

ARCHE NOAH :

Seed Savers and Research on Low-Input Agriculture



EP Event on Research for Transition 22.10.15



ARCHE NOAH

Who are we?



ARCHE NOAH



ARCHE NOAH

- **FOUNDED 1990. SCHILTERN, AT**
 - **14.000 members, 150 organic farms**
- **CONSERVATION & SUSTAINABLE USE OF GENETIC RESOURCES**
 - **In situ : AN Garden, « Seed Guardians »**
 - **Ex situ: « Seed Archive »**
- **COMMUNICATION OUTREACH - POLICY**



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Involvement in Research



Involvement in Research

LOCAL / REGIONAL PROJECTS (2011 - ...)

• VARIETY DEVELOPMENT

- Sustainable agricultural products from **rare crops**
- Cooperation with **organic farms** (participatory screening / breeding), Tasting by **consumers**

LEADER & private funds



• VARIETY IMPROVEMENT: « BAUERNPARADEISER »

- Selection, Crossings And Resistance Traits
- Organic Farms (direct marketing) Universities, Research Centers And Organic Advisory Services (BIO Austria)

LEADER & private funds



• COOPERATION WITH ORGANIC BREEDING COMPANY « REINSAAT »

- Business cooperation : variety development / multiplication / marketing

Start national funds (heirloom seed market), now material exchange

Involvement in Research

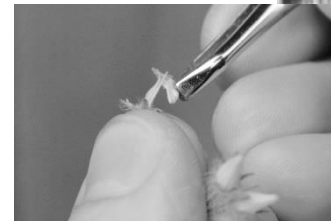


LOCAL / REGIONAL PROJECTS (2011 - ...)

• VARIETY DEVELOPMENT

- Sustainable agricultural products from rare crops
- Cooperation with organic farms (participatory screening / breeding), Tasting by consumers
- LEADER & private funds

SUSTAINABLE USE PGRFA
Explore ways to make a living with biodiversity!



• VARIETY IMPROVEMENT: « BAUERNPARADEISER »

- Selection, Crossings And Resistance Traits
- Organic Farms (direct marketing) Universities, Research Centers And Organic Advisory Services (BIO Austria)
- Start LEADER & now private funds



- COOPERATION WITH ORGANIC BREEDING COMPANY « REINSAAT »
- Business cooperation : variety development / multiplication / marketing
- Start national funds (heirloom seed market), now self-sufficient

Involvement in Research



EU PROJECTS (2014 - ...)



- **DIVERSIFOOD (H2020) 2015-2018**

- Embedding **crop diversity & networking** for high quality food systems
- **Evaluation** diversity & agro-ecological performance
- **Breeding** new populations

- **EIP-AGRI**

- Non linear, **interactive research model** (co-design & co-decision)
- High Level Steering Board, Focus Group Genetic Resources
- Operational Groups : new product/ process/ practices
- Allowed to fail



CHALLENGES RESEARCH POLICY

Room for Diversity



Challenges: Room for Diversity

- **DIVERSITY OF BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**
 - Species / Crops / Genetic diversity
- **DIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS / ACTORS**
 - **Informal/** Formal
 - Practices (Organic, Subsistence, HNV)
- **DIVERSITY OF OBJECTIVES**
 - **Resilience** or Productivity - **Sustainability** or Efficiency
 - H2020 – Sustainable Food Security
- **DIVERSITY OF APPROACHES**
 - **Multi-disciplinarity** crucial
 - Consensus (descriptive, existing pathways)
 - Risk (trial & error, new pathways)



CHALLENGES RESEARCH POLICY

Access to Projects



Challenges: Access to Projects



- **INVOLVEMENT SMALL STAKEHOLDERS**

- **Eligibility** criteria - **bureaucracy**
- From **research question** to implementation

CCL : Grassroots **unlikely to be involved** mega-projects

IDEA: Creation Meet-up forum to « couple » interested parties?

- **SUPPORT INNOVATIVE INDIVIDUALS**

- **Drivers** of innovation: Creative individuals?
- **Lack of support and info** : EIP AGRI platform?

CCL: **No direct EU R&D support** for individuals

IDEA: Socrates type action?



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION !

