



Documentation of Discussion and Group Work

Workshop Enabling Crop Biodiversity on the Market, 7 June 2016 Budapest

Content: **A)** Disussions following presentations **B)** Problems and solutions
C) Topics of group work **D)** Pictures

A) Topics discussed after the presentations

Presentation 1: The Situation in Slovenia (Vladimir Meglic, Agricultural Institute of Slovenia)

- Seed production should be embedded in the rural development plan
- Variety labelling on markets (e.g. potatoes in Hungary); Problems: consumers do not know/care about varieties, farmers do not know/ do not want to name the variety
- There is no variety testing for special conditions/organic agriculture

Presentation 2: Recent developments in Seed Marketing in Scandinavia (Iga Niznik, Arche Noah)

- The use of cereal seeds within a „closed loop“ in Denmark- how does it work?

Presentation 3: The Situation in Hungary (Marianna Feher, Kristóf Szabó, NEBIH - National food chain office and Lajos Horváth, NÖDIK - Center for Plant Biodiversity, Tapioszele)

- Organic seed database are used not enough
- Lack of curators for gene banks
- Users want to have larger samples
- Registering a conservation variety in Hungary: Applicant has to give information from the Gene bank
- Accessions from Gene Bank which have no name
- Amateur variety: has to have been listed in the past on the national list

Presentation 4: The Situation in Croatia (Sunčana Pesak, Green Network of Activist Groups)

- Seed production is decreasing
- Entering EU- traditional varieties were deleted, because there was no supplier
- Historical evidence for conservation varieties
- Region of origin: just region vs. whole country
- Local circulation: just for seedlings
- Official labelling: expensive

Presentation 5: Legislation – Enabling crop biodiversity in Austria? (Emil Platzer, Arche Noah)

- Marketing of bread made from conservation variety of rye
- The „Biodiversity traffic light“ was not part of a big investigation

B) Group work - Problems and Solutions

1. Farmers don't know the landraces; No collected information to decide about races, demands (soils, water, etc)
2. Financing of on farm conservation – solution: state budget/Rural development plans (Zeljka Cegur)
3. Solution: Region of origin = Hungary (Adam Fülöp)
4. It is hard to get really special and rare seeds (varieties) for production – solution: professional seed savers cooperating with gene banks (Barnabas Ory)
5. Use data from GB to establish the list of conservation varieties (Dagmar Janovska)
6. Classification of the policy and legislation level to do it more clear and simple; Cooperation with NGO from the perspective of genebanks; no competition (Dagmar Janovska)
7. The condition of previous listing in common catalogues as condition of acceptance in the national catalogue (for conservation varieties) is not obligatory in all EU states – Solution: to set whole country or even more countries together as one region of origin for conservation varieties (Nevena Prokesova)
8. Try to influence agricultural sector through the nature protection legislation and finances and not be always on agriculture policy and ministry of agriculture and their resources. We can do our work TOGETHER (mainstream), but also do it line by line /next to each other. Solution for several problems (Eva Viestova)
9. Financing NGO's working on crop biodiversity protection – solution: Introduce amateur varieties registration that would allow NGO's to legally sell the seeds and get finances to their programs (Suncana Pesak)
10. To fund good initiatives, which are represented by informal groups. (so are not able to apply for grants, loans etc.) (Ildiko Heim)
11. Plants for the production of propagating material have to be free from pathogens – Solution: Defining an amount of pathogens which can be accepted (Emil Platzer)
12. Difference of Plant protection rights and national listing in conservation varieties – Solution: Spread informations along producers associations (Bojan Markovic)
13. Quantity and packaging limitations for amateur and conservation varieties (What are authorities afraid of?) (Emil Platzer)
14. Region of origin – barrier for seed diversity. Solution: Follow the „Scandinavian Region“ -> introduce other larger regions e.g Pannonic, Carpatian,... (Iga Niznik)
15. Public Spending of PGR preservation is a burden to the budget. solution: Introduce PGR into market oriented value chains -> move from charity to sustainable use (Iga Niznik)



C) Topics of Group Work

Group 1:

1. Lack of information of farmers about seed saving, varieties, legal situation (breeders rights, seed marketing law, categories of varieties)
2. National implementation of EU-legislation; translation, resources, too less critical
3. Different Interests of stakeholders – farmers unions, different ministries, Authorities, NGO's
4. Common catalogue – not useful
5. Plant protection laws – hindering conservation of fruit varieties

Group 2:

1. Quality criteria for conservation and amateur varieties
2. Availability of „interesting seeds“, varieties for farmers
3. Authorities and NGO's compete, do not cooperate
4. Financing of on farm/ in situ conservation
5. Definition of the Region of origin

Group 3:

1. Finance maintenance through community – state support
2. Quality issues + how to save „original characteristics“ -> education and training; – variety development vs. „frozen“ original
3. Maintenance needs to be done properly; financing through local governments or breeders
4. How to motivate breeders to feedback to gene bank on variety performance

D) Pictures





