Varieties and seeds are a cultural heritage. Have farmers and gardeners something to do with that?
Since 33 years biodynamic gardener, the last 14 years specialised in:
- Propagation of seeds; such as french beans, broad beans, purslane, rucola, turnip, cauliflower, red beets, chicory sugarloaf.
- Maintainance of broad bean (Frühe Weisskeimige), Oignon (Sturon), Turnip (Golden Ball), Wild Rocket (Diplotaxis Tenuifolia) and Chinese Leaves (Red Giant, Green in Snow)
- Breeding in red beet, carrot, oignon and cauliflower
French Beans, Maxi
Broad Beans, Hangdown Grünkernig
Purslane
Harvesting Purslane
Purslane in big wooden box, for artificial drying
Wild Rocket (Diplotaxis Tenuifolia)
Chicory, Sugarloaf
Cauliflower propagation and selection
Cauliflower selection
Cauliflower propagation
Selection with carrots, a) in the field
Selection with carrots, b) after harvest
Ognions 2\textsuperscript{nd} year
Isolation cages onions and carrots
Harvesting breedinglines oignons
who we are...

• company
• trade organisation of organic seeds
• solely OP varieties
• about 100 organic and biodynamic practitioners
• registered shares with restricted transferability
• seed prices base on costs of production
- non-profit association
- about 20 breeding locations (decentralized)
- maintenance of a large diversity of OP varieties
- development of new OP varieties (51 registered)
- fundamental research on plant breeding methods

www.kultursaat.org
- consumer orientated: taste and nutritional quality
- transparency in breeding activities
- open membership for anybody: gardeners, consumers, retailers etc.
- bottom-up approach with expert groups

- finances based on membership fees, donations from trusts, grants (BÖLN), „royalties“, registration but no breeder’s rights
- special partnership eg cauliflower breeding
cauliflower breeding project

FAIR-BREEDING
Biodynamische Pflanzenzüchtung als Teil associativen Wirtschaftens

Biologisch-dynamische Pflanzenzüchtung:
Chance für die Zukunft

twofold motivation
- loss of viable varieties
- massive appearance of CMS hybrids

longterm commitment
started 2008
annual round-table-talks

Registered varieties in EU Common Catalogue

- 90% 1985
- 73% 1990
- 67% 1994
- 36% 1999
- 25% 2005
- 24% 2010

Damit dem konsequent auf Qualität setzenden Ökolandbau auch morgen noch adäquate Sorten zur Verfügung stehen, dürfen wir die Pflanzenzüchtung nicht aus den Augen verlieren. Das weltweite Business von Saatgutmultis bedroht mit all den damit verbundenen Abhängigkeiten und biotechnischen Verfahren die gesamte Biobranche. Mit Ihrer Hilfe wollen wir Fachhändler unseren Teil dazu beitragen, die biologisch-dynamische Pflanzenzüchtung am Beispiel Blumenkohl finanziell zu unterstützen.

Ein Kooperationsprojekt von Naturata International Gemeinsam Handeln e.V. und Kultursaat e.V.

www.kultursaat.org
www.naturata-verein.de
cauliflower breeding project

- screening of OP varieties under organic conditions
- identification of numerous promising varieties
- maintenance and selection
- test of single plants’ progenies at several locations
- cross breeding
- first results in 2011 and 2012 catalogues
What can a farmer/gardener do in the UK?
Saving seeds for your own production garden

How can it be successful?
- Start simple with easy cultures (beans, peas, biannual cultures as red beet, carrot etc.). Choose a culture that you like. Choose a variety that you know.
- Make sure it is a OP-variety you’re working with.
- You have experienced a lot with vegetables, and you know a lot of varieties through the different years. Compare different varieties in the same year.
- You have fun in looking at vegetables.
- Make yourself clever by reading some books and talking to other people. In some cases a negative mass-selection will be sufficient. In other cases a positive mass-selection will be needed.
- You have some practical equipment.
- You have some time.
- Make some written remarks what you’ve done.
- Don’t make to small quantities, so you don’t need to do the same propagation every year.
- Store seed well. Keep some of the original seed as well, to compare in future.
Exchanging seeds with others

How can it be successful?
- Make sure that the quality of the seeds is OK (germination rate, seedborn diseases, calibration). This needs infrastructure (own or service)
- Built up a network with gardeners which have the same hobby. Exchange experiences, visit each other in summertime.
- Speak with specialists.
- Make some price calculating.
- Make yourself less dependent from the weather.
A seed co-operation

How can it be successful?

- The seed exchange is very vivid and filled with enthouiasme. It “only” needs a structure.
- About 5-10 gardeners are very engaged (day and night) to make it a success. They have a good equipment for propagating seeds and maintaining varieties.
- One of the participants (and his co-workers) is the crystallization point of the whole, where everything comes together. Soft financial conditions are a great help.
- Look for partners for support, like consumers and traders.
- What is the mission? Biodynamic or organic? Only OP-varieties or not? etc. etc.
- A good business plan. Good agreements with the gardeners who propagate the seeds, about quantities, qualities and payment arrangements.
- Contacts and exchange with other comparable initiatives in Europe.