



NEWSLETTER #11 OCTOBER 2021

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Taking a trip to Brittany *To think collectively on rural development*





Pictures © Hannes Lorezen

In September 2021, ARC2020, a close partner of the Seeds4All platform, visited Brittany to join an eclectic gathering of rural stakeholders for a series of thematic workshops and discussions happening in '[La Ferme des 7 chemins](#)', a dairy farm that's been involved with ARC202's project '[Nos Campagnes en Resilience](#)' from the beginning.

La Ferme des 7 chemins is run by a three-member cooperative that makes decisions collectively and plays an active role in the local community. It has invited people, with the support of the [Université des Sciences et des Pratiques Gastronomiques](#), the [Slow Food Chefs Alliance](#), and a helping hand from ARC2020.

Along with two dozen farmers and farm workers, seed savers, chefs, elected officials and representatives of regional organisations, the invited participants sat down, to collectively tease the future of the farm, share insights and listen to each other's experiences.

The workshop covered some key themes for the farm:

- Ties between the animal and plant worlds
- Different skill sets coming together in a rural project
- La Ferme des 7 Chemins in local community life

Participants' tasks were to share ideas, suggestions, and questionings in a discussion of rural development issues as they relate to La Ferme des 7 chemins.

Louise Kelleher, from the ARC2020, reports.

READ THE FULL ARTICLE

Sunday in September at the Guigui's farm *Seed harvesting, meetings and conference*



On Sunday 26 of September, the Seeds4All coordination team had the pleasure of participating in one of its first seed exchanges in a very long time, which took place at [the Guigui's farm](#), located in Wauthiers-Braine (Wallonia, Belgium).

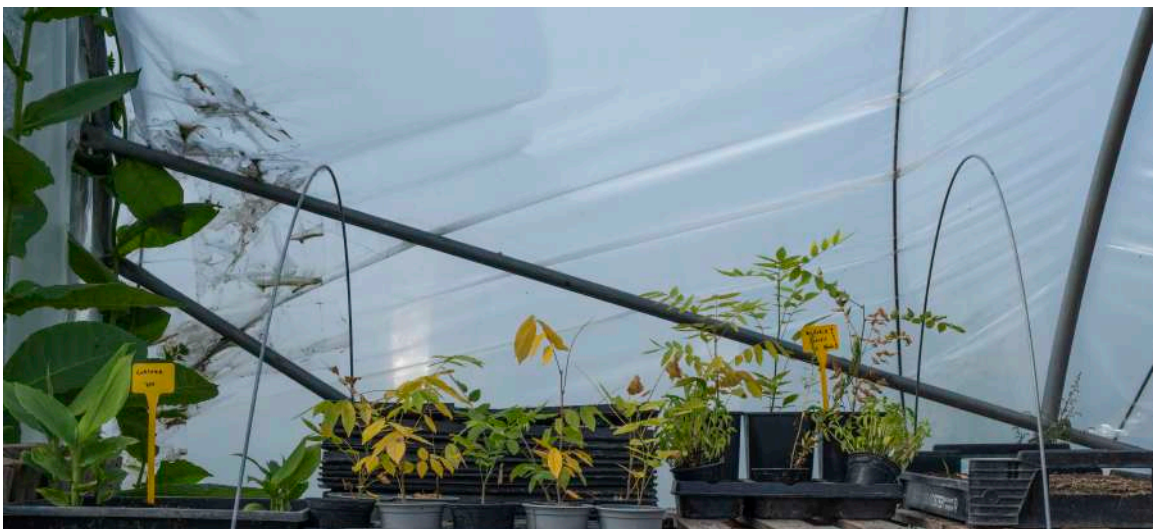
The Guigui's farm is managed by Guillaume Copée and is entirely organic, developed according to the principles of agroecology, market gardening and permaculture, with the aim of offering quality, healthy and sustainable local products.





The farm doesn't exclusively use its own seeds, but Guillaume Copée is sensitized to the subject and wishes to get involved in the mission of disseminating the various issues related to seed autonomy and cultivated biodiversity to its customers and supporters. For example, by organizing, with the help of Laetitia Fain, awareness days like the one we attended.

Two activities were proposed: a seed harvesting workshop with dried plants of Artemisia, Angelica, Lettuce, Flax, Lemon balm, etc. and a workshop to learn how to make cuttings.





The founder of the [Rixensart Seed Library](#) participated in the event, offering part of the collection to the people who also could give it some of their own varieties.

At the end of the day, Lawyer Blanche Magarinos-Rey animated a conference about the legislation on seed trade and its evolutions to come in the organic sector.



Pictures © Adèle Pautrat

The discovery of this farm that is progressively committing itself to the issue of free and sustainable seeds, gave us the desire **to launch a series of visits across Belgium**, to go and meet the different agricultural stakeholders who are implementing new ways of working with seeds.

In keeping with our primary mission, this approach could allow us **to create new connections between organisations with similar ambitions, to foster their cooperation and exchange of expertise, and to promote their commitments**. Just [as we did on the island of Pellworm](#), during the seminar we organised there last July.

In that framework, **we would like to know if any of our Belgian subscribers would be interested in welcoming us to their farms** to present their work and tell us about their ambitions.

WOULD YOU WELCOME US?

A good legal news *The Swiss legislation on seeds could be unconstitutional*



Recently, we were pleasantly surprised to discover that a thesis from the Geneva Law Faculty has come to the conclusion that **the Swiss legislative framework on the prohibition of the marketing of certain seed varieties may in fact be unconstitutional...**

Indeed, it would run counter to certain objectives enshrined in the Helvetic Constitution, related, for example, to the protection of the environment, the landscape and the local economy.

We recommend you to read the excellent article below, written by Anton Vos.

And we will follow this story closely, promising to tell you a little more about its possible repercussions!

READ THE ARTICLE

SUSTAINABLE SEED NEWS

Seed partners to support...



The French organic and reproducible seed production company [Kokopelli](#) has launched a crowdfunding campaign through which you can support its itinerant shop project: the **purchase and fitting out of a Seed Truck** that will travel the roads of France, Belgium and Switzerland from next year.

[To support >>](#)



The greek seed saving organisation [Alternative Community Peliti](#) has launched a crowdfunding campaign to help realise its **project of building a Seed Bank** able to house its wonderful collection of indigenous and rare varieties.

[To support >>](#)

A petition to sign...

A petition to the European Commission is online, calling for seed savers to be recognised as key players in safeguarding crop biodiversity, and as such to be exempted from plant health registration.

[To sign the petition >>](#)



An event to attend...



The Let's Liberate Diversity network is launching the **sixth edition of its Seed Policy Dialogues, focusing on the UNDROP Declaration**. It will take place online on October 21st, from 5 to 6pm. Scheduled speakers will be Fulya Batur from the LLD network, Christophe Golay from the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, and Guy Kastler from the European Coordination ViaCampesina.

[To register >>](#)

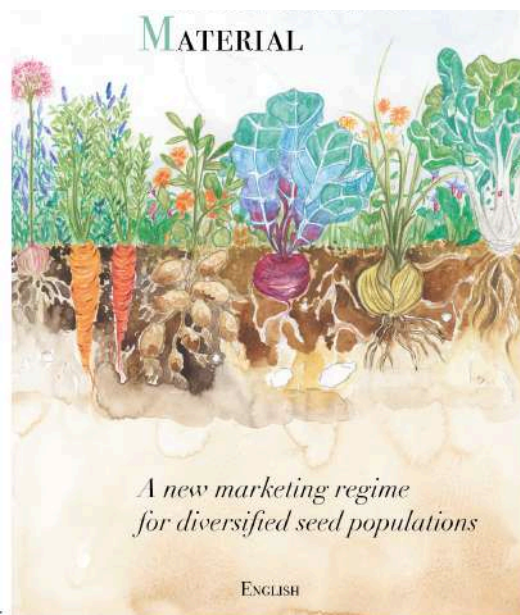
And a flyer to come!

Last but not least, we are very excited to announce the **publication of a flyer, with**

ORGANIC
HETEROGENEOUS

synthetic and rigorous information on the regulatory provisions related to the upcoming marketing authorization for Organic Heterogeneous Material, which will come into force in January 2022.

Our objective is to **spread it to the greatest number** of operators concerned by the new legislation, **so that the advances it contains do not remain a dead letter and are applied in the field**, to the benefit of cultivated biodiversity.



If you would like to receive a few copies to distribute to your various beneficiaries and partners, **you can contact us now and place an order**. Available in English only for the moment. We will ask for a financial contribution to cover postage costs.

We hope that this publication will arouse your interest!

PLACE AN ORDER



Are you an organisation dedicated to the protection of cultivated biodiversity ?

Join the Seeds4All census platform by [submitting your portrait!](#)



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