

Growing agricultural biodiversity: knowledge and practice in Europe

GROW

Leonardo GROW

Number of the activity	1					
Title of the activity	The Great Seed Festival: Seed Exchange: Public Seed Exchange					
Organisation	Garden Organic (Henry Doubleday Research Association)					
Size of the organisation						
A/ Staff and Board of Directors	60					
B/ Students	6					
Date of the activity	11/12/14 & 12/11/14					
Duration of the activity	2 days					
Place of the activity	Garden Museum (London)					
Number of participants and partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 members of Garden Organic (UK) • 2 members of Rete Semi Rurali (Italy) • 2 members of Réseau Semences Paysannes (France) 					
A/ Males	5					
B/ Females	3					
C/ Students	0					
D/ Teachers	0					
E/ Companions	0					
F/ People with special needs	0					
Age range	35-50					
Stakeholders	Gardeners, consumers, and local seed networks					
Topic of the activity	Exchange	Policy	Microenterprise	Fruit trees	Cereals	Vegetables
	X					
Type of activity	Public event					
Crops related to the visit	Cereals	Vegetables	Fruit trees	All		
	X	X				
Verification of the activity						
A/ Contents of the activity	<p>Workshops</p> <p>Saturday 11th, 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collective Action at the European level for Cultivating Diversity • The Ark of Taste: Slow Food Ensuring Seed Sovereignty for All • Why is the need for breeding biodynamic and organic seed more urgent than ever? • What does GM mean to you? • Transforming Canada's Seed System • Why the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) is Bad for Seed, Food and Farming • Not all seeds are equal: The local and global struggle to keep our diverse seeds free from corporate takeover • UK Food Sovereignty: Land & Affordable food for All <p>Sunday 12th, 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seed savers - An Interactive Discussion • In the Hands of Farmers - Reviving Seed Diversity in Africa and Beyond • What is a seed? • What have seed laws ever done for us? 					

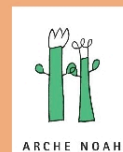
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seeding a New Law <p>Also various stalls and a seed swap across the weekend.</p>
B/ Scope of the activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covering all aspects of seed issues particularly in relationship to legislation at national, European and global levels.
C/ Impacts and results	<p>Workshops</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good engagement with visitors from all the partners who were involved in the talks and workshops. Opportunity for discussion between partners on issues and practices <p>Seed exchange</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrations of basic seed saving as well as exchanging seed on the stall was a great way of engaging with visitors Opportunity to tell people about the issues involved with seeds and the basics of open-pollinated varieties
D/ Obstacles encountered	<p>Venue quite small for doing talks. Also being in the main room with stalls, it was difficult to keep a focus as there was noise from the rest of the hall.</p>
E/ Proposals to improve these kind of events	<p>Separate areas for workshops</p>
F/ Materials prepared for the event	<p>Talks, presentations and materials for seed swaps</p>
G/ Value-added of the activity related to a more intensive European cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity to meet and discuss relevant topics and planning ahead for further meetings in the future. Visiting partners gave talks and workshops which gave visitors to the festival a wider European perspective.
H/ Brief Description of visitor groups from Project GROW	<p><i>Rete Semi Rurali</i></p> <p>The network was founded in November 2007 to remind everyone that the agricultural biodiversity must be preserved, enhanced and developed in the countryside around the world and by farmers, first of all.</p> <p><i>Réseau Semences Paysannes</i></p> <p>Peasant Seeds Network is a network of more than seventy organizations, all involved in the promotion and defence of crop biodiversity and associated skills.</p> <p>In addition to the coordination and consolidation of local initiatives, the Peasant Seeds Network works to promote collective management practices and the protection of farmers' seeds, as well as Scientific and legal recognition of farmers' practices, production and seed exchange and plants.</p>
I/ Short description of organizing groups	<p><i>Garden Organic</i></p> <p>Pioneer of the organic movement in the UK, promoting organic growing for over 50 years.</p>

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	<p>Agricultural biodiversity work is done by the Heritage Seed Library, preserving 800 traditional varieties of vegetables.</p>
<p>J/ General evaluation of the activity</p>	<p>Generally positive responses to the event. The only comments were having shared space being for stalls and talks didn't work too well.</p>
<p>Photographs of the activity</p>	

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