



**Biodiversity & choice under threat
from proposed EU Seed and Plant
Directive
+ report from Seed Field Labs**

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Context

Climate change

- Rise of temperatures between 1.1°C and 6.4°C before the end of the 21st century
- Fertilisers – polluting and shortages
- Noticeable crop failure increase – Russian wheat crisis
- Uncertain weather and seasons
- Emergence of new crop pests in the UK



Global Seed Security

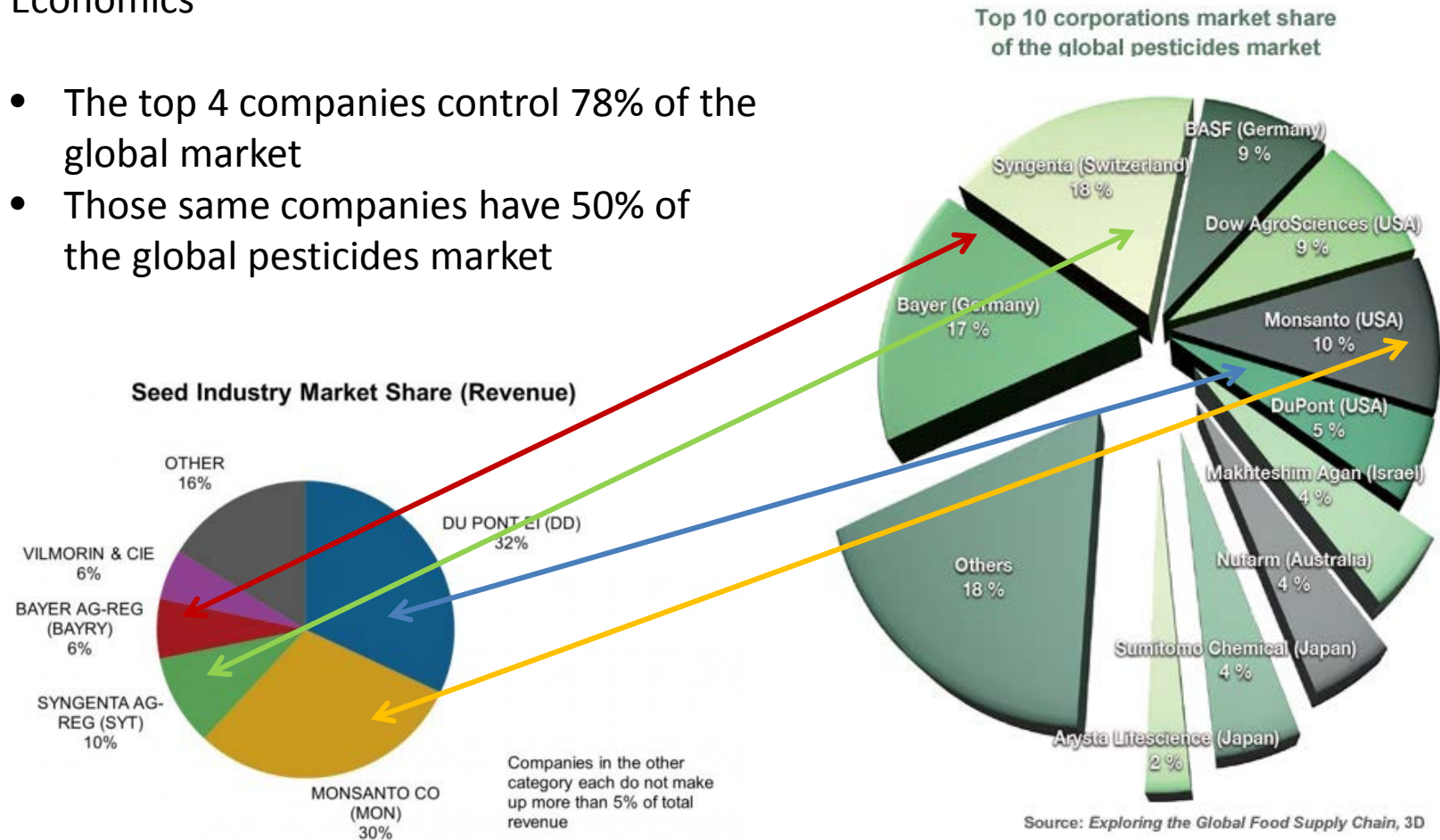


The answer lies in diversity

Global Seed Picture

Economics

- The top 4 companies control 78% of the global market
- Those same companies have 50% of the global pesticides market





Global Seed Security

Current state of the seed production

- 50 years ago 99.5% open pollinated
- Shift from Open Pollinated to F1 Hybrid
- Over the last 100 years, 80% reduction agricultural biodiversity ²
- In EU alone 7,200 different seed companies (50,000 jobs)

2: FAO estimate

EU Seed Directive

new proposals

Why the commission want it

- Efficiency, 12 directives into 1 – “Simpler Rules for Safer Food”
- Food safety concerns
- Increase exports
- Biodiversity?

What it does

- Increase from seed of some varieties to PRM of almost every variety
- Strict and expensive DUS/VCU testing to become registered
- Lots of other things that will take to long to go into



EU Seed Directive

Key Issues

- Biodiversity
- Innovation
- Choice



Seed Field Labs

Why run them?

How did they go?

Where next?

Seed Field Labs

Why run them?

- Trial OP vars currently not available as organic
- Assess if any had potential for organic systems
- Increase growers skills as seed selection and saving to increase genetic diversity and resilience



Seed Field Labs

How did they go?

22 growers received seeds

13 growers did the trials – I think

8 grower sent in some results

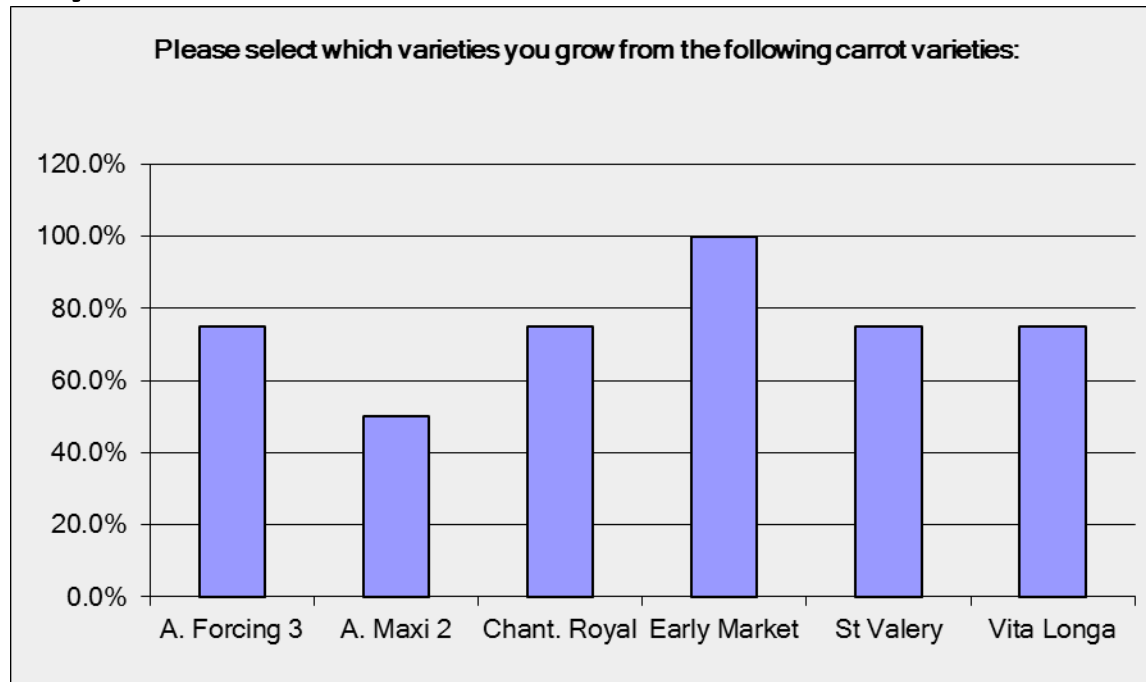
Seed Field Labs

Where next?

- Continuation of the trials – though maybe not in the same format
- A couple of growers bulking up organic seed from one or two varieties
- Simple Seed Survey

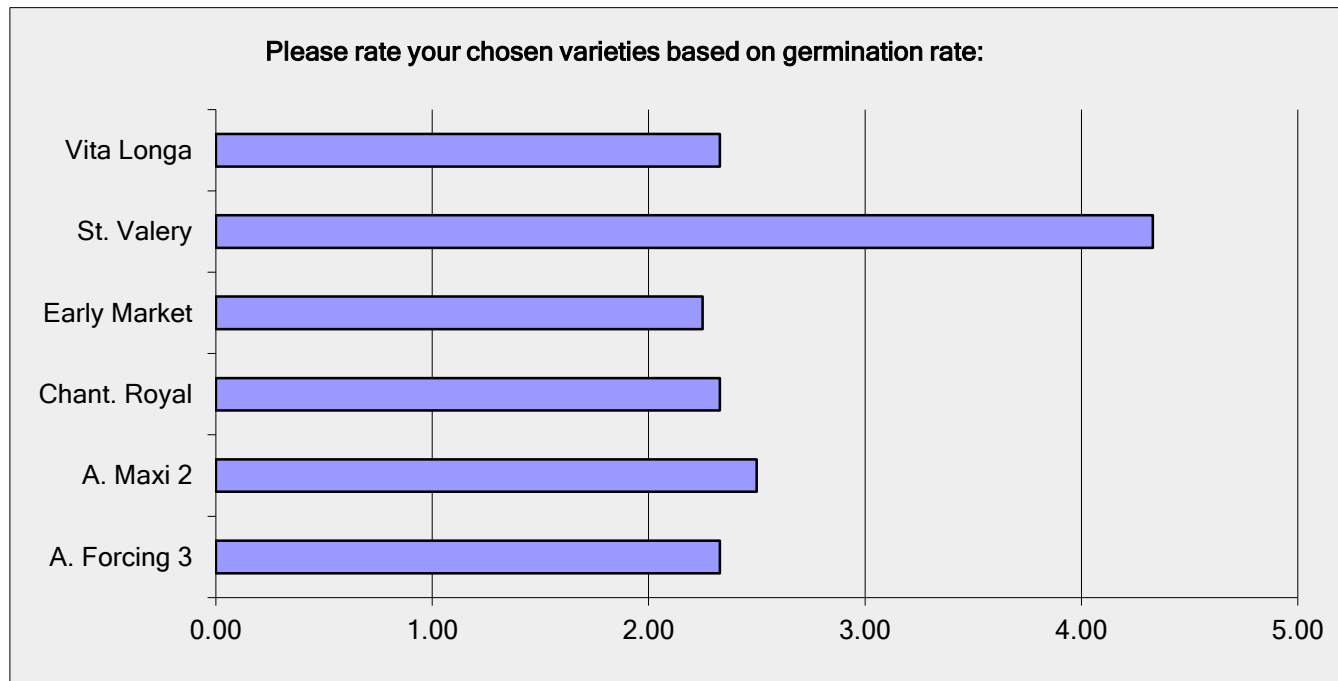
Seed Variety Info Collection

What proportion of growers were growing each variety



Seed Variety Info Collection

Information about each variety,



Seeds – Diversity Matters



Thank you