

ICPPC Polish Seeds Campaign in solidarity with „Seeds for All”

The International Coalition to Protect the Polish Countryside – ICPPC (*) is launching a “Seeds for All” awareness raising initiative to coincide with the International event 17-18 April.

Our objective is to reclaim the right to retain and plant seeds that have for decades been the basis for national food sovereignty and self sufficiency. Poland has 1.5 million small peasant farms whose future is threatened by the corporate agribusiness agenda pushed by the European Union. These farmers have great potential to keep alive the old landrace varieties which do not feature on the European Seeds List.

To help highlight this situation, we will be encouraging farmers and gardeners to take part in common traditional seed sowing sessions, seed swaps, the promotion of local seed banks and starting vegetable plots at schools and kindergartens. More than 100 separate activities are to take place in different regions of Poland – all highlighting the urgency for action in preserving and replanting the diversity of traditional non hybrid seeds essential to maintaining biodiversity in the food chain. We will also be educating the public about the threat of GMO.

Genetically modified seeds are being heavily promoted in Poland by the corporate agribusiness sector. However, Polish citizens have rejected GM seeds and food and a strong anti GM campaign led by ICPPC and other organisations 5 years ago, was successful in provoking each Polish Province to declare itself a “GMO Free Zone.”

The actions over the 17-18 April will further expose the dangers inherent in GM seeds/foods. ICPPC and its sister organisation 'Association for a GMO Free Poland' will be holding press conferences and demanding action from government to protect the health and welfare of citizens and countryside by placing an outright ban on GMO and ceasing to import GM animal feeds like soya and maize that pollute the food chain.

We are demanding that any new seed laws must be about protecting our vital heritage and not selling off the national gene pool to the highest corporate bidder.

In solidarity!

Julian and Jadwiga: International Coalition to Protect the Polish Countryside

Ania, Edyta and Maciek: Association for a GMO Free Poland

And all others who are organising actions all over Poland – see <http://icppc.pl/uwolnicnasiona/>

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