Taste the innovation of seed ambassadors

Edwin Nuijten, Monika Messmer, Véronique Chable, Micaela Colley, Kaja Gutzen, Agnes Bruszik, Pedro Mendes Moreira

OWC, 8 September 2021

This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 727230 and by the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) under contract number 17.00090. The information contained in this communication only reflects the author’s view. Neither the Research Executive Agency nor SERI is responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.
Workshop program

11.00-11.20 Introduction
11.20-11.40 world café and tasting of carrots
11.40-12.00 swapping groups
12.00-12.10 present taste statistics
12.10-12.30 Discussion
Preconference Seed Ambassadors: Building an international network to advance organic seed systems

- Culinary breeding: celebrating a focus on taste, quality and food diversity
- Linking generations and cultures: supporting knowledge exchange and foster new developments
- Preserving diversity of cultures, traditions, foods and culinary uses is essential to cultivated biodiversity.
- A systems-based breeding concept: broadening approaches in organic breeding
- Fostering diversity in breeding approaches for the transition to truly sustainable food systems
- Involvement of the value chain in plant breeding and financing thereof
- Creating seed networks: Supporting the growth and success of the next generation of organic plant breeders and seed ambassadors
Short overview of the preconference

• Monday: field tour and culinary evaluations
Short overview of the preconference

• Monday: field tour and culinary evaluations: site 2
After tasting the carrot sample, please write below one to three sensory descriptors that characterize it according to you

Sample ....

Descriptors 1:

Descriptors 2:

Descriptors 3:

Variable number of descriptors used according to the variety

LIVESEED

This project received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 772730.
Carrot comparison on sensory descriptor, dimension 1 et 2

CA factor map

Dim 2 (17.23%)

Dim 1 (23.63%)

Tasteless, aqueous

Delicious, sweety
Workshop on systems based breeding: six goals for ecological and social resilience

Six key-elements (goals):

1. Social justice
2. Food security, quality and safety
3. Food and seed sovereignty
4. Agro-biodiversity
5. Ecosystem services
6. Climate robustness

Workshop on systems based breeding

How to achieve mind shift?

LIVESEED

This project received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 727230.
GEVES workshop on temporary experiment on organic varieties suited for organic production
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 breed 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 varieties 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 like Kulturaat, Saat:gut, Sativa, etc.
Day 1 and 2: parallel workshops

# 1 online / #5 on site: How to increase the resilience of the agroecosystems with the use of seed diversity?
# 2 (online only): Seed commons – preserving farming rights to seed, addressing intellectual property restrictions
# 3/6 (on site /online): Strategies to support the growth and success of the next generation of organic plant breeders and seed ambassadors
# 4/7 (on site /online): Resilient seed systems, community seed banks and networks, cultural diversity in seed systems
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](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 LIVSEED 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 visionand 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**
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 practicioners 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
Main outcome of the workshops: need to work on various priorities

- Training of seed professionals, at various levels
- Exchange of knowledge and practices
- Building networks, at various levels
  - Improving synergies between existing networks
  - Agro-ecosystem resilience and social resilience
- Governance, seed policy, seed legislation
  - Working together, at regional, national and international level