



# Network "Young Professionals in Organic Plant Breeding"

Training module:

Multi-actor culinary breeding methodologies:  
from theory to practical examples in Europe

Report participants with ECO-PB Scholarship



27 October 2023



# Finlay Keiller- Seeds of Scotland



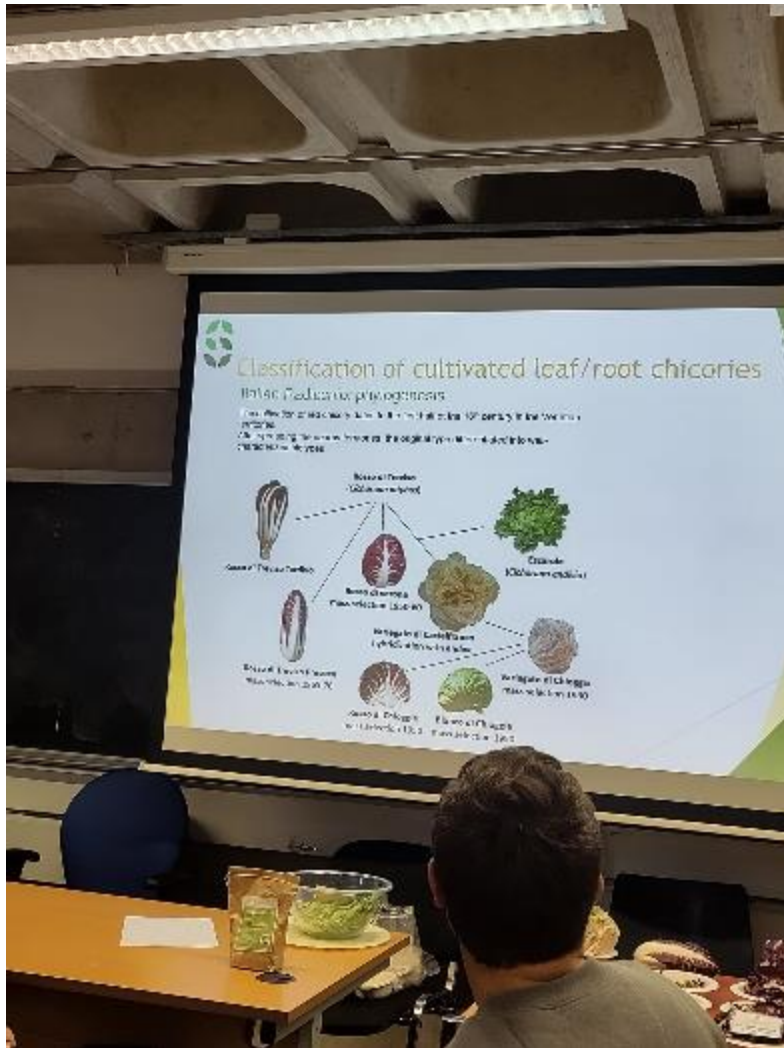
As a farmer/breeder, participation in the ECO-PB workshop at the Liberate Diversity Forum gave me the opportunity to learn from and interact with experienced professionals who are engaged in culinary breeding.

In the first session, I learnt valuable techniques as well as important variables to consider when planning culinary breeding. Particularly interesting to me was the sampling technique used during the parsnip taste trials as well as the variability in results shown for tomato taste testing due to environmental factors.

In the second session, I learned about what to consider when planning a taste test and methods of expressing experienced tastes through techniques such as 'Napping' in order to get useful and valid results.

I also learnt about the history and lineage of Raddichio and how that relates to its geographical spread and taste.

# Impressions from the event



Graphic showing the lineage of modern Raddichio varieties (Photo Finlay Keiller)



Raddichio taste trials organised by Smarties.bio (Photo: Finlay Keiller)



## Nina Miggitsch – Arche Noah(Austria)

- Being new to plant breeding and the seed saving scene as a whole I was very grateful for this opportunity to get to know so many people on a personal level that I only ever read or heard about. I will have fewer hesitations in the future to ask these people for help or even to collaborate, because I now have a personal connection to them.
- I learned a lot! Both in the workshops and in between I got to hear about different approaches to agrobiodiversity in practice, about the challenges and opportunities in different European countries and the people facing them. This is useful for my work at Arche Noah, because it put our national approaches into perspective and made me see the importance of knowledge exchange and collaborations beyond a national level.
- As the project manager on a project that aims to support biodiversity actors in South-Eastern Europe it was great for me to meet members of the Balkan Seed Network and to realize that we are all just part of the same – very small, albeit very important – seed savers and developers scene.
- A special treat for me was to meet Lane Selman of the Culinary Breeding Network and to get to hear her speak in her workshop. I have been following her work for a long time and I got very inspired to try and make our own breeding work at Arche Noah more visible and accessible to the general public through events and information material in the future.



# Impressions from the event



Wonderful seed display that the Irish Seed Savers Organisation showcased on the first day of the forum  
(Photo: Nina Miggitsch)

# Dylan Wallman

Swedish University of Agricultural Science (SLU)



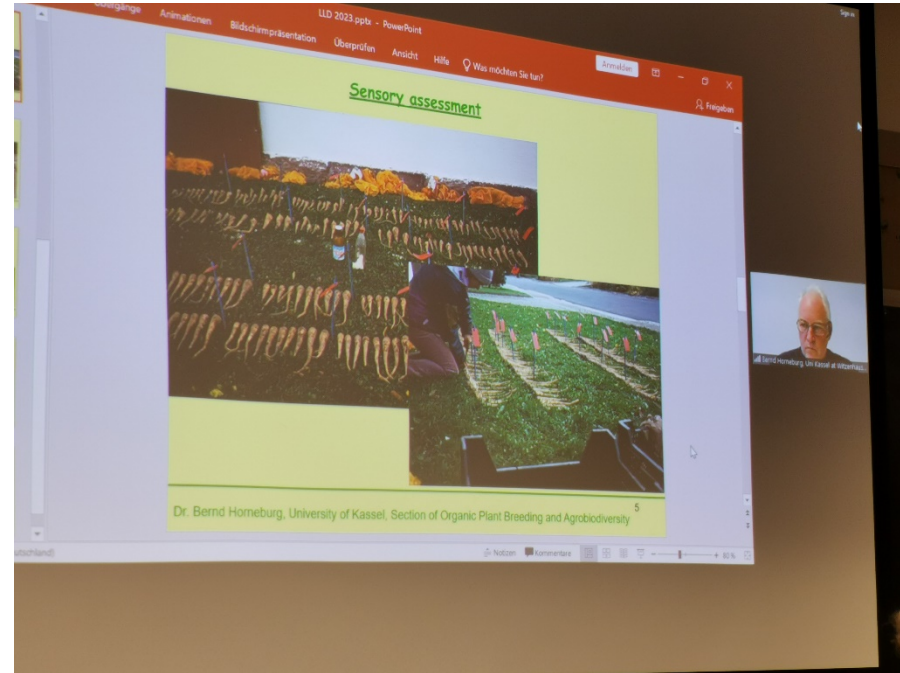
The participation in the Let's Liberate Diversity Forum and ECO-PB workshop was useful for my work in the following ways:

- I increased my network and made connections with several new persons working with seeds and organic breeding.
- I got a better understanding of the new seed law reform taking place in EU, as well as the new GMO/NGT law proposal that can have a significant impact on the organic sector and organic breeding.
- The ECO-PB workshop hosted by Matteo and Mariateresa was very interesting as I got new insights in methods how to work with culinary breeding – something I can incorporate in my work, testing culinary attributes of various pea (and faba bean) varieties.

# Impressions from the event



Part of the ECO-PB workshop on culinary breeding: a very inspirational display of crop diversity with different culinary attributes (Photo: Dylan Wallman)



An inspirational lecture on culinary breeding by Dr. Bernd Horneburg. A good moment to collect methods and knowledge based on experience (Photo: Dylan Wallman)



# Samuele Ciacci – Seminare il futuro

**SEMINARE IL FUTURO!**

Participation in the let's liberate diversity forum and eco pb workshop event was very interesting for my work to learn more about other views of organic farming and organic breeding, exchange views and network with other participants, learn more about seed legislation.



# Impressions from the event

My impressions of this event are totally positive, there was a wonderful atmosphere and exchange of different experiences, being able to talk with many experts in the field, establishing a network between farmers, breeders and scientists aimed at promoting common thinking toward the development of more sustainable agriculture.



Rainbow over Trinity College (Photo: Samuele Ciacci)

# Judit Fehér – Magház Association

- During the workshop, participants learned about efficient selection methods for root crops (e.g., parsnip, carrots, etc.) based on taste from populations resulting from one or more crosses. The presentations covered the theoretical background and provided dos and don'ts, such as how to train for tasting, maintain palate sensitivity during the process, treat wounds on the roots to take samples and prevent rotting, and more, when it comes to taste-based selection. Participants also shared their best practices on the topic. This part of the workshop focused on the breeder's perspective.
- In the second part of the workshop, we learned how to conduct a participatory tasting evaluation using examples of two crops: rice and radicchio. Here, we practiced taste evaluations of different cultivars within the same crop species, considering various taste aspects (intensity, aroma, etc.) and texture. Two different data collection methods (Mentimeter and Seedlinked) were employed, and various data evaluation methods were presented.
- All the techniques learned during the workshop will be valuable in our activities. On one hand, they will help improve the cultivars shared within and outside the network, and on the other hand, they will enable better engagement of stakeholders in the evaluation of our cultivars. This will provide more practical information, including tasting tests, about the cultivars (landraces, open-pollinated varieties) in our collection.



# Impressions from the workshop



Different chicory biotypes and cultivars prepared for taste (e.g. aroma, bitterness, intensity, sweetness, etc.) evaluation. The evaluation was done with the help of the Seedlinked platform. (Photos: Judit Fehér)

# Sebastian Kussmann – gzkp



The forum was very helpful to

- better understand current developments in EU seed legislation
- exchange ideas with people about the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed legislation
- describe the effects and chances related to the cultivation of minor crops for agricultural production



# Network

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