

Next Steps to strengthen international seed network and engage with other seed ambassadors

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INRAE itab CReV AwoP
ORGANIC seed ALLIANCE ECO-PB LIVESEED IFOAM SEEDS PLATFORM Isp

WELCOME
SEED AMBASSADORS

Building an
International Network
to Advance Organic
Seed Systems

Organic World Congress 2021 | Pre-conference 6-7th September 2021
ENGAGEMENT. BIOBREEDING





IFOAM Seeds Platform

- IFOAM organic animal and plant breeding conference in Santa Fe 2009
- Preconference on organic seed at OWC 2011 (Seoul), 2014 (Istanbul), 2017 (New Delhi)
- ECO-PB motion on new genetic engineering techniques and cell fusion 2014 → 2 IFOAM Working groups
- 2015 official founding of IFOAM Seeds Platform by Michael Sligh (RAFI), Gebhard Rossmann, Veronique Chable, Riccardo Bocci, Bernd Horneburg, Monika Messmer (ECO-PB) with support of Thomas Cierpka aiming at:
 - Developing an international network of actors around the globe engaged in seed and plant breeding
 - Prepare OWC preconference and develop working groups
 - Support IFOAM board on all topics related to seed and plant breeding
- First secretary Marcello Cappellazzi (2014-2017)



Pre-conference
6-7th September 2021





IFOAM Seeds Platform

- First secretary Marcello Cappellazzi established the platform, IFOAM webpage, enlarged the network, and prepared Preconference till mid of 2017 when he got a new position
- The IFOAM working group on GMO and new breeding technique led by David Gould got stuck also stuck after his new appointment
- This Preconference therefore wants to energize the IFOAM Seeds Platform and to recruit young seed ambassadors that are enthusiastic to engage in different topics related to organic seed and plant breeding
- Survey to identify burning issues you want to discuss at the Preconference
- Selected 4 topics discussed the last two days and came up with priorities and next steps
- Now we want to discuss together how to move on and share tasks and responsibilities to keep organic seed and plant breeding on the research, societal and policy agenda



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Identification of topics for Preconference

- **Advocacy, seed policy, seed legislation**
 - **Seed commons preserving farmers rights (35)**
 - Participatory Guarantee Systems for seed (Quality, Origin, 16)
 - Exchange of germplasm (Nagoya protocol, 7)
 - GMO and NGT regulations in different countries (6)
 - Common strategies to keep GMO, NGT out of organic seed (5)
- **Exchange on knowledge and practises**
 - **How to increase resilience of agroecosystems with seed biodiversity (32)**
 - Plant breeding methods, approaches, and models that reflect organic principle of IFOAM (15)
 - Breeding for culinary diversity, approaches and tools for taste and flavor (11)
 - Multiactor-based breeding approaches (11)

Identification of topics for Preconference

- **Networking and Awareness raising**
 - **Resilient seed systems, community seed banks and networks (28)**
 - Seeds as commons and participatory breeding as tools to integrate biodiversity in society (22)
 - How to increase awareness about seed and plant breeding importance for the organic sector (19)
- **Next generation of organic plant breeders and seed ambassadors**
 - **Strategies to support the growth and success of the next generation of organic plant breeders and seed ambassadors (40)**
 - What kind of education is needed to promote organic breeding (16)
 - How to engage young seed ambassadors and seed pioneers (13)



GEVES workshop on temporary experiment on organic varieties suited for organic production

- Discussion in the field on homogeneity of cultivars and effect of soil, climatic effects and growing conditions on carrot morphological traits
 - Discussion on the distinction of Organic Heterogeneous Material (OHM) that can be commercialized after notification from 2022 onwards and Organic Varieties suitable for Organic Production (OV)
 - upcoming EU temporary experiment on characterization and faster commercialization of OV
 - common trials for DUS testing of OV including different examination offices and organic breeders
 - discuss on feasibility of suggestion on adjusted DUS of LIVESEED and ECO-PB to allow less uniform cultivars and its impact on Plant Variety Protection of conventionally bred lines
- Consider difference between vegetables and arable crops with mandatory VCU
 - DUS traits per se are not related to performance but easy to assess traits
 - VCU should become optional to allow also for speciality markets
 - if easier market access with adjusted registration for OV the plant protection of OV might not be possible
- Presently the EU commission is preparing outline and rules for adjusted DUS and VCU testing for OV
 - Present suggestion foresees one standard procedure to be applied to OV for all crop species
 - ECO-PB and examination need more meeting and propose a more differentiated procedure
 - conduct more carrot trials in 2022 with GEVES including candidate cultivars of organic breeders link Saat:gut, Sativa, etc.



Next steps to strengthen the international seed & breeding network

We need more organic breeding initiatives to cover demand of growing number of organic farmers for locally adapted cultivars, new crops and cultivar types with increased diversity to combat climate change and to ensure that also in future cultivars are available developed IFOAM compliant breeding methods <https://www.ifoam.bio/compatibility-breeding-techniques-organic-systems>

- **Advocacy, seed policy, seed legislation**
 - #2 Seed commons preserving farmers rights (35)
 - **International legal taskforce** on seed law, UPOV, GMO, new GMO, promote LIVESEED results on more flexibility in seed regulation for OHM and OV, revision of EU seed directives
 - **exchange with other organisations** like Via Campesina, OSSI, ECLLD
 - **conduct monthly / or bimonthly webinars to keep discussion going and find common vision and position**
 - **transparency on public resources invested in conventional vs. organic breeding**
- **Exchange on knowledge and practices across continents**
 - #1, #5 How to increase resilience of agroecosystems with seed biodiversity (32)
 - **face to face meetings on farm** for mutual exchange on knowledge and practice
 - **translation of IFOAM and other position papers in different languages**



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Next steps to strengthen the international seed & breeding network

- **Networking and Awareness raising**
 - #7, #4 Resilient seed systems, community seed banks and networks (28)
 - keep the seed issue on the IFOAM agenda, maintain
 - Utilize Organic Seed Commons platform during and after OWC
<https://www.organicseedcommons.org/chats/5740452>
- **Next generation of organic plant breeders and seed ambassadors**
 - #3, #6 Strategies to support the growth and success of the next generation of organic plant breeders and seed ambassadors (40)
 - list of possible internships with organic breeders
 - winter schools on participatory plant breeding and resilient seed systems like those conducted by Edith
 - join forces of OSA and ECO-PB and share links of open source training material, webinars, videos
 - update material for practioners on Organic Farmknowledge Section seed with automatic translation
 - methods and technology can be exchanged globally, but type and implementation of training must be context specific on local level
- **Address challenges of organic seed production at local level**