

Growing agricultural biodiversity: knowledge and practice in Europe

GROW

Leonardo ~ GROW Visit & Excursions at Garden Organic (Henry Doubleday Research Association), Ryton Gardens, Coventry, UK On May 15th & 16th 2014

Number of activity	9					
Title of the activity	Seed Exchange: Exchange networks management					
Organisation	Henry Doubleday Research Association (Garden Organic)					
Size of the organisation						
A/ Staff and Board of Directors	60					
B/ Students	6					
Date of the activity	15/05/14 – 16/05/14					
Duration of the activity	2 days					
Place of the activity	Ryton Gardens (Coventry, UK)					
Number of participants and partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 members of Garden Organic (UK) • 2 members of Red de Semillas "Resembrando e Intercambiando" (Spain) • 3 members of Red De Semillas Andalucia • 1 member of Arche Noah (Austria) 					
A/ Males	2					
B/ Females	9					
C/ Students	4					
D/ Teachers	7					
E/ Companions	0					
F/ People with special needs	0					
Age range	22-65					
Stakeholders	Farmers, consumers, technicians and local seed networks					
Topic of the activity	Exchange	Policy	Microenterprise	Fruit trees	Cereals	Vegetables
			X		X	X
Type of activity	Internal training workshop XIV State Fair of Agricultural Biodiversity					
Crops related to the visit	Cereals	Vegetables	Fruit trees	All		
	X	X				
Dissemination strategies						
Verification of the activity						
A/ Contents of the activity	<p>Thursday 15th May</p> <p>9:30 Welcome & Coffee</p> <p>9:45 Tour of The Heritage Seed Library Link Location</p> <p>11:00 Tea Break & Networking</p> <p>11:30 Presentation by Brockwell Bake Link</p> <p>12:30 Presentation by Real Seeds Link</p> <p>1:30 Lunch by Fresh Rootz (Link)</p> <p>2:30 Visit to Gill & George Browning Feldon forest Farm</p> <p>7:00 Evening Meal</p> <p>Friday 16th May</p> <p>9:00-9:30 Meet & Coffee</p> <p>10 – 12 Warwick HRI Wellesbourne Link</p> <p>1:30 Lunch & Networking</p> <p>2:30 Visit to Charlcote Mill Link</p> <p>3:45 Return to Ryton</p> <p>5:00 Opportunity to tour the Garden</p>					

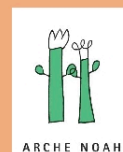
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	6:00 End of Meeting
B/ Scope of the activity	<p>Tour of Heritage Seed Library</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explanation of the whole process. To explain how seeds are grown, harvested, cleaned, stored and distributed. <p>Presentation from Real Seeds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How a small commercial seed enterprise is organised and how it produces seed for the market. <p>Presentation from Brockwell Bake</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A presentation covering the organisation and also the heritage wheat database. Thorough introduction on diseases affecting wheat that currently exist across Europe. <p>Visit to Feldon Forest Farm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explaining the working practices and seed saving operations of a small commercial farm. <p>Visit to WHRI Genebank</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How seed is maintained in the UK vegetable genebank and how base collection seed from the Heritage Seed Library is stored there. <p>Visit to Charlcote Mill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit to a working, commercial mill that produces flour by the traditional use of a watermill. Processes involved from raw product to finished flours.
C/ Impacts and results	<p>Tour of Heritage Seed Library</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gave everyone an opportunity to compare processes and discuss best practices in seed saving. Show a seed library set-up. <p>Presentation from Real Seeds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good to have a commercial seed company outline processes and legal protocols required in selling seed. Good to have practical solutions. <p>Presentation from Brockwell Bake</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Showed how wheat could be grown on a small community level. Brought everyone up to date on current disease issues on wheat within Europe. <p>Visit to Feldon Forest Farm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great example of a working farm that as well as showing small-scale seed production, showed how a farm could provide an ecologically-focussed, closed system. <p>Visit to WHRI Genebank</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good example of the conventional growing out and storage of vegetables in the formal gene-bank sector. Many principles still apply to seed savers. <p>Visit to Charlcote Mill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Another commercial producer but this time done on a sustainable level. Good example of a working model and how a small, niche supplier can be profitable.
D/ Obstacles encountered	Not enough time to fully engage with all activities. Longer needed.

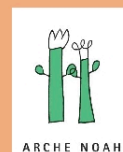
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E/ Proposals to improve these kind of events	Extend the number of days or reduce the number of activities.
F/ Materials prepared for the event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations by Real Seeds & Brockwell Bake
G/ Value-added of the activity related to a more intensive European cooperation	Good to bring together a wide range of experiences to look at best practice and to exchange resources.
H/ Brief Description of visitor groups from Project GROW	<p><i>Red de Semillas & Red Andaluza de Semillas</i> Decentralized organization of technical, social and political individuals, who have worked for the past 10 years to concentrate around the use and conservation of agricultural biodiversity at a local, national and international context. The primary objective is to facilitate and promote the use, production, maintenance and conservation of agricultural biodiversity on farms and markets. They bring together more than 20 local seed banks networks distributed throughout Spain</p> <p><i>Arche Noah</i> Founded in 1989 on the initiative of teachers, farmers and journalists who wanted to take the seed as basis of nutrition, literally into their own hands. Preserves and maintains thousands of endangered vegetables, fruit and cereals. Working to bring traditional and rare varieties back into the gardens and onto the market with the support of around 10,000 dedicated members and numerous sponsors.</p>
I/ Short description of organising groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Heritage Seed Library at Garden Organic</i> Aims to conserve and make available vegetable varieties that are not widely available. The collection contains many old varieties but also some landraces and a large number of family heirloom varieties that have never been in a catalogue. All the collection, when there is enough seed, is made available to members. • <i>Real Seeds</i> Have been producing seed for fourteen years now, and all our seed is grown, dried and stored professionally. All vegetables are grown for our own family use, so if it's in our catalogue, we know well how it grows, and how it tastes. We don't like things that are fiddly or difficult to grow, so we just don't offer them. • <i>Brockwell Bake</i> The Brockwell Bake started as an annual real baking completion and meet in Brockwell Park, Lambeth, South London in 2008. In 2009/10 they expanded the activities and aimed at promoting knowledge and choice in baking in their local area to include growing heritage wheat on allotments, school and community gardens and with farmers close to London. They stone mill and bake with their own wheat through-out the year and at events such as the Lambeth Urban Green Fair and the Feast on the Bridge, The Mayor's Thames Festival. They also do real baking workshops with local schools.
J/ General evaluation of the activity	It was a varied set of visits and by including several organisations from the UK gave a better range of experiences.

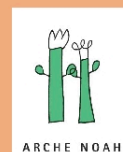
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Photographs of the activity

Tour of The Heritage Seed Library grow-out area by Clare Pritchard



Presentations from & Kate McEvoy (Real Seeds) & Andy Forbes (Brockwell Bake)



Gill & George Browning on a tour of Feldon Forest Farm

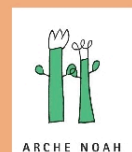
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Charlotte Allender explains the work of WHRI and pictures of the lettuce grow out



Carl the Miller at Charlote Mill - 16th May

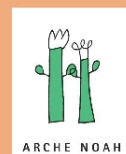
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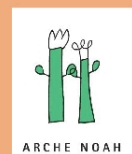
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