birch-Jensen<sup>3</sup>, Joeke Postma<sup>4</sup>, Ralf-Udo Ehlers<sup>5</sup>, Simon Goertz<sup>6</sup> and Gabriele Berg<sup>1\*</sup>

## **The seed microbiome was shaped by breeding.**

### **A healthy seed microbiome is:**

- ✓ **Highly diverse, rich and evenly structured**
- ✓ **Contain bacteria, archaea & fungi**
- ✓ **Contain microorganisms known for beneficial as well as for pathogenic interaction**
- ✓ **cultivar specific**





# Difference according to the origin of the cultivars, **modern vs ancient**

- The filtration of OTUs likely to be pathogens, is more effective in wheat populations. In addition, modern varieties when mixed cropping are more colonized by pathogens than when grown alone.
- Population varieties appear to promote bacterial and fungal microbiota providing more benefits than modern varieties.
- It would therefore be important to consider the history of cultivars and its consequences on the performance of the cultivated varieties.

# Crop strength through diversity

Martin S. Wolfe

In conventional farming, single varieties of crop plants are grown alone. But mixing varieties may be a better option: several rice strains, planted together on a large scale, are more resistant to a major fungal disease.

Nature, 2000



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# Breeding for organic farming

Considering in the field

- The strong relationship between soil and plants
- The strong need of diversity

# Cultivated varieties? What is the choice?

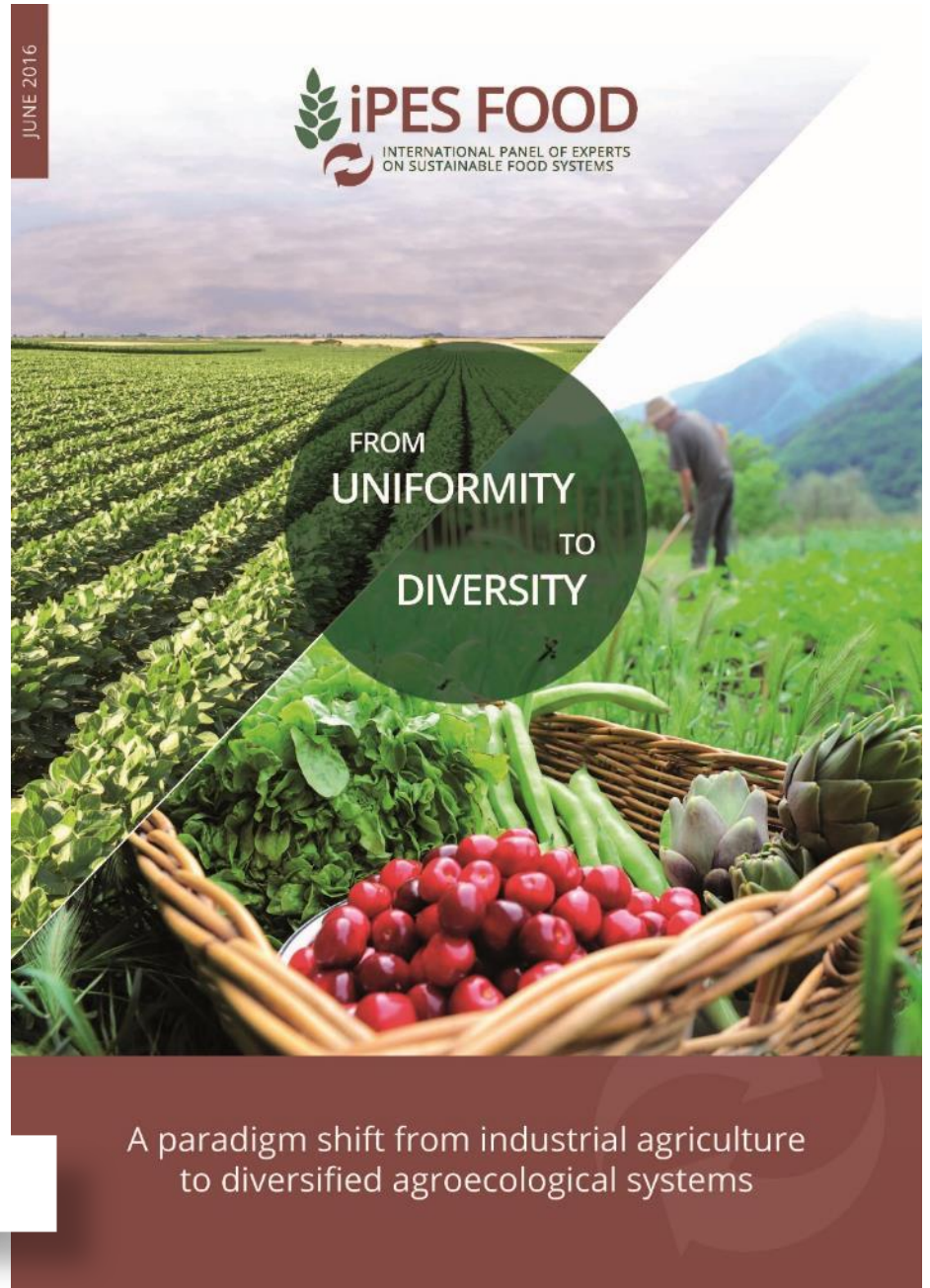
Two paradigms coexist

Their foundation and history ...



# From uniformity to diversity

2016





This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Programme under grant agreement no.633571



www.diversifood.eu

## A PARADIGM SHIFT

### *A new paradigm is called for after one century of standardisation in the agro-food system*

"From uniformity to diversity: a paradigm shift from industrial agriculture to diversified agroecological systems" is the title of the report of the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food systems (IPS-Food 2016). DIVERSIFOOD witnesses experiences from the ground to design more precisely this paradigm shift and to provide elements to involve a large community - from research to market - in redefining food chain organisations based on a holistic knowledge of living processes involved in resilience.

### *Diversity and living processes*

Uniformity invading all levels of modern societies has covered the overall food production and has broken the intrinsic link of agriculture with the living systems. At the other end of the food chain, most of consumers have no more idea of the farming realities, of the needs of their own body and of the quality of their food.

DIVERSIFOOD is deeply influenced by the messages of pioneers of organic agriculture as Howard (An agricultural testament, 1943) who pointed out the close connexions between health of soil, plants, animals and humans, meaning all living beings are interdependent. According to this vision, alternative food systems should be conceived through the holistic approach. Indeed, the new paradigm addresses all the practices from farming to food processing, distribution and consumption.



and collective approaches, and explores the conditions to create sustainable local markets able to appreciate diverse products.

### AT FIRST GLANCE

A paradigm shift refers to a radical change in beliefs or theory. DIVERSIFOOD has established diversity as the foundation of resilient food systems working with the hypothesis "the whole is greater than the sum of the parts".

Embedding diversity and networking in local high quality food systems

# From a market-oriented approach to a life-oriented approach

[http://www.diversifood.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Diversifood\\_IF16\\_Paradigm\\_shift-1.pdf](http://www.diversifood.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Diversifood_IF16_Paradigm_shift-1.pdf)

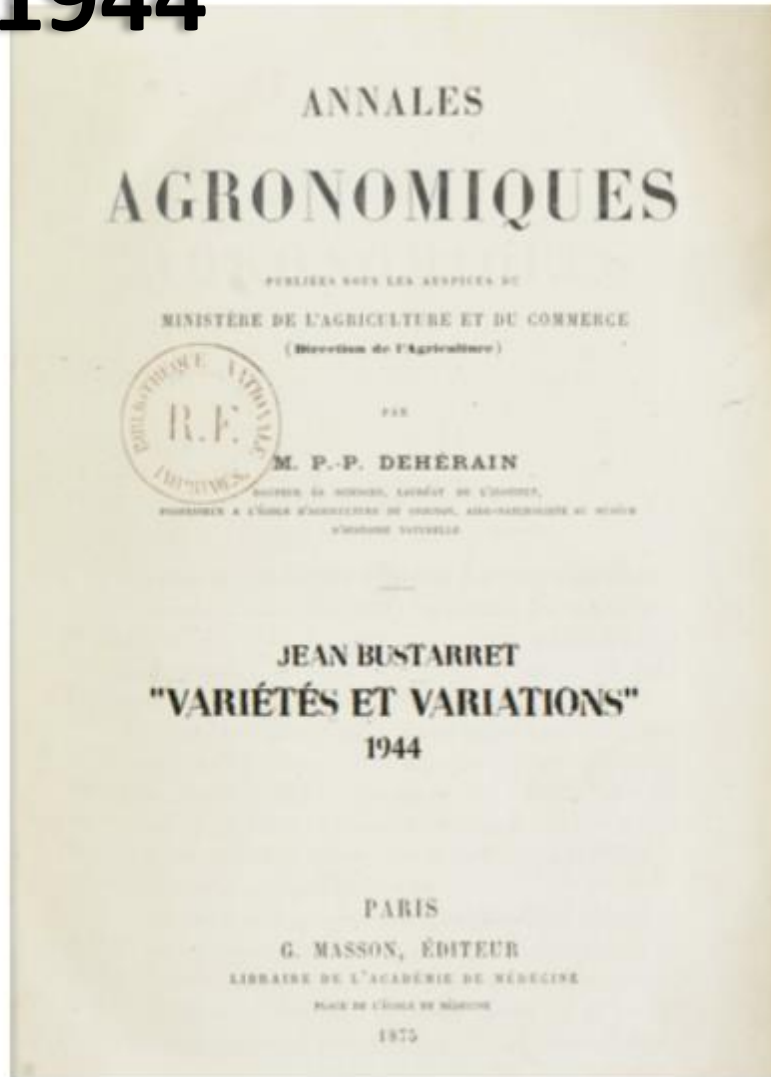
# **1908:** F1 hybrids appeared in agriculture ... The foundation of market-oriented paradigm

- “When hybrid maize was invented and presented to US farmers in the first decades of the twentieth century, it was based on two new operations, one biological and the other socio-economic.
- First, **strange manipulations** (forced inbreeding and controlled hybridization) produced biological products that had never before existed in nature.
- Second, **farmers gave up their time-honoured practice** of saving their own varieties of seed in favour of annual purchases of hybrid maize seed.

Duvick D.N. (2001) **Biotechnology in the 1930s: the development of hybrid maize**. Nature Reviews (2):69:74



1944



## Une variété doit être stable et homogène pour être évaluée

Dans sa publication déterminante de 1944 (1), Jean Bustarret distingue trois types de variétés : « la variété-lignée pure (2), la variété clone (3) et la variété population (4) ». Dans les deux premiers types de variétés, tous les individus sont génétiquement identiques et homozygotes pour tous leurs caractères, alors que les variétés populations, dites aussi « de pays » sont des mélanges d'individus, susceptibles d'évoluer dans l'espace et le temps. Jean Bustarret voit en la variété-lignée pure « la forme la plus « parfaite » de la variété, car elle est prévisible et possède des caractères stables qui permettent d'établir sa valeur agronomique. Il introduit les notions d'« homogénéité », de « stabilité » et de « caractères distinctifs ». Ces normes, dites DHS – distinction, homogénéité, stabilité – seront exigées par le CTPS pour l'inscription de toute nouvelle variété sur le Catalogue officiel et pour sa mise sur le marché (5), excluant alors les variétés de pays.

Cette vision de la variété devient très vite la vitrine de l'école de sélection française. Sous l'action des experts français, elle s'étend à l'Europe et sous-tend le catalogue communautaire des espèces et variétés de plantes cultivées.

## Une vision de la variété insérée dans le modèle de développement des trente glorieuses

Cette vision de la variété correspond au modèle de développement de l'après-guerre, basé sur la productivité et l'efficacité,

# A variety must be stable and homogeneous to be evaluated

In his landmark publication of 1944, Jean Bustarret distinguishes three types of varieties: "**the pure variety-line, the clone variety and the population variety**".

- In the first two types of varieties, all individuals are genetically identical and homozygous for all their characters,
- whereas the so-called landraces varieties are mixtures of individuals that can evolve in space and time.

Jean Bustarret has seen in the **pure variety-line "the most perfect form"** of the variety, because it is predictable and possesses stable characters which make it possible to establish its agronomic value.

It introduces the notions of "homogeneity", "stability" and "distinctive characters". **These standards, known as DUS - distinction, uniformity, stability** - will be required by the CTPS for the registration of any new variety on the Official Catalogue and market, excluding then landraces

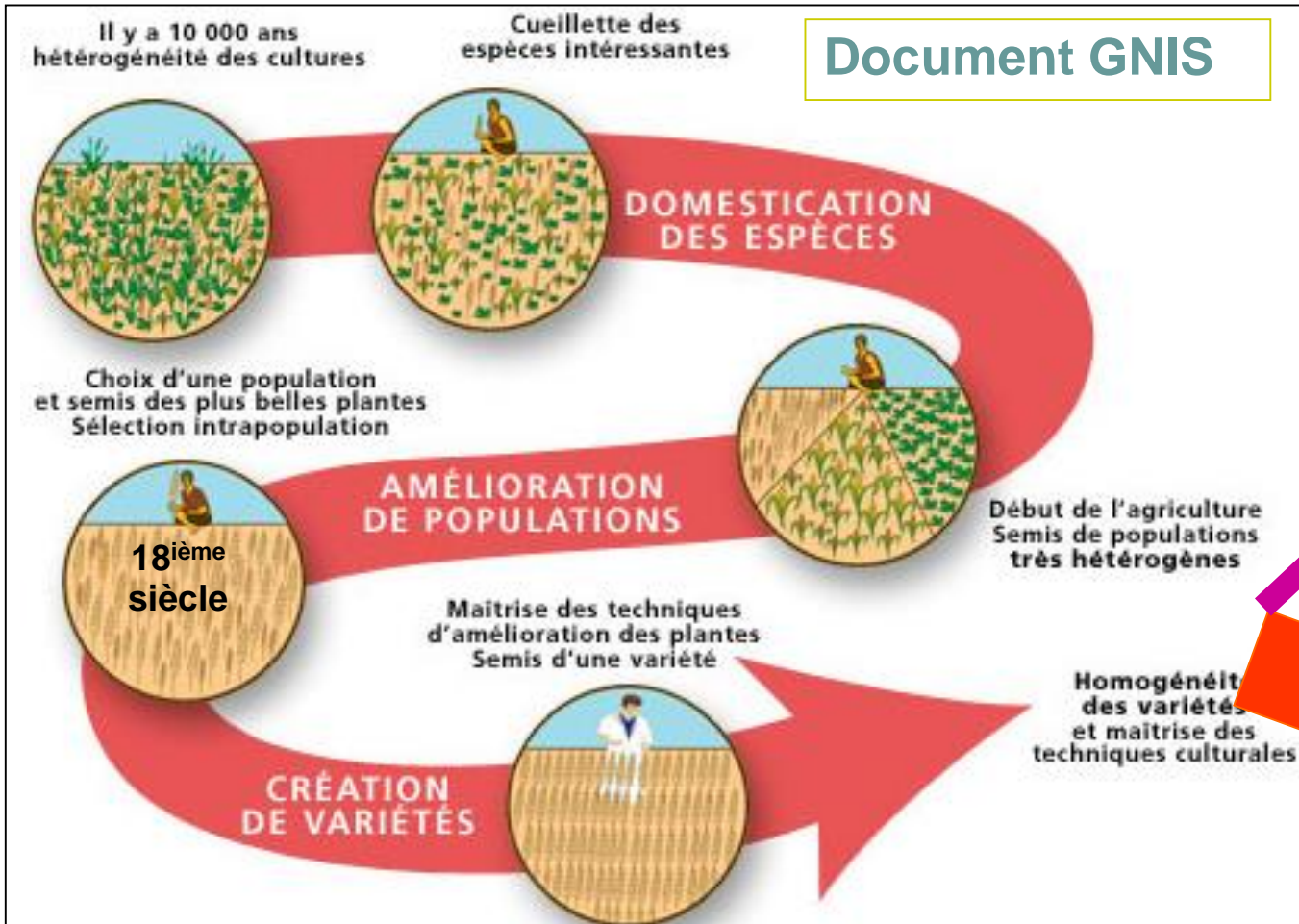
*Under the action of the French experts, this vision has been extended in Europe with the Community catalogue of species and varieties of cultivated plants.*

# The modern variety is a standardizable product

- Distinct
- Uniform
- Stable



# History of plant breeding according to GNIS (Groupement National Interprofessionnel des Semences)

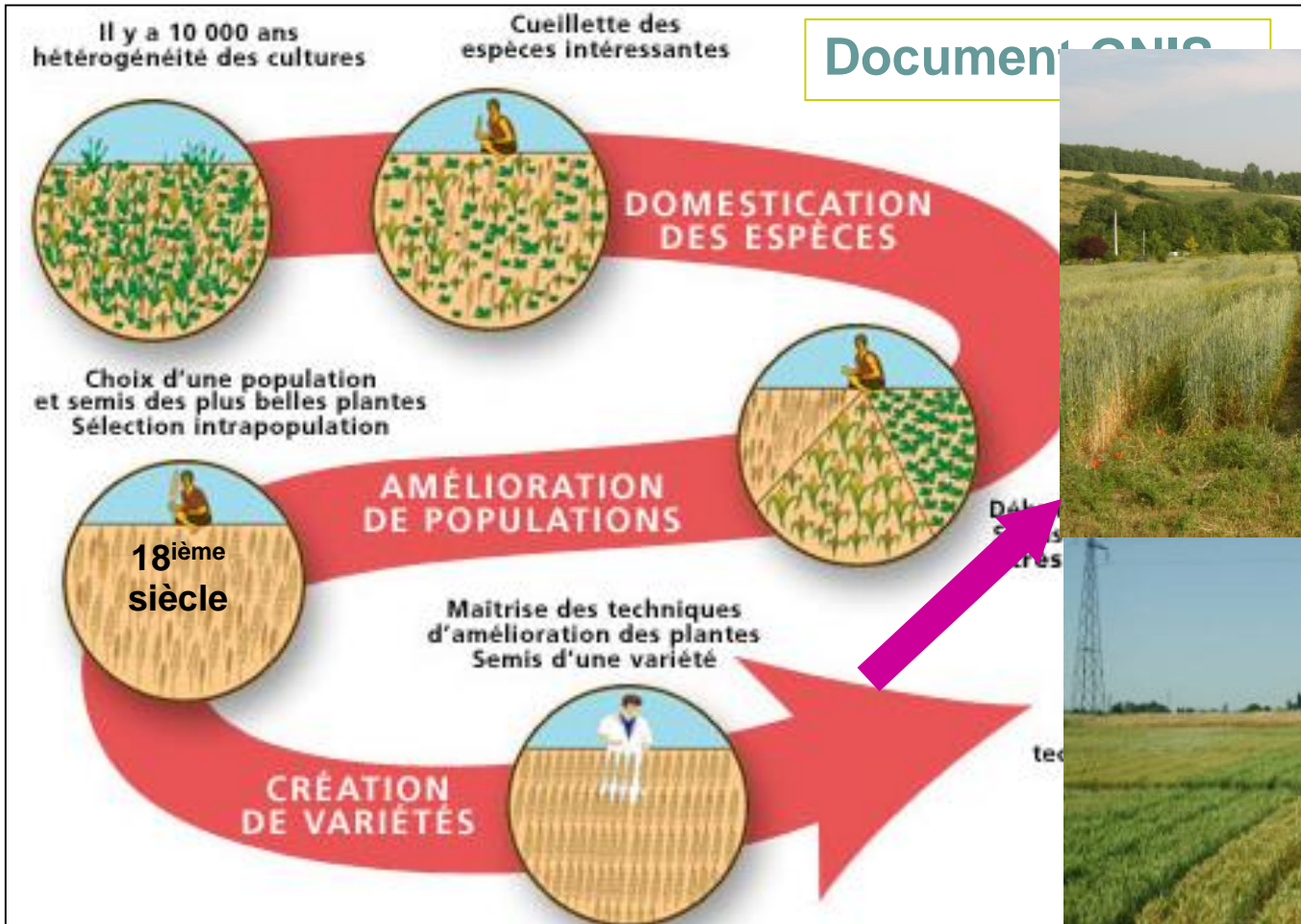


The variety finds again its place, in a mode of agricultural development respecting the man and his environment

Variety remains a technological product, designed by seed professionals, for industrial and artificial agriculture



# History of plant breeding according to GNIS



Document GNIS



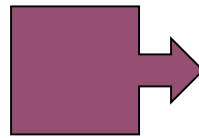
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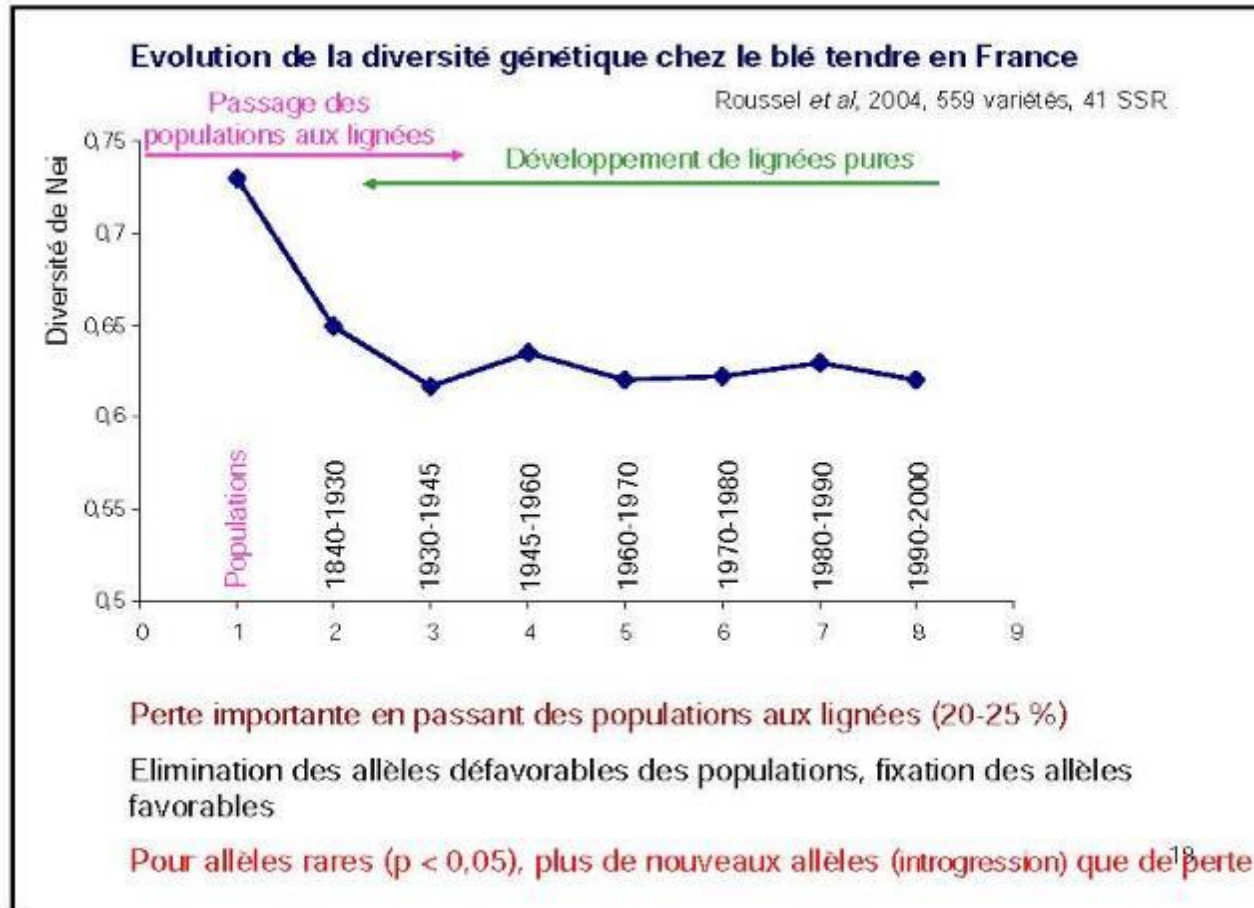
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# Genetic uniformisation of agricultural landscapes

- 'Modern' breeding (20-21<sup>th</sup> c.) led to a drastic decrease in the cultivated crop diversity => standardization among species, and within and among varieties

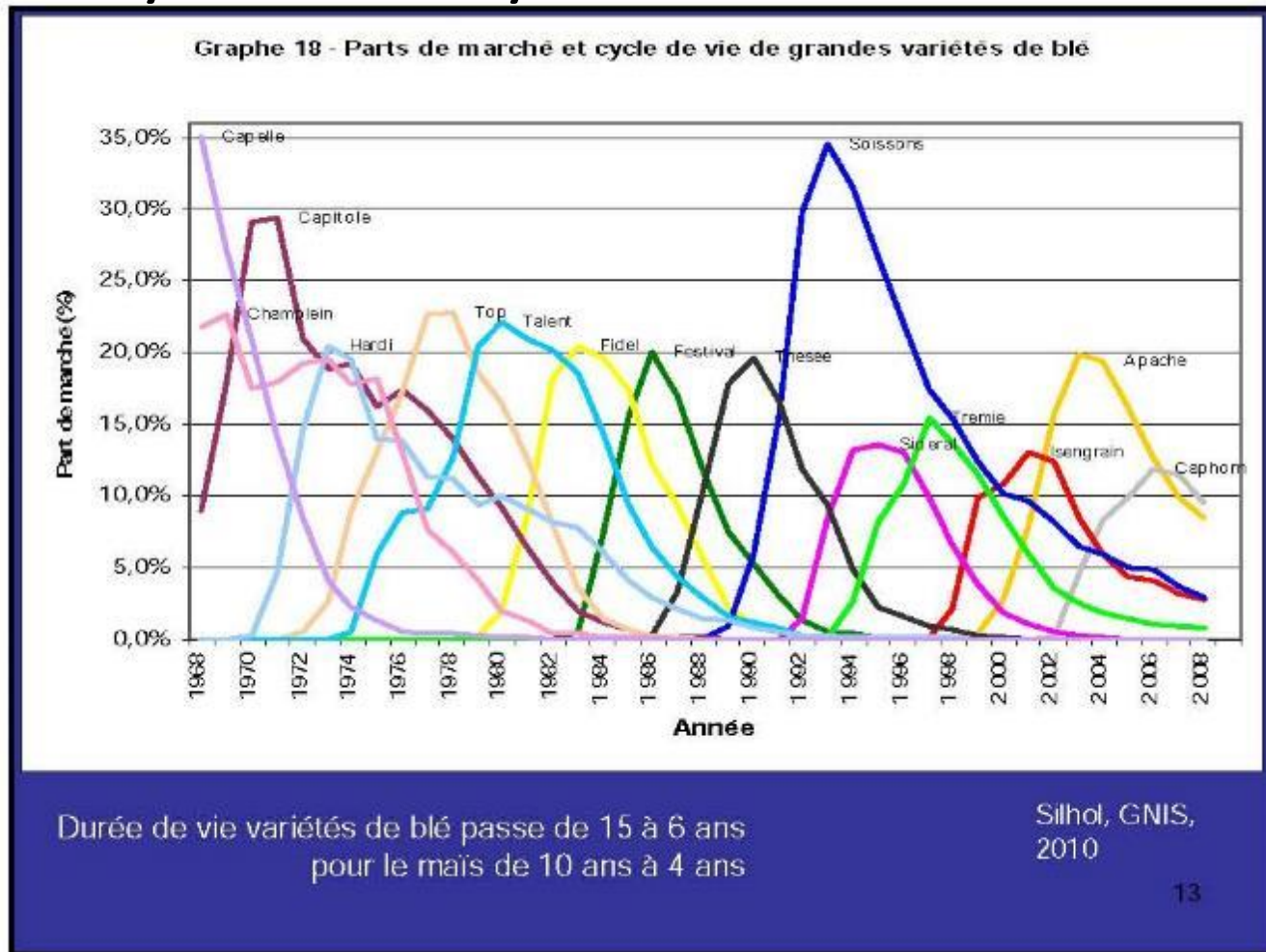


# Modern plant breeding and loss of diversity: ancient varieties are more diverse





# Modern plant breeding and loss of diversity: variety « life » is reducing



# Breeding for organic farming

## Considering the farming systems

- The strong relationship between plant breeding activity and socio-economic organisation
- The strong relationship between plant breeding science and cultural vision of life

# The world of agricultural research has established the break with nature.

## The 40th anniversary of the Plant Breeding division at INRA: part of the introductory speech of a former director

- *Ce processus d'amélioration des plantes a instauré et diffusé dans le corps social **une culture scientifique marquée par une sorte de distanciation, d'éloignement et même de rupture vis-à-vis de la nature**; ceci afin de la connaître, la transformer et l'utiliser. Il s'agit là d'un processus banal, inhérent à toute démarche scientifique. La particularité de l'amélioration des plantes est que ce phénomène s'est heurté à une vision de la nature héritée des sociétés paysannes. (Hervieu B, 2004)*

This process of plant breeding has introduced and disseminated in the social body a scientific culture marked by a kind of distancing, **separation and even break vis-à-vis nature**, in order to understand it, to transform and to exploit it. This is a trivial process, inherent in any scientific approach. The specificity of plant breeding is its incompatibility with the **common vision of nature** inherited **from peasant societies**.

Hervieu B (2004) L'amélioration des plantes, un domaine emblématique pour l'INRA : histoire, identité, horizons. Actes du colloque « L'Amélioration des Plantes, continuités et ruptures ». Pierre Boistard, Claire Sabbagh et Isabelle Savini, éditeurs. Montpellier 17-18 Octobre 2002

A group of people, including men and women of various ages, are gathered in a field of tall, golden-brown grass. They appear to be engaged in a field study or a community meeting, with some individuals looking at plants or documents. The background features rolling green and brown hills under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The overall scene suggests a rural or agricultural setting.

# The revival of peasant seed

A multi-actor and transdisciplinary research to sustain the development of cultivated diversity for the organic and peasant agricultures



<http://www.inra.fr/Chercheurs-etudiants/Systemes-agricoles/Toutes-les-actualites/70-ans-La-notion-de-variete-en-1944>

## Une vision de la variété insérée dans le modèle de développement des trente glorieuses

- Cette vision de la variété correspond au modèle de développement de l'après-guerre, basé sur la productivité et l'efficacité, dans l'objectif de couvrir les besoins alimentaires de la France. Les facteurs de production doivent être standardisés pour se prêter à la mécanisation comme à la transformation industrielle.
- **La variété fixée (lignée pure, clone ou hybride F1) devient elle-même un facteur de production isolable et standardisé, un « input » dans une agriculture pensée comme un système industriel de production (6).**

## Evolutions, sinon révolutions...

- Les normes DHS, complétée par la norme de « Valeur agronomique et technologique » (norme VAT) et par un dispositif d'évaluation expérimentale des variétés (Geves) constituent l'instrument national de pilotage du « progrès génétique », axé pendant longtemps sur le rendement.
- Néanmoins, **le contexte a depuis considérablement évolué, avec un progressif retour vers la diversité.** L'Inra participe à cette évolution. L'Institut a œuvré en particulier pour l'adoption par le CTPS d'une procédure originale d'évaluation adaptée à l'agriculture biologique et a inscrit en 2011 les deux premières variétés de blé spécifiquement sélectionnées pour l'agriculture biologique. Lire l'article.
- D'autre part, d'autres modèles d'innovation variétale ont émergé dans les années 80 : **sélection participative par des réseaux de paysans**, retour des variétés populations dans les négociations réglementaires (lire l'article) ou, à une autre extrémité du spectre, « modèle d'innovation intégré » des firmes internationales, avec le développement des biotechnologies.

<http://www.inra.fr/Chercheurs-etudiants/Systemes-agricoles/Toutes-les-actualites/70-ans-La-notion-de-variete-en-1944>

## A vision of the variety embedded within the model of development of the “trente glorieuses”

This vision of variety corresponds to the post-war development model, based on productivity and efficiency, with the aim of covering France's food needs. The factors of production must be standardized to lend themselves to mechanization as to industrial transformation.

- **The fixed variety (pure line, clone or hybrid F1) itself becomes a factor of production isolable and standardized, an "input" in an agriculture thought as an industrial system of production(6).**

## Evolutions, or even more, revolutions...

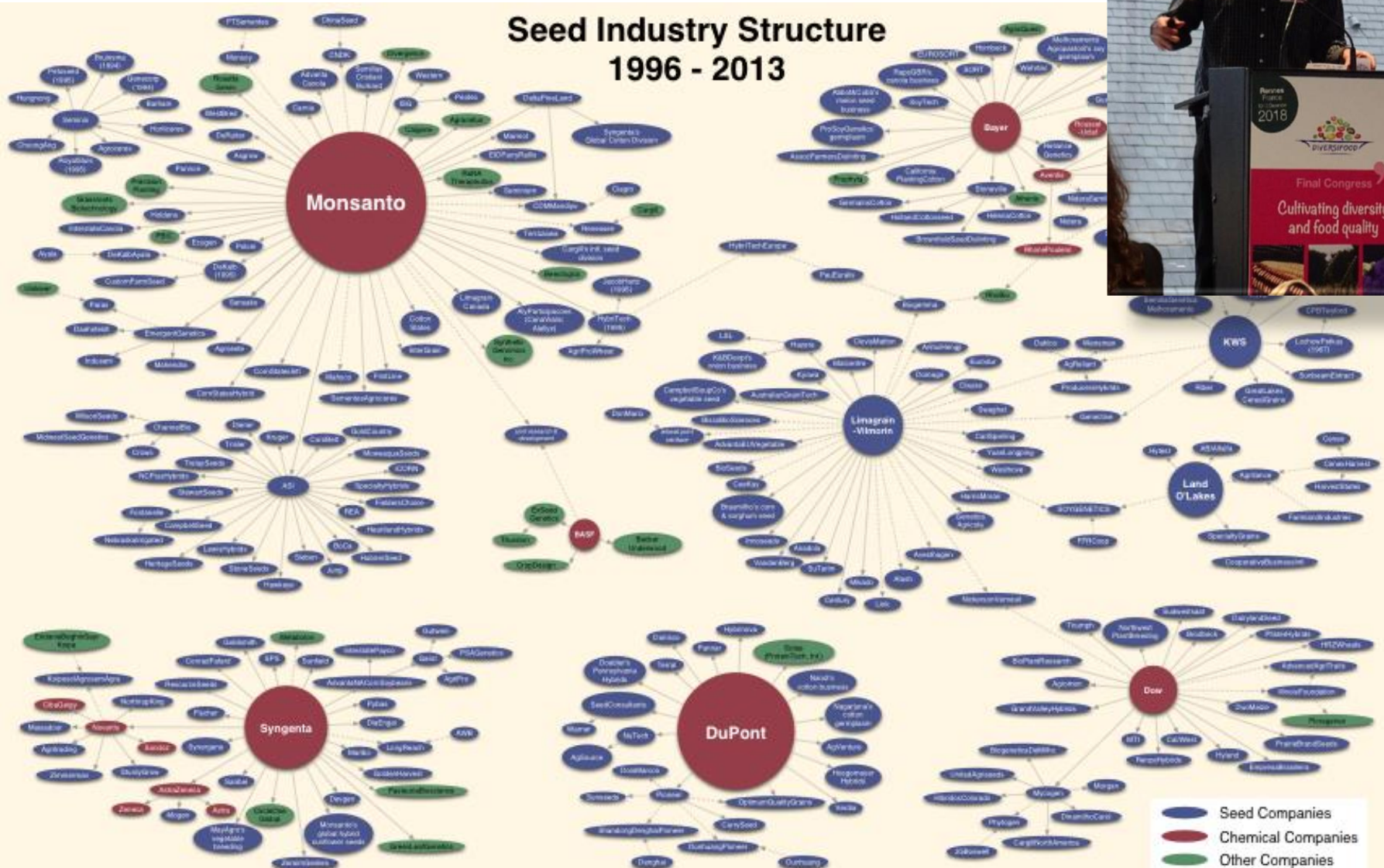
- The DHS standards, supplemented by the standard of " Value for Cultivation, Use and Sustainability (VCUS) " and by an experimental variety evaluation system (GEVES), constitute the national instrument for steering "genetic progress", which has for a long time focused on the yield.
- Nevertheless, the context has since changed considerably, with a gradual return to diversity. INRA participates in this evolution. In particular, the Institute worked on the adoption by the CTPS of an original evaluation procedure adapted to organic farming and in 2011 included the first two wheat varieties specifically selected for organic farming.
- On the other hand, other models of varietal innovation emerged in the 1980s: **participatory selection by farmers' networks**, the return of population varieties in regulatory negotiations or, at another end of the spectrum , "Integrated innovation model" of international firms, with the development of biotechnologies.



<https://philhoward.net/2018/12/31/global-seed-industry-changes-since-2013/>



## Seed Industry Structure 1996 - 2013

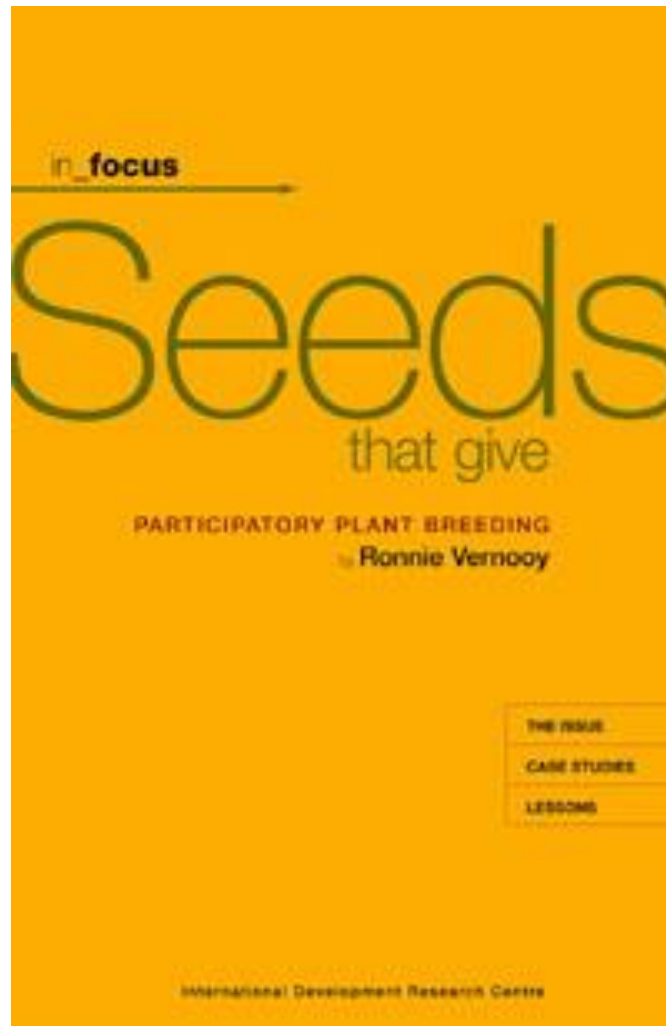


Size proportional to global seed market share

Phil Howard, Associate Professor, Michigan State University  
<http://www.msu.edu/~howardp>

- Seed Companies
- Chemical Companies
- Other Companies
- Full Ownership
- - - Partial Ownership

# Peasant seed changes values ...



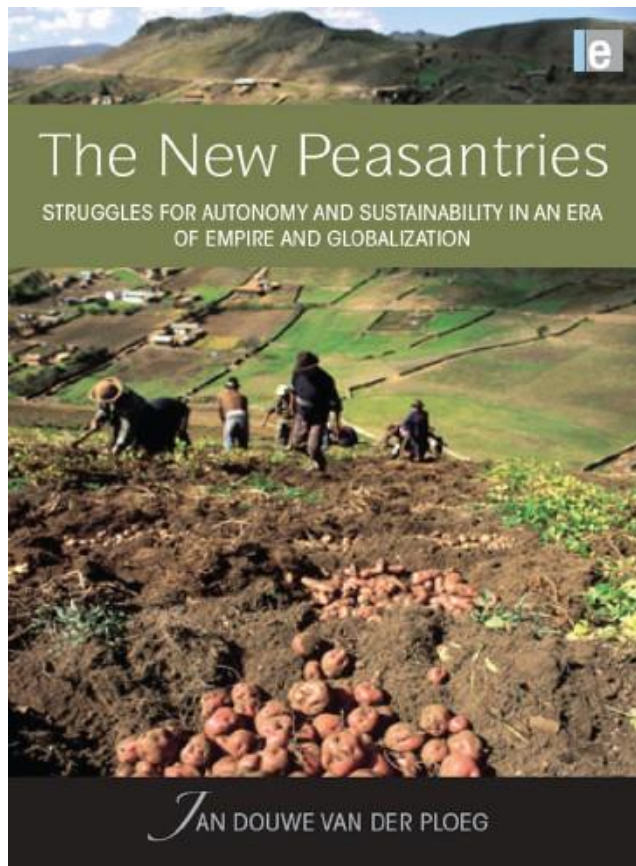
<http://www.idrc.ca/openebooks/014-4/>

# The story of a reconnexion of men and nature

- A new organisation for science
- A new economy to be invented



# Peasant communities supports a renewal of agricultural practices



# LE PAYSAN SOUVERAIN

La recherche paysanne pour  
l'autonomie des agriculteurs



Empowerment  
of peasants'  
networks or  
organisations

À Munster (Alsace, France)  
Du 9 au 13 janvier 2017

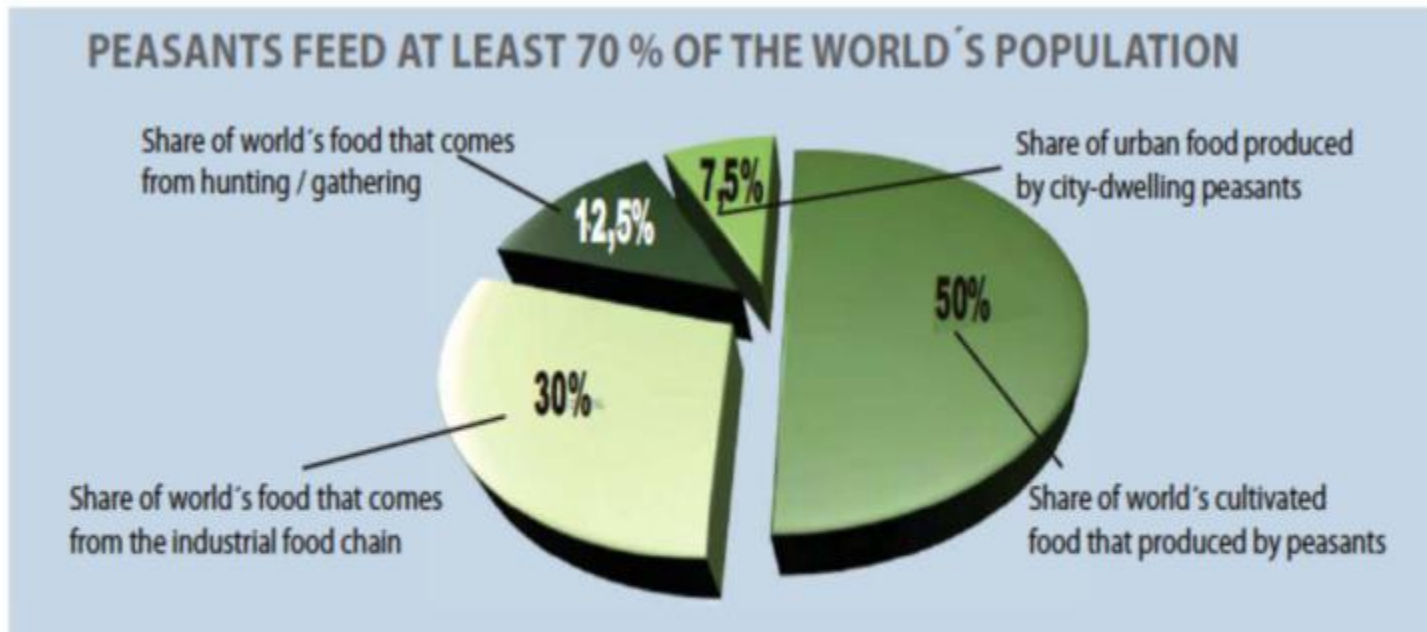


# Small Scale Farmers Produce 70% of the Worlds Food



The only practical way to feed the world is to grow the food locally where it is needed by small holder farmers

It is important to increase the resilience of small holders at local level to ensure adequate food security for the world







**Beginning of 2000's :  
organic seed were missing**

The creation of  
Réseau Semences Paysannes  
in France

# Peasant seeds



## Definitions established by Réseau Semences Paysannes

- selected and reproduced by farmers on farms and gardens in conditions of organic farming or biodynamic farming
- Diversified and evolutionary populations, resulting from natural methods of selection and conservation, without biotechnologies
- reproducible and not appropriated by intellectual property right,
- adaptable, exchangeable between farmers and gardeners in respect of the rights of use defined by the collectives that have selected and conserved them





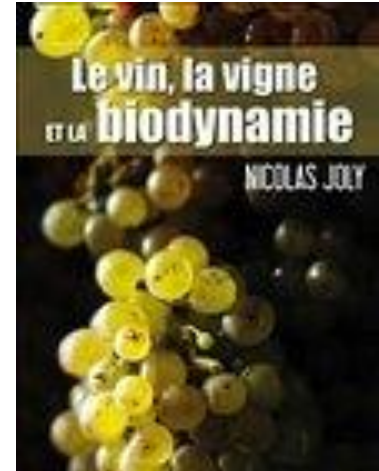
# Peasant seed

- sélectionnées et reproduites par les paysans dans les fermes et les jardins menées en agriculture paysanne biologique  
**Bred where the plant will produce**
- populations diversifiées et évolutives, issues de méthodes naturelles de sélection et de renouvellement  
**Diverse, evolutive, natural** e des paysans
- reproductibles et non appropriables par un droit de propriété  
**Free, no property right**
- adaptables, échangeables entre paysans et jardiniers dans les lieux communs  
**Can be exchanged within communities** s collectifs qui les ont sélectionnées et conservées

The issue of  
Seed and organic agriculture  
and the connexion with peasant  
seeds

# Organic agriculture is diversified

Various forms of agriculture based on natural processes have emerged for a century





# An International federation

120 countries – 800  
movements

WHAT WE DO GET INVOLVED OUR LIBRARY

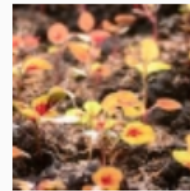
Welcome » IFOAM » What We Do » Organic Landmarks » Principles of Organic

## PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE



### Principle of Health

Healthy soil, plants, animals, humans = a healthy planet.



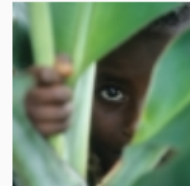
### Principle of Ecology

Emulating and sustaining natural systems.



### Principle of Fairness

Equity, respect and justice for all living things.



### Principle of Care

For the generations to come.

# Organic agriculture/peasant seeds

- **Principle of Health**

Organic Agriculture should sustain and enhance the health of soil, plant, animal, human and planet as one and indivisible.

Peasant seed enhance local adaptation and health

- **Principle of Ecology**

Organic Agriculture should be based on living ecological systems and cycles, work with them, emulate them and help sustain them.

On farm plant breeding favours natural processes

- **Principle of fairness**

Organic Agriculture should build on relationships that ensure fairness with regard to the common environment and life opportunities.

On farm breeding stimulates collective organizations of seeds exchanges without intellectual property

- **Principle of care**

Organic Agriculture should be managed in a precautionary and responsible manner to protect the health and well-being of current and future generations and the environment

On farm plant breeding avoids all forms of biotechnologies

# Our first experience

On cauliflowers in Brittany

Since 2001

# A favourable context ...

- Cabbage and cauliflowers: urgent need of organic varieties
- Professionals were organised
- Genetic resources were available
- A scientific project INRA-CIAB



**Dès 2005, la  
valorisation...**



Le brocoli « violet du Cap », est ce que l'on peut appeler une variété originale. Il fait partie de ces légumes oubliés, qui aujourd'hui, grâce au travail des paysans, se retrouve sur les étals. On parle ici de sélection participative, une collaboration étroite entre paysans et chercheurs qui mettent à profit leurs compétences afin d'étudier et de développer des

variétés de légumes répondant aux critères et surtout à l'éthique de l'AB. Le brocoli « violet du Cap » est ainsi issu de semences fermières, c'est à dire des variétés sélectionnées et multipliées dans les fermes ; le producteur reproduit lui-même ses semences d'une année sur l'autre, elle est dite « variété de population » contrairement aux hybrides F1 qu'il faut racheter tous les ans.

<http://www.biobreizh.org/>



# Today, the message: vegetable without any biotechnology (CMS)

<http://kaolkozh5.blogspot.com/>



Kaol Kozh gère depuis 2017 l'attribution de la mention "Légume issu de Semence Paysanne". Il s'agit d'une démarche pour identifier les légumes issus de semences paysannes auprès du consommateur, aussi bien sur les marchés, dans les magasins bios et les grandes surfaces. Les maraîchers candidats doivent suivre un cahier des charges technique qui définit les règles à respecter pour prétendre à la mention. Il faut notamment pratiquer la sélection et la multiplication de semences sur sa ferme et ne pas utiliser de biotechnologies comme les CMS.

Le contrôle s'effectue sur le principe d'un SPG (Système Participatif de Garantie) inspiré de ce qui se fait chez Nature et Progrès. Un groupe de producteurs se déplace chez le candidat et effectue le contrôle.

# 2019, la creation du "Bricoli" de Kaol Kozh)

f | Nos newsletters

**Le Télégramme** Brest Lannion Lorient Quimper Saint-Brieuc Vannes Rennes Autres Communes

MONDE FRANCE BRETAGNE ECONOMIE SPORTS LOISIRS &VOUS ANNONCES VIDÉOS ELECTIONS MUNICIPAL

Publié le 22 novembre 2019 à 11h13 Modifié le 22 novembre 2019 à 19h16 VOIR LES COMMENTAIRES



Le bricoli Kaol Kozh récolté actuellement est un brocoli issu des semences paysannes.

*À la ferme de René et Malou Léa, on récolte, pour la première année, le « bricoli Kaol Kozh ». Issu de semences paysannes, sa période de récolte et son goût, plaisent à plusieurs restaurants.*

« À cuire à la vapeur et à déguster al dente ! » c'est la recommandation culinaire de Malou et René Léa, en pleine récolte de leur première production de bricoli Kaol Kozh, un brocoli nouvellement sélectionné.



# The organization of the seed networks

In France (Maison des semences paysannes/associations  
semences)

and in Europe (Community Seed Banks/seed savers)



# Creation of Réseau Semences Paysannes in 2003 With the French associations About 90 in 2020



# Participat The Beginnings

2001-2002

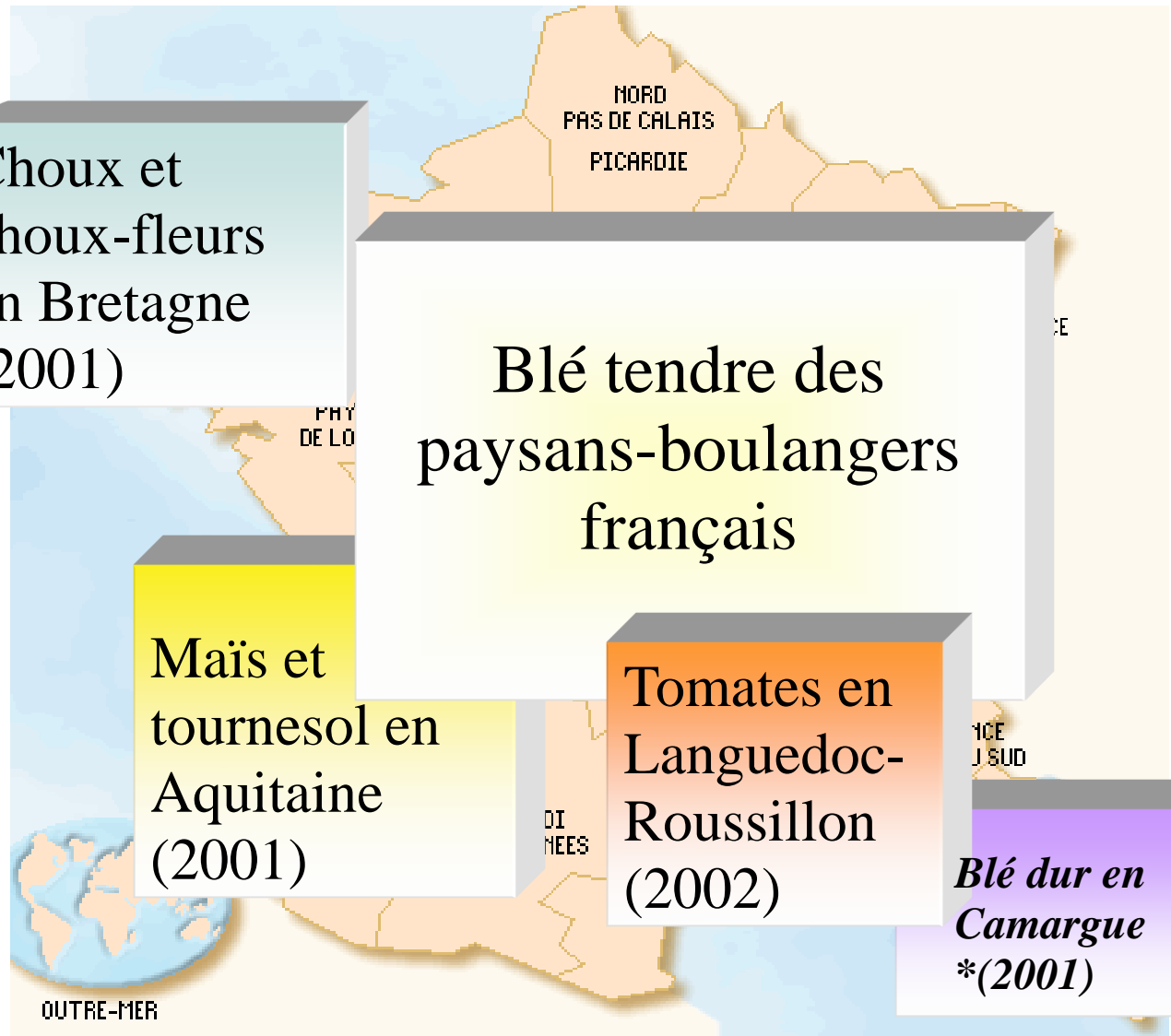
Choux et  
choux-fleurs  
en Bretagne  
(2001)

Blé tendre des  
paysans-boulangers  
français

Mais et  
tournesol en  
Aquitaine  
(2001)

Tomates en  
Languedoc-  
Roussillon  
(2002)

*Blé dur en  
Camargue  
\*(2001)*





# The breton seed associations



Réunir les acteurs d'une Agri-Culture riche de sens participante à la santé de la terre et des hommes pour :  
partager co-naissance et patrimoine  
s'accompagner dans la mise en œuvre de nos expérimentations et recherches en matière de biodiversité, d'agronomie, de transmission.  
Créée en 2006

# Kaol Kozh

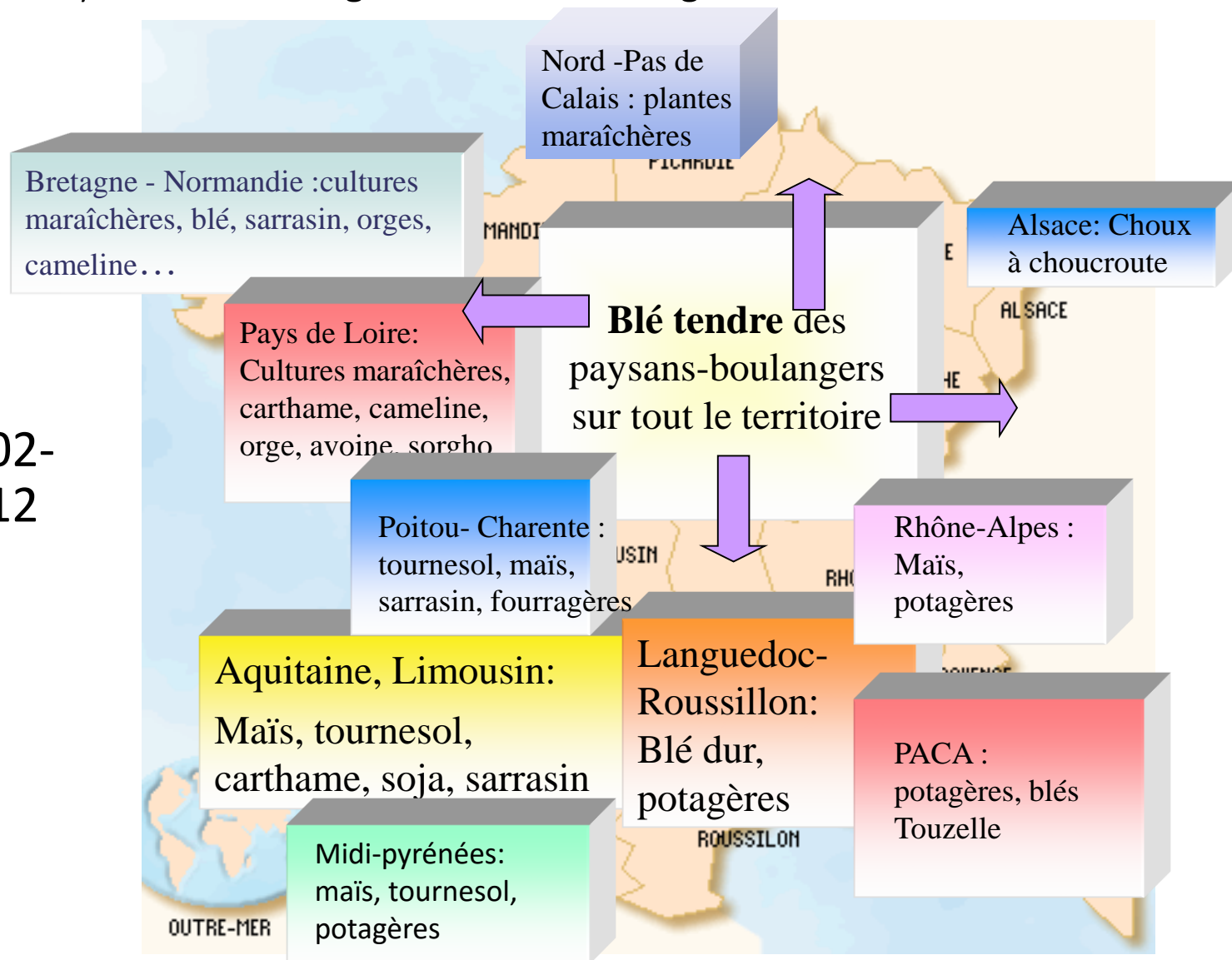
Pour le développement de  
la Biodiversité en Bretagne

**Sélection participative, Multiplication,  
et Mise en commun des semences bio**  
Créée en 2007

# La sélection participative et/ou paysanne

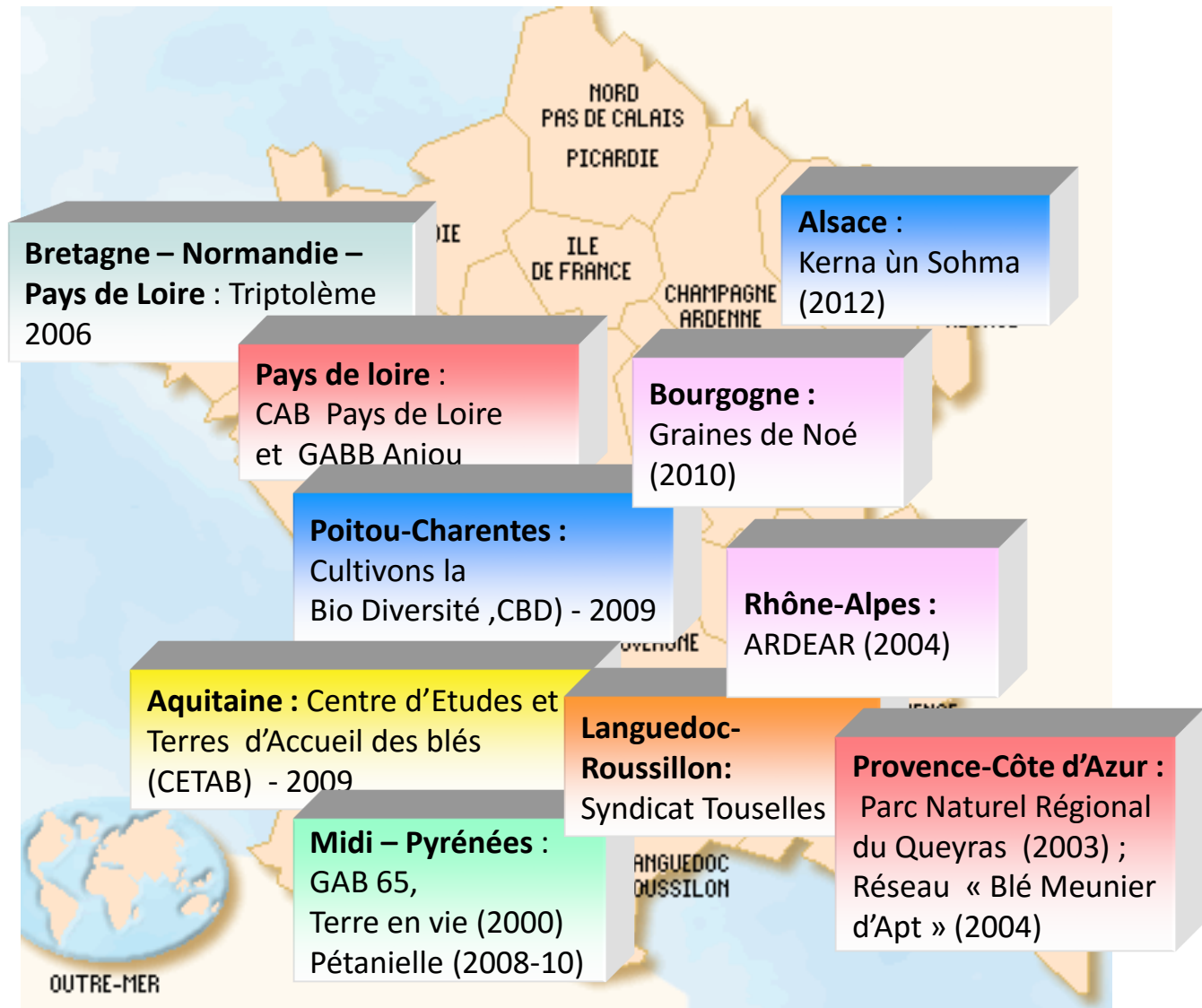
Participatory Plant Breeding/ on farm breeding

2002-  
2012

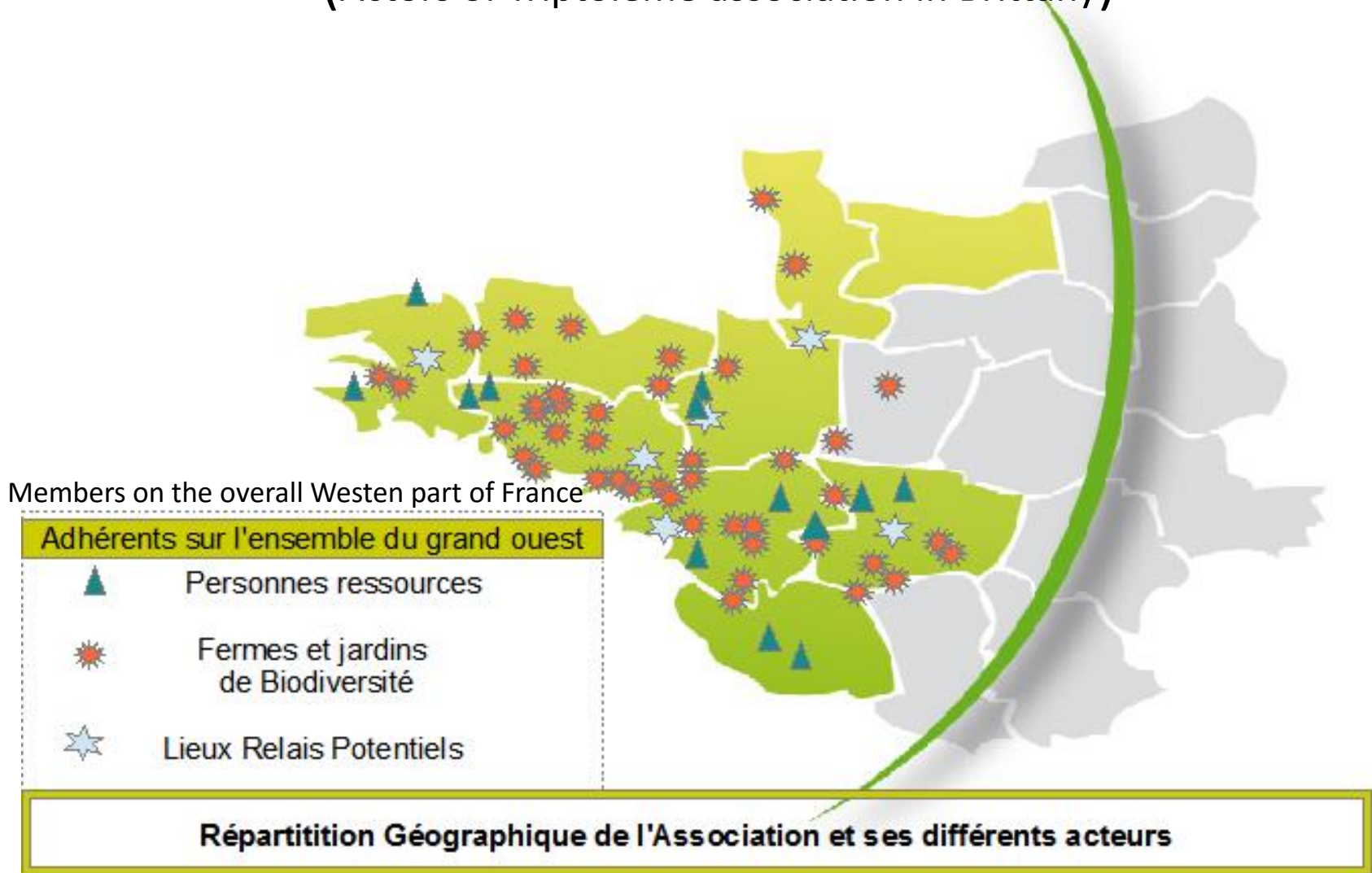


# Les associations pour la sélection paysanne des blés

Associations involved in on-farm breeding of soft wheat



# Les Acteurs de l'association Triptolème en Bretagne (Actors of Triptolème association in Brittany)





# LET'S LIBERATE DIVERSITY

EUROPEAN COORDINATORS

At the moment the members of EC-LLD are the following organizations:

[the Scottish Crofting Federation](#) (Scotland)

[Pro Specie Rara](#) (Switzerland)

[Réseau Semences Paysannes](#) (France)

[BEDE](#) (France)

[Red de Semillas “ Resembrando e Intercambiando”](#) (Spain)

[Centro Internazionale Crocevia - CIC](#) (Italy)

[Rete Semi Rurali](#) (Italy)

[Dachverband Kulturpflanzen- und Nutztiervielfalt e. V. Dachverband](#)

(Germany)

[Ecoruralis](#) (Roumanie)

[Seeds](#) (Luxembourg)



# Collective organisations at several levels



This project has received funding from the European Union's H2020 Programme under grant agreement no 653571

## COMMUNITY SEED BANKS

AT FIRST GLANCE

Community Seed Banks emerge in various forms worldwide. What do CSB in Western countries and in countries of the South have in common? What are the special roles of CBS in Europe, their strengths and challenges?

DIVERSIFOOD INNOVATION FACTSHEET #9, September 2017



This project has received funding from the European Union's H2020 Programme under grant agreement no 653571



www.diversifood.eu

## FARMERS' RIGHTS

AT FIRST GLANCE

Realising Farmers' Rights means enabling farmers to maintain and develop crop genetic resources, and rewarding them for their indispensable contribution to agrobiodiversity worldwide

Enabling crop diversity and sustainability for local high quality food systems

### Farmers' contribution to agrobiodiversity

Since the dawn of agriculture, farmers all over the world have sown, harvested and selected seed and planting material, actively exchanging these resources among each other. In so doing they have developed an incredible abundance of crops, their knowledge and skills paving the way for the food plants that we use in agriculture and breeding today. This indispensable contribution to shaping the world's agrobiodiversity has been largely unnoticed and unrewarded. Moreover, the global transformation of agricultural systems worldwide is increasingly threatening their important role in this respect.

# Peasant seed enriched by meetings

MAISONS DES SEMENCES PAYSANNES - RENCONTRES INTERNATIONALES 2012

## Le journal des rencontres



Prix libre

(Coût de fabrication 3 €)

### ÉDITO

#### Les semences en *commun*

Les semences paysannes aiment les rencontres. Elles sont bien trop précieuses pour être réduites à de vulgaires objets industriels, brevetés et à usage unique. C'est la diversité des communautés humaines et la richesse des échanges qui a permis de créer cette infinie diversité végétale nourricière. Mais nul doute aussi que la diversité végétale a influé sur la diversité des êtres humains et de leurs cultures. Toute la plante est dans la semence : la mémoire du passé, des gènes apparus il y a des millions d'années qui, grâce aux rencontres dans les champs et aux échanges dans les fermes, se sont rassemblés dans la graine pour s'adapter aux conditions de demain.

It is the diversity of human communities and the richness of exchanges that has made it possible to create this infinite plant diversity. **But there is no doubt that plant diversity has influenced the diversity of human beings and their cultures.**

All the memory of the plant is in the seed ... to adapt to the conditions of tomorrow

Patrick de Kochko – Réseau Semences Paysannes

## *Two models of Community Seed Banks Initiatives in Europe*

	The dual model: Seed savers organisations in Central & North. Europe	Farmers networks in Western and Southern Europe
<b>Foundation</b>	“old” organisations of seed – founded before the 1980 <sup>th</sup> until 1995	Founded from 1995
<b>Role models</b>	US- and AU-Seedsavers’ associations	Farmers’ organisations - Initiatives in countries of the South?
<b>Network vs. organisation</b>	“Dual” structures: Members’ network AND organisational centralized structures . Often 1 to few organisations operating nationwide	“Network of organisations”: Many initiatives and organisations organized in national networks
<b>Activities</b>	Organisations developed multiple, differentiated fields of activities – CSB being one of them, they are integrated and associated with the organisation.	Multiple activities in a shared responsibilities between member-organisations and roof-organisations
<b>Members</b>	large numbers of individual members. Members mainly from other professions, often active as private gardeners. Farmers are a small, important stakeholder group.	Generally smaller numbers of individual members –mainly farmers and gardeners.
<b>Concept</b>	<b>“Conservation by use”</b>	<b>„Dynamic Management“</b>



ABOUT

THE CSB MAP

MATERIAL

EVENTS

CONTACT

Map of Community Seed Banks in Europe. If you want to be shown on this map with your initiative, please contact us [here](#).



From a rough estimation, probably 130 initiatives, or more, have been established in Europe so far.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Programme under grant agreement no 633571

© 2017 - Community Seed Banks - IMPRINT





# Organisation of the research

(mainly in the frame of organic food chains  
and genetic resources management)

# Interactions with the agroecosystem

**Crop  
descriptors**



**Production**



**Product  
quality**



# Multi-actor and transdisciplinary research to support the development of cultivated diversity for organic and peasant farming



# Thanks to

A continuation of successive projects for 12 years in Europe

Based on

Informal interactions for 20 years between farmers, millers, bakers, SME, facilitators, ... researchers

With a common objective:  
more resilient and environmental friendly agriculture  
and high quality food

- We have learnt together
- We have created a common culture based on evolutionary concepts



# Progresses through EU 3 projects

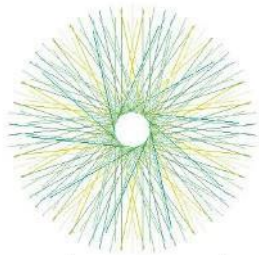
Common hypothesis : DIVERSITY



4 species

7 species

15 species



eip-agri  
AGRICULTURE & INNOVATION

## Horizon 2020 multi-actor projects

The concept of  
“**multi-actor approach**”, a  
practical translation of the  
interactive innovation,

Concept introduced for the  
first time in the Horizon 2020  
work programme 2014-2015

under the Societal challenge  
addressing agriculture and  
forestry

[https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/aagri-eip/files/eip-agri\\_brochure\\_multi-actor\\_projects\\_2017\\_en\\_web.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/aagri-eip/files/eip-agri_brochure_multi-actor_projects_2017_en_web.pdf)



Horizon 2020 multi-actor project,  
launched in 2015



Promoting crop diversity and networking  
for local high quality food systems

### DIVERSIFOOD's multi-actor approach

The DIVERSIFOOD consortium connects the whole food chain: from genetic resources to marketing. The core team consists of farmers and seed savers' networks, and researchers involved in organic farming or participatory research. The partners bring in complementary expertise, and they represent

The diversity of crops grown in the EU is diminishing, while organic and low-input agriculture in particular

# BEFORE the project

Farmers  
rediscover the  
species,  
initiated the  
actions  
several years  
ago, and first  
collection

## Project Activities



They experiment  
together on farm  
new forms of  
diversities  
conceived together

Scientists  
enhanced the  
research of  
genetic  
resources



Scientists adapt  
experimental  
design and  
analysis to on  
farm conditions



They organise  
together  
groups for  
end-use  
evaluation



Millers, bakers,  
artisans  
experiment  
new technics  
and recipes



Farmers  
determined  
qualities and  
bottlenecks





# A complementary roles in order to be efficient all along the food chain

Example of Rivet wheat: to re-discover, to evaluate to breed new populations, to innovate for diversified end-use qualities

From  
genetic  
resources



To  
products



Bread and pasta with Poulard wheat from Triptolème association, a farmers-bakers' association in France



# SOLIBAM strategies for farmers

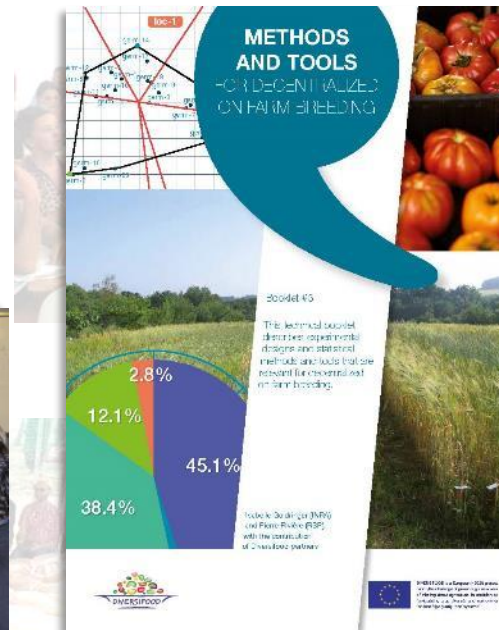
On farm strategies to manage quality of bread for farmer-baker



# New approaches of plant breeding for diversified and high quality food



# New approaches of experimentation for diversity and sustainable farming system





# Emergence of common culture and research organisation

Similar organisations and questions for different species

generation of co-ownership of concepts

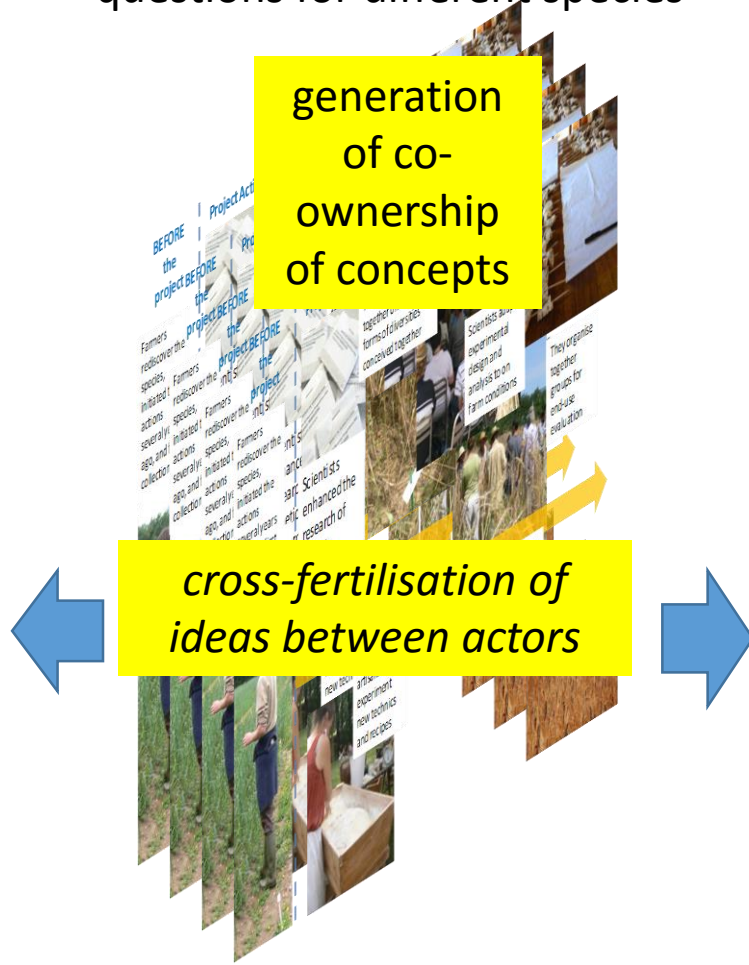
cross-fertilisation of ideas between actors

Analysis, synthesis and actions

Collecting knowledge on seed conservation, collective organisation of on farm breeding, policy recommendations



Market organisations, cost studies, questions of labelling, policy recommendations





Creation of new diverse  
populations

(heterogeneous and evolving)

# Our sources of diversity

Seed from genetic resources centres

Seeds of gardeners



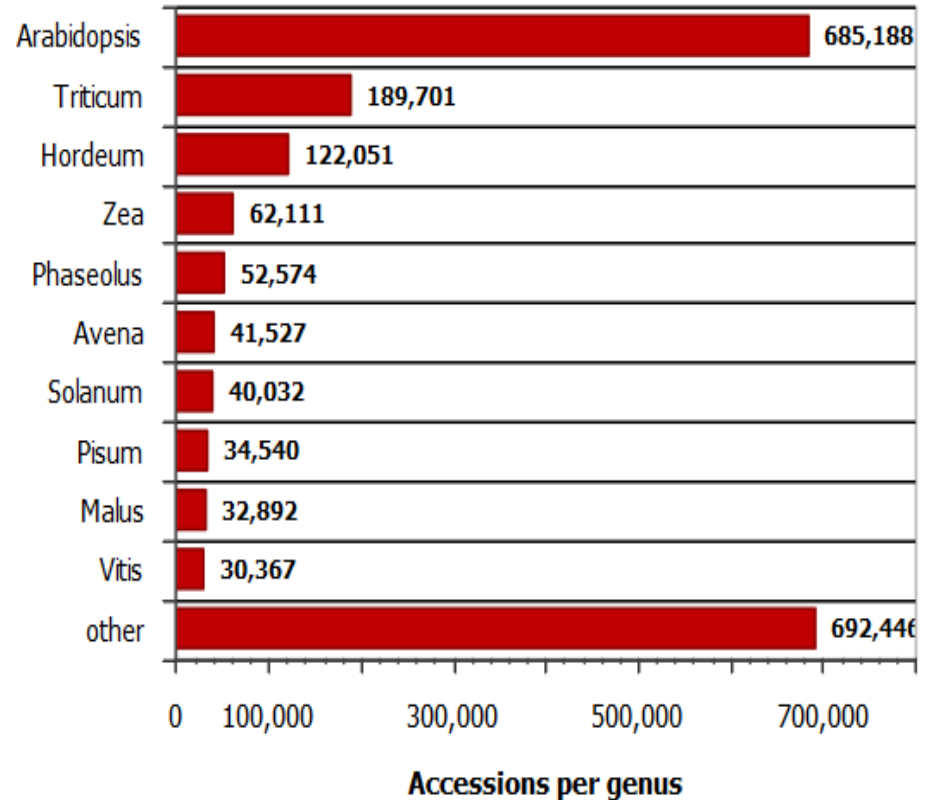
Forgotten varieties  
come back to field  
and creation of new  
one

Seed from peasants



# Looking for diversity and evaluation: a continuous process

Genetic resources have been stored from about 1970 in Europe





**Kaol  
Kozh**  
Pour le développement de  
la Biodiversité en Bretagne

# Community seed banks

On-farm plant breeding and seed multiplication

Learning together





Jean-Martial Morel 's farm  
Chavagne-France  
15 September 2020  
Kaol Kozh meeting



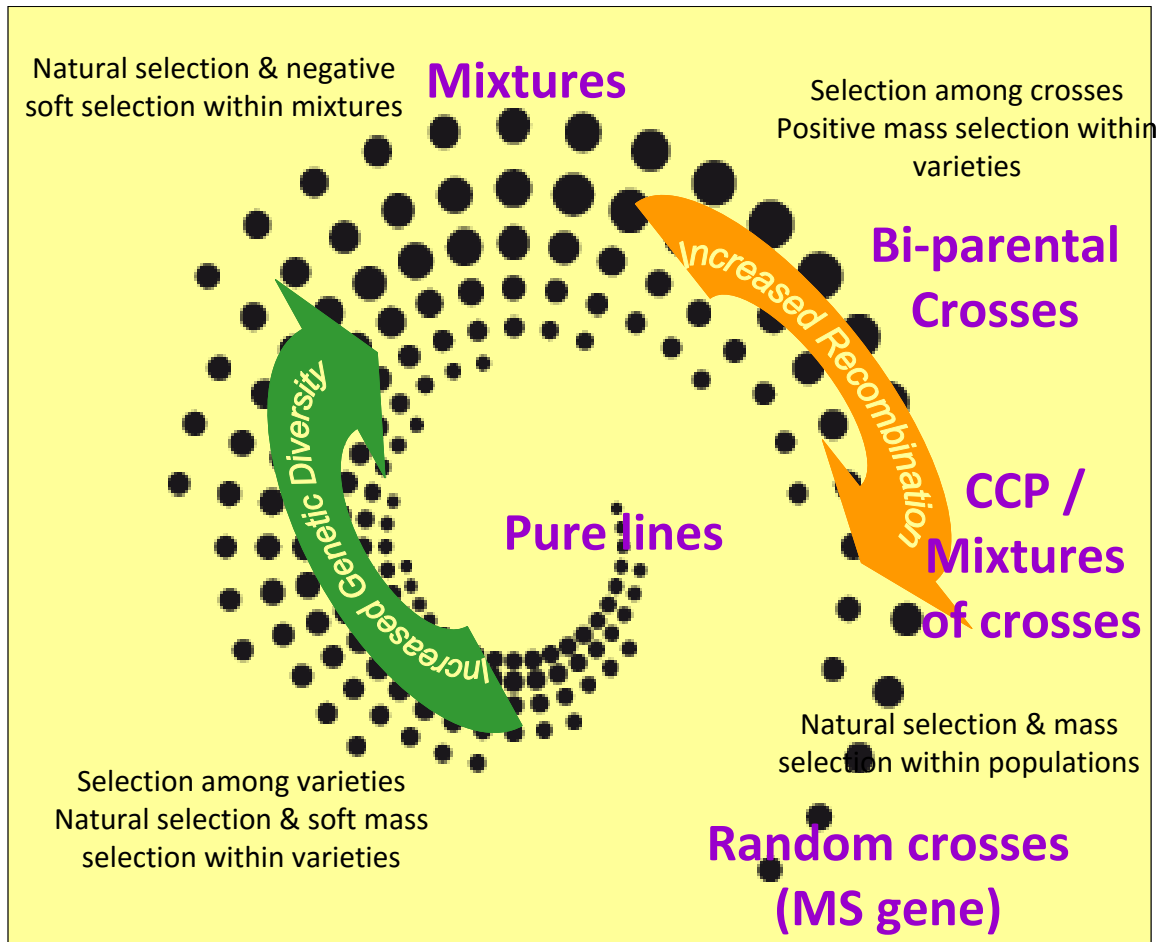
# Carrots collection

September 15<sup>th</sup> 2020

Chavagne  
France



Farmers and breeders grow / breed a range of populations / heterogeneous « varieties »



=> a range of management approaches has been developed including those based on social organisation

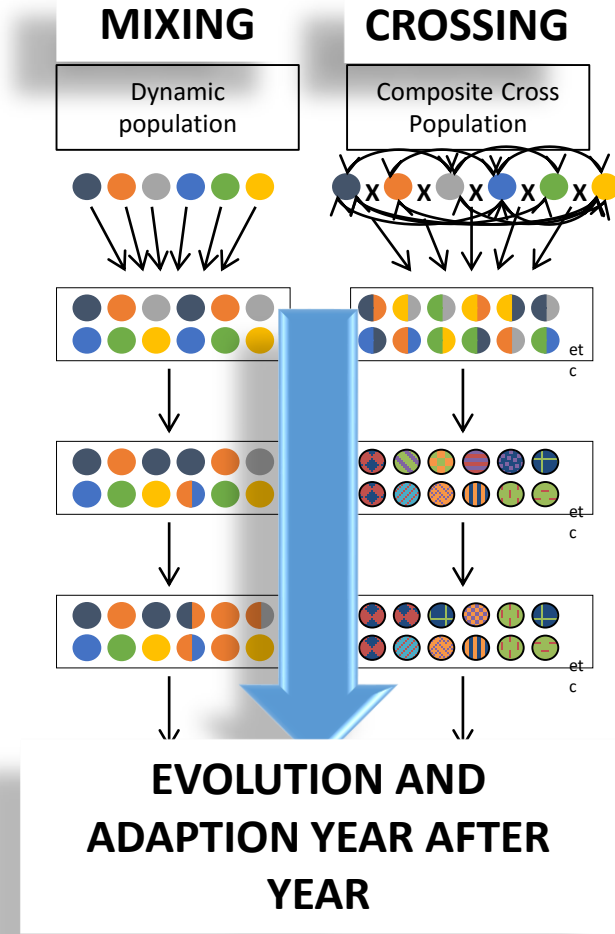


(E Serpolay)



# Exploring collectively new methods to recover diversity

2 examples





# Creating new populations on farm

Learning together



# Actors of maize groups

Bakers, caterers, chefs,  
peasants, researchers,  
consumers...





# Quelles qualités ?

## Transformation

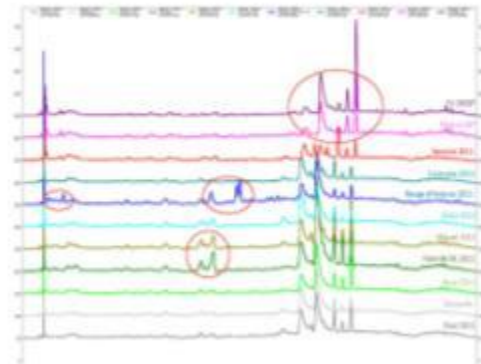
- mouture
- préparation en cuisine

## Organoleptique

- tests de dégustations avec des consommateurs

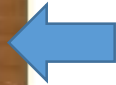
## Nutritionnelle

- protéine
- antioxydants
- polyphénols...



# Examples with 3 varieties

Agurtzan (French)



# Sponcio (Italy)



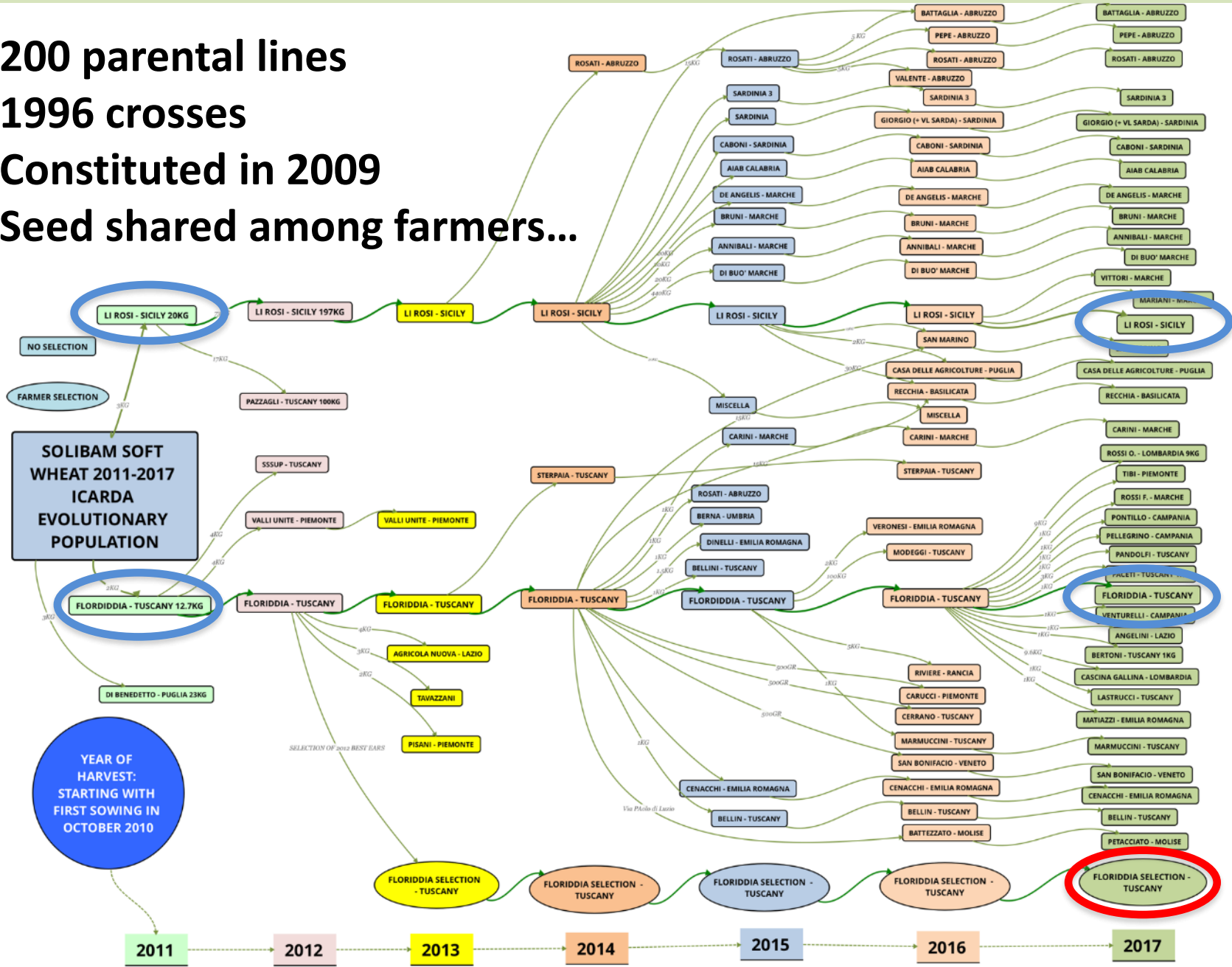


# From on-farm research to new seed law for organic agriculture

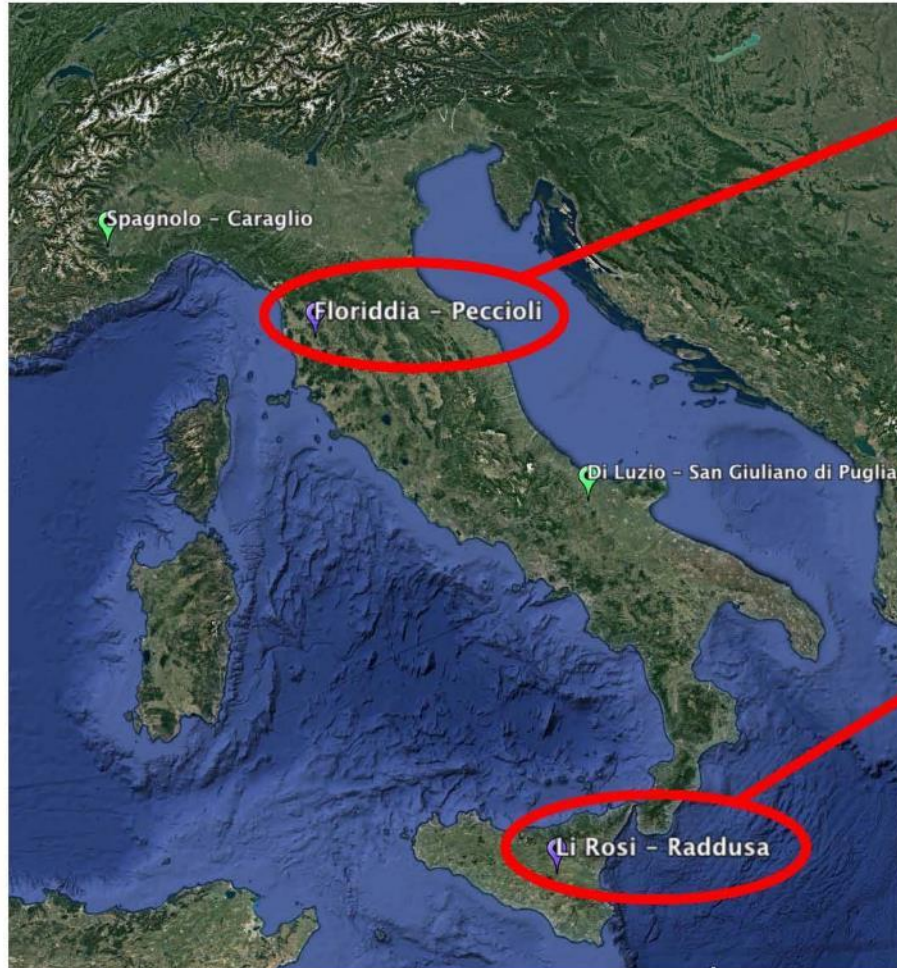
The recognition of the need for diversity

# SOLIBAM Bread Wheat Evolutionary Population

- 200 parental lines
- 1996 crosses
- Constituted in 2009
- Seed shared among farmers...



# Assessing adaptation of same Evolutionary Population (EP) to two different regions







**Questa semente  
è il risultato  
di anni di ricerca  
partecipata.**

Il nucleo iniziale è stato costituito nel 2009 all'ICARDA (Centro di ricerca agricola in Siria) su indicazione di Salvatore Ceccarelli mescolando il

**The history of the CCP  
and the breeding  
process**

La popolazione è stata selezionata in un campo sperimentale della Toscana, su terreni argillosi.

La commercializzazione di questa popolazione non omogenea è possibile grazie alla Decisione della Commissione Europea 2014/450/EU che permette in via sperimentale la commercializzazione delle sementi di "materiale eterogeneo" di alcuni cereali. Si tratta di una rivoluzione nel settore sementiero perché per la prima volta viene consentita la vendita di sementi di varietà non omogenee, con procedure fitosanitarie adattate a questo nuovo contesto.

Queste sementi non sono protette proprietà intellettuale, acquisendo hai il privilegio di utilizzarle in più autonomia, con alcune limitazioni

**The rules on IPRs, the seeds are not protected by PVP but there is an open source pledge**

IN PARTICOLARE HAI:

1. la libertà di riseminare le sementi
2. la libertà di condividere o vendere le sementi ad altri con procedure di certificazione adattate a questo nuovo contesto;
3. la libertà di sperimentare e studiare le popolazioni e di condividere o pubblicare informazioni relative;
4. la libertà di selezionare o adattare le popolazioni, fare incroci con esse o usarle per costituire nuove linee e varietà.

IN CAMBIO, TI IMPEGNI:

1. non limitare l'uso di queste sementi o dei loro derivati con brevetti o altri strumenti di proprietà intellettuale,
2. ad includere questa dichiarazione in ogni trasferimento di queste sementi o dei loro derivati,
3. a rendere disponibili i prodotti della ricerca fatta a partire da questa popolazione.

**SOLIBAM TENERO FLORIDDIA POPOLAZIONE**



**Questa semente  
è il risultato  
di anni di ricerca  
partecipata.**

Il nucleo iniziale è stato costituito nel 2009 all'ICARDA (Centro di ricerca agricola in Siria) su indicazione di Salvatore Ceccarelli mescolando il seme di 2000 varietà di cereali. Nel 2010 è arrivato il contributo di un gruppo di ricerca europeo SOLIBAM (2010-2014) grazie ad un

**A well defined graphical identity**

**The name of the CCP,  
SOLIBAM**

**The « social » rules you agree on opening the seed wrap**

Queste sementi non sono protette da proprietà intellettuale, acquisendole hai il privilegio di utilizzarle in piena autonomia, con alcune limitazioni.

1. la libertà di riseminare le sementi in azienda;
2. la libertà di condividere o vendere le sementi ad altri con procedure di certificazione adattate a questo nuovo contesto;
3. la libertà di sperimentare e studiare le popolazioni e di condividere o pubblicare informazioni a loro relative;
4. la libertà di selezionare o adattare le popolazioni, fare incroci con esse o usarle per costituire nuove linee e varietà.

IN CAMBIO, TI IMPEGNI A:

1. non limitare l'uso di queste sementi o dei loro derivati con brevetti o altri strumenti di proprietà intellettuale,
2. ad includere questa dichiarazione in ogni trasferimento di queste sementi o dei loro derivati,
3. a rendere disponibili i prodotti della ricerca fatta a partire da questa popolazione.

**SOLIBAM TENERO LI ROSI POPOLAZIONE**



From seed  
to flour..

**farina tipo 2**  
**Popolazione**  
**evolutiva**  
**di grani teneri**

**SOLIBAM**  
TENERO FLORIDDO POPOLAZIONE

COLTIVATO IN VAL DI CHIANA (TOSCANA)  
DA AGRICOLTURA BIOLOGICA

1kg e

**DA CONSUMARSI PREFERIBILMENTE ENTRO IL (LOTTO):**  
vedi confezione

**Prodotto da:** Azienda Agricola di Passerini Sara  
Via Guerrazzi, 11 - 50132 Firenze (SI)  
tel. +39 340 416112 [www.aziendapasserini.it](http://www.aziendapasserini.it)

**Macinato da:** Mulino Val d'Orca - Pienza (SI)

La Popolazione evolutiva di frumento tenero e frutto di un percorso di ricerca partecipata durato 7 anni promosso dalla Rete Semi Rurali in collaborazione con il genesta Salvatore Ceccarelli, con lo scopo di accrescere la agrobiodiversità nelle aziende agricole. Questa Popolazione è caratterizzata da un elevato adattamento alle condizioni ambientali degli areali di coltivazione, dove riesce ad esprimere i migliori risultati in termini di stabilità delle rese e qualità tecnologica della granella e degli starnati. Altamente digeribile grazie alla grande varietà di nutrienti che contiene, ha anche un'ottima resa nella lievitazione.

**Usi:** pane, pizza, dolci, focacce, biscottiera, torte dolci e salate.  
Contiene glutine.  
Conservare in luogo fresco e asciutto.

**AMERICA ITALIA**  
n. 83231  
IT BIO 006  
MILANO

**COLTIVATO**  
100%

# SOLIBAM Bread Wheat Evolutionary Population

...until certified seed became commercially available in 2017 thanks to 2014/150/EU



DI BENEDETTO - PUGLIA 23KG

YEAR OF HARVEST STARTING WITH FIRST SOWING IN OCTOBER 2010

YEAR OF HARVEST: STARTING WITH FIRST SOWING IN OCTOBER 2010

NO SELECTION  
FARM OR SELECTION

2011

2012

2011

2012

2013

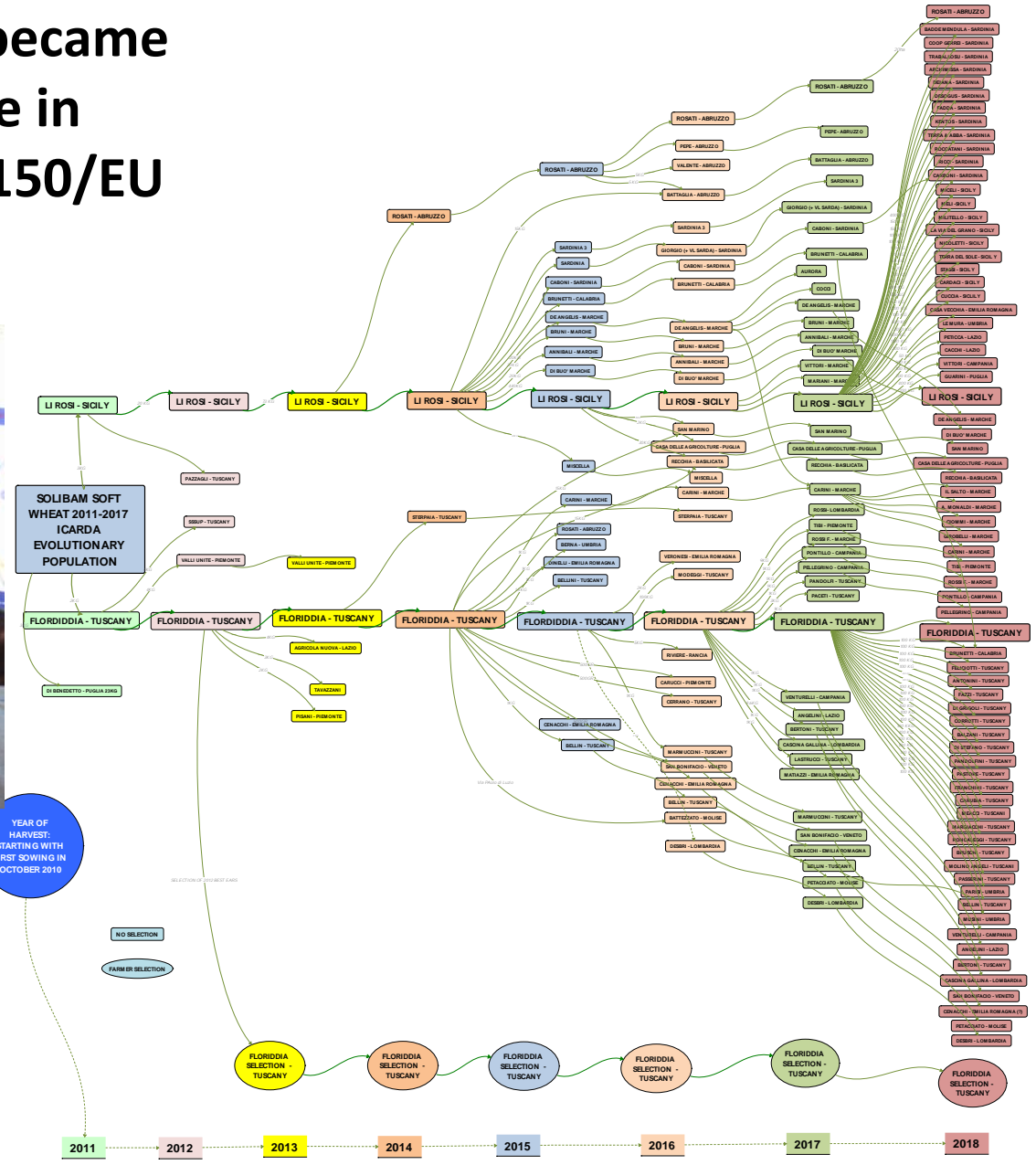
2014

2015

2016

2017

2018



# The new Organic Regulation (EU 848/2018) has given a place to diversity

It has recognised that

“Research in the Union on plant reproductive material that does not fulfil the variety definition as regards uniformity shows that there could be benefits of using **such diverse material**, in particular with regard to organic production,

for example to reduce the spread of diseases, to improve resilience and to increase biodiversity.

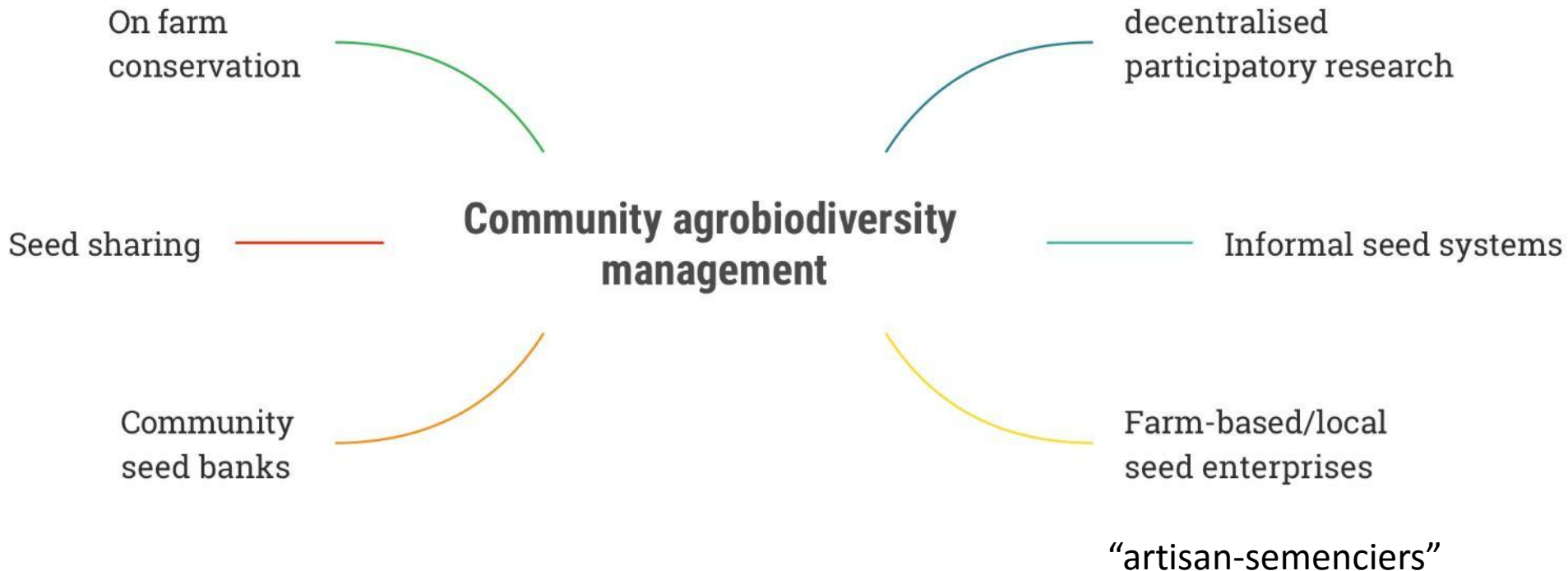
# The inclusion of Organic Heterogeneous Material (OHM)

in the new Organic Regulation will however enable certification of genetically heterogeneous seeds via organic certification.

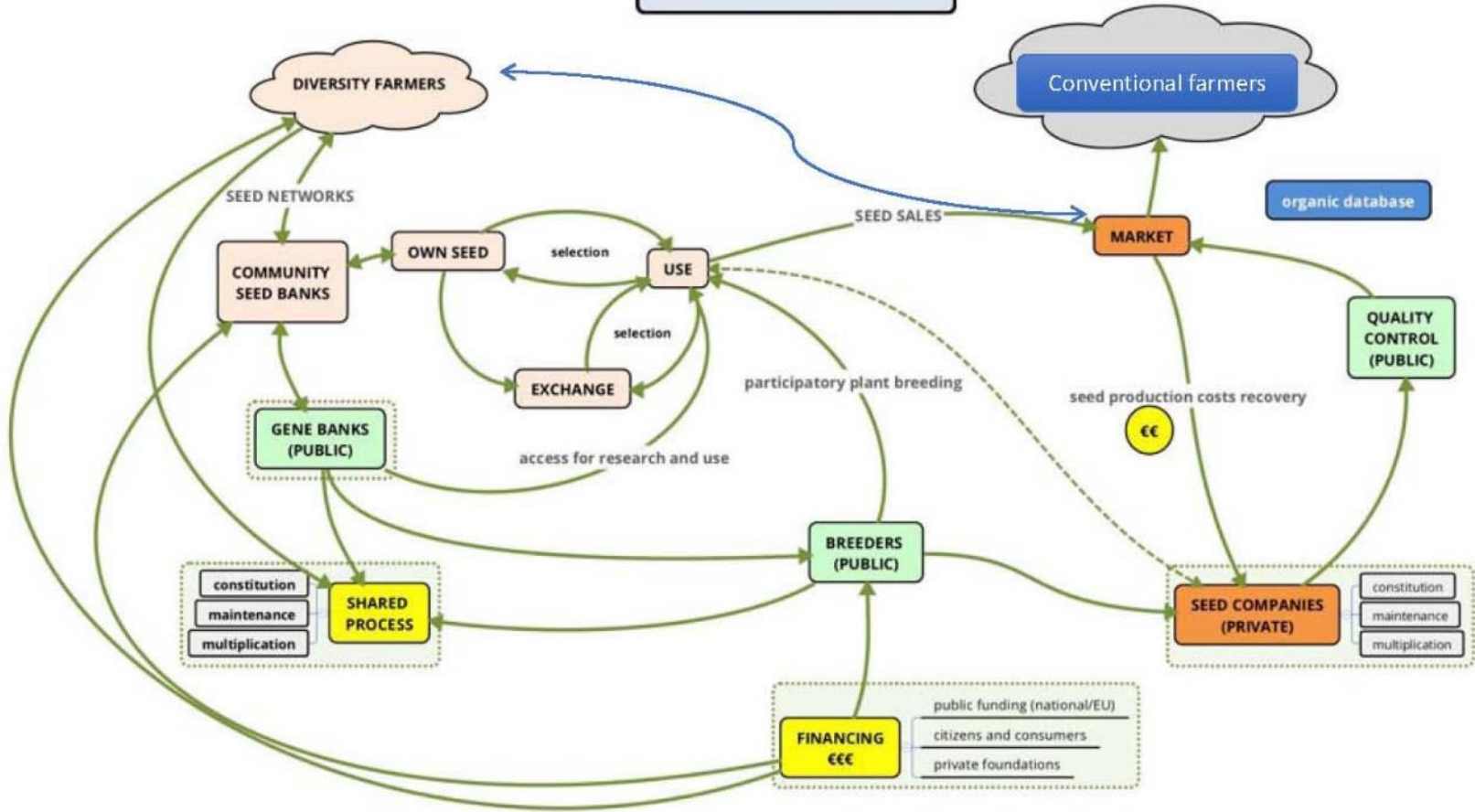
- OHM has a broader definition than that of heterogeneous populations within 2014/150/EU, with no quantitative limitations and covers all crop species.



# Complex seed situation in Europe



**INTEGRATED SEED SYSTEM**



# FROM ITS ROOTS, ORGANIC INSPIRES LIFE

20th Organic World Congress  
New Dates: 6 - 10 September 2021

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

REGISTRATION

 | France

ORGANIC WORLD CONGRESS  
CONGRÈS MONDIAL DE L'AGRICULTURE BIOLOGIQUE

<https://owc.ifoam.bio/2020/>

NEW DATES!

6-10 SEPTEMBER 2021

RENNES, FRANCE

Couvent des Jacobins Congress Center

- 6-7 SEPT. 2021 **PRE-CONFERENCES**
- 7 SEPT. 2021 **OPENING CEREMONY**  
(IN THE EVENING)
- 8-10 SEPT. 2021 **CONFERENCES**
- Date TBC **TOURS AND VISITS /  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
(IFOAM - ORGANICS  
INTERNATIONAL)



The poster features a background image of a group of people in a field of tall grass. A large green tag on the left contains the text 'SEPT. 2020' and 'OCT. 2021'. A circular logo in the bottom right corner reads 'VOYAGE en Terre Bio' and lists activities: 'TABLEES • DISCUSSIONS • PARCOURS • MARCHÉS'. The main title 'Voyage EN TERRE BIO' is written in a stylized font. At the bottom right, there is a logo for 'Congrès Mondial de la Bio 2021' with 'NEW DATES!' and '6-10 SEPTEMBER 2021 RENNES, FRANCE' below it.

<https://www.voyageenterrebio.org/le-congres/>





**Merci de votre attention**