

RegioSaatCoop

a Network for regional seed cooperations
and the beginning of practice

Our aim:
to build up regional seed cooperations

The idea:
some farms of a region unite to cover their seed
demand collectively (participative)

RSC versus other Seed distribution channels

- No selling nor dealing
- No open seed exchange but covering the Seed demand within a cooperativ of farms throught organized Seed production
- Collective / participative organization is the base of RSC

Who we are

- The RSC Network:
 - about 40 people, mainly with a background of CSA or from the Seedsector
 - about 10 people actively involved, with good contacts to other actors of the organic Seed Sector, and other agricultural organisations
- The practice: RegionalSeedCooperatives
 - “established”: RegioSaatCoop Nord (5-6 farms involved)
 - “inactiv”: Kassel (3 farms involved)
 - “interested”: Leipzig – Dresden, Mainz, Freiburg

The beginning of RSC

- 2012 The idea comes out at a meeting of the Campaigne for Seed-Sovereignty (Saatgutkampagne) in February 2012
- Spreading the Idea into the german CSA Network
- 2013 first RSC meeting in Februar
 - founding of RSC Nord and Kassel
 - Summer meeting of RSC Nord
 - 2014 second RSC Winter meeting
 - first time with Seed exchange of practicing Cooperatives

Organization

- Network
 - without any legal form
 - annual Wintermeetings
 - communication: TeamDrive (Drop Box) platform and email list
- RSC Nord (as a practicing example)
 - members are activ gardeners, mainly CSA Farms
 - Exellsheet with the demand and stock of Seeds of every farm
 - annual Summermeetings
 - seed processing, storage and quality management decentralised on each farm (at the moment)

RSC and CSA

Why do we set up the RSC in the context of CSA movement?

- Farms are already linked,
 - Common aims and values
 - Experiences with collective organization
 - CSA concepts also works with shared responsibility
 - Financing systems of the CSA model can be used for RSC
 - Production systems and needs on varieties are similar within CSA farms
- ! Nevertheless RSC is also open for market gardeners....

Our experiences

- Still very little
 - Most involved farms are very young and still quite busy with setting up the farms and CSAs
- => time problem!
1. to acquire knowledge and skills of seed production
 2. to embed the seed production into the farms
 3. to work on the theoretical concept!

Next Steps

- For The RSC Network
 - to develop a RSC charter
 - to create a Flyer, Homepage, Logo
 - to spread the idea (mainly in the CSA communities)
- For The RSC Nord
 - summer meeting
 - finishing the Exellsheet as a base tool
 - starting with seed quality testing

- Next Wintermeeting in February 2015 in Leipzig

Our Questions for this Workshop

- Coordination and communication between the farms
- Advisory service, counselling, knowledge sharing for and between farmers
- How to deal with seed quality standards?
- How to finance the seed production?
- Calculation of work (costs)
- Seedlaw – possible juridical problems
- How to integrate seed production in the process of vegetable production?

The Background of RSC or where the idea comes from

- Food Sovereignty
 - most important: terre, water, seeds
- Seed Sovereignty
 - own seeds production at a farms ist quite limited (open pollinated varieties eg....)
 - what other possibilities?
- RSC regional seed cooperatives!

Der Saatgutmarkt