

Invitation to an

International Seed Swap

Brussels, Sunday 17 April 2011

We are witnessing a serious erosion of plant and animal diversity. As a consequence, a whole wealth of practical know-how built up over many centuries is being lost. It is essential to safeguard this heritage and pass it on to as many people as possible. Within the framework of two days of action against planned EU seed laws, an international seed swap will be organised. This event will bring together many initiatives and individuals from various countries who are committed to the unlimited distribution of seeds and who wish to exchange experiences. This is particularly important in view of the fact that the planned European laws could very well hinder or even prohibit such seed swaps.

Through this event in Brussels we hope to alert a wider public to this threat. We above all see seeds as a non-commercial commodity passed on free of charge or exchanged between farmers and gardeners - people who save seeds as the basis of their food supply or for the maintenance of biodiversity.

When saving seeds there are often many more than you need for the coming year. This surplus can be exchanged at such a seed swap. Anyone can bring seeds and make them available during this event. They will be passed on in small quantities sufficient for multiplication purposes.

Practical aspects:

If you want to take part in the seed swap, send us an exact list of what you need: how much space, number and size of tables, electricity, exhibition panels... Accommodation will be organised. If you cannot take part, send us seeds that you are ready to share with us, with a description of where and how they were saved.

During the morning of Monday 18 April there will be time for meetings and discussions between all those interested in getting to know each other better. We would like to imagine together how experience and know-how concerning seeds can be passed on in a comprehensible way. Do you have training or pedagogical tools which could be shared by others? What information would you look for in such an event? Would you like to participate in the elaboration of such tools? Do you want to suggest other subjects for discussion on Monday morning?

Depending on the variety, after one, two or three years you will have enough plants to be able to save seeds that can in their turn be brought to a seed swap. Please only bring stable seeds, therefore no hybrid varieties and of course no genetically modified ones. It is also important to avoid seeds resulting from uncontrolled crossbreeds. They should also be from plants cultivated without chemical products.



Bring attractive exhibition material that will arouse all our senses: vegetables, fruit, seedlings, collections of cereals and seeds (including unthreshed seeds), slide shows, posters, information panels, brochures, documents, films... Proposals for workshops (production and extraction of seeds, awareness building on gardening and agriculture...) will be welcome.

**By nature seeds are nomadic
let us help them to travel!**

Internet: www.seed-sovereignty.org

Further information and registrations: info@seed-sovereignty.org

