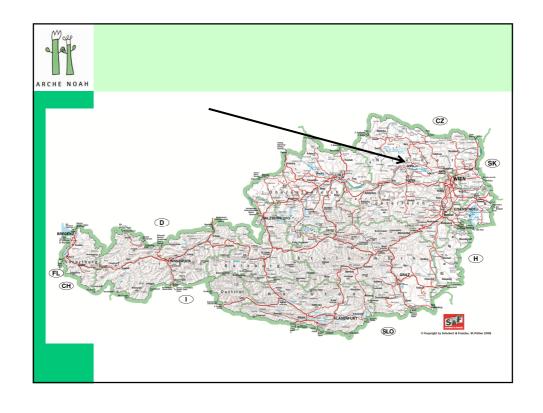


### **ARCHE NOAH**

Leonardo da Vinci "Growing agricultural biodiversity: knowledge and practice in Europe" 24th – 25th of march 2014, Gänserndorf, Austria

DI (FH) Franziska Lerch







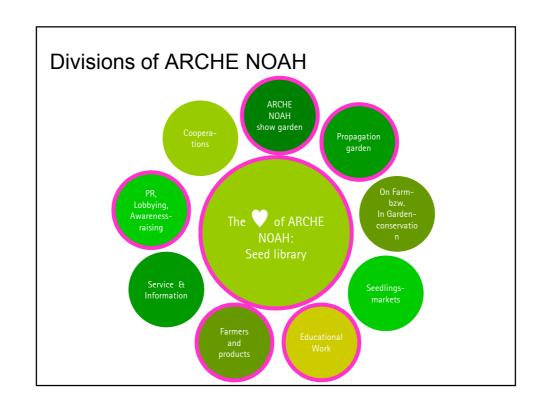
#### **ARCHE NOAH**

Arche Noah

 Founded in 1989 by heirloom gardeners and biological farmers in Austria.

- We are a NGO with by now around more than 10.000 members
- The common goals: preservation, distribution and utilisation of heirloom varieties and old local varieties of vegetables, field crops and fruits.







### ARCHE NOAH Seed library

# Arche Noah

- •6.500 accessions of vegetables, field crops, herbs and ornamental plants
- •Big number of local varieties
- •Manages propagation of seeds and longtime protection











## On farm/in garden conservation – decentralised network

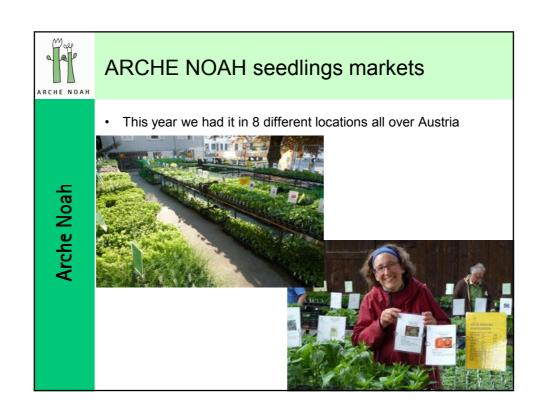
- · On farm-/In garden-conservation through using and eating
- · ARCHE NOAH seed collection provides seeds
- · We organize annual meetings for conservators

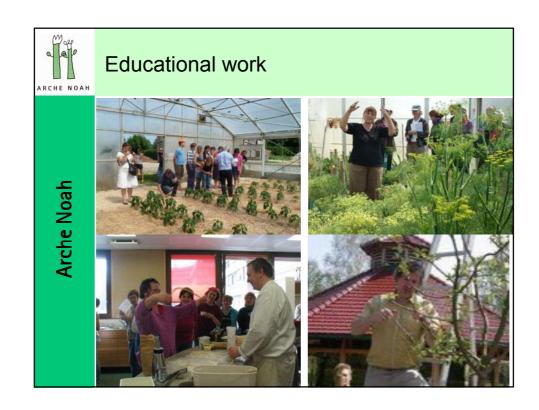
















### **Development of heirloom varieties** through participative plant breeding

Goal: Screening of varieties from the ARCHE NOAH seed collection concerning cultivation, use and marketing aspects for organic farms

Where: on farm

- how:
  - Farms provide fields
  - Arche Noah evaluates together with farmers or institutions
  - Working meetings for planing, presentation of results and exchange of experience
  - Best varieties are propagated and selected
  - Harvested seeds are provided to the participating members of this group

Financed by: LEADER \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ MIT UNTERSTÜTZUNG VON BUND, LAND UND EUROPÄISCHER UNION











### Working group "Bauernparadeiser"

# Arche Noah

- working group "Bauernparadeiser" ("Farmers' tomatoes") was founded 2010
- consisting of:
  - organic farmers
  - organic farming association BIO AUSTRIA
  - Austrian Seed Savers Association ARCHE NOAH
  - several research institutes (LVZ Wies, HBLFA Schönbrunn; GBS Langenlois, University of applied life sciences)
- Organized as a loose group, with a coordinating person, meetings concerning planning, results, structure

#### The aim is:

- to screen open-pollinating tomato varieties in organic production
- develop them further to assure stable yields and healthy plants on the respective farms
- and so strengthen the production and consumption of these cultivars

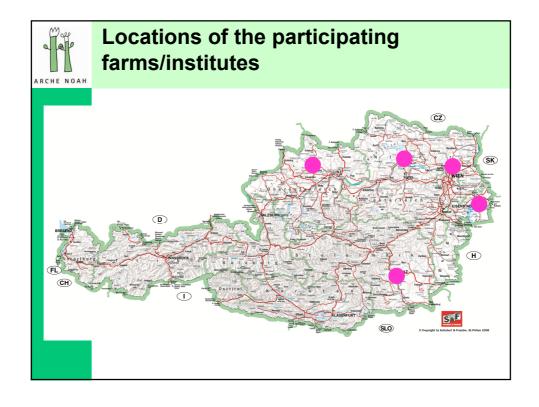


### Working group "Bauernparadeiser"

# Arche Noah

#### What happened so far:

- •after screening numerous cultivars in 2011 and 2012
- •cultivars with need for improvement were identified
- •Particularly resistance to *Cladosporium fulvum* was identified as a major objective of the group and is worked on by means of cultivar evaluations, selection and breeding activities
- •Virus infection occured as a problem, esspecially while seedchange is a main workingbase







#### Questions we have

# Arche Noah

- how to conserve seedquality, and health when more farms are enganged in producing seed
- whose "property" will be the developed varieties?
- structure of the group
  - association, farmers initiative...
  - who coordinates/initiates (breeder, scientist, farmer)?
- transfer of knowledge how do farmers become breeders again?
- · financing

