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NEWSLETTER #12 DECEMBER 2021

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Dear reader,

Before gathering with family and friends for holidays, the Seeds4All coordination team would like to take a moment to reflect on the highlights of the past year, and share with you the **joy at seeing the project grow**.

In 2021, **the census of European organisations involved in sustainable seed saving has grown**. It is still far from representing the impressive diversity of initiatives arising across the continent, but still we hope that it contributes positively to giving an overview of your commitments and citizen concerns about agriculture, health, food and SEEDS.





Over the last few months, we have been focusing on improving the monthly newsletter, to share with you the **experiences and stories of seed savers we have met and are working with.**

Like [Lucas van den Abeele](#), coordinator of a network of grain farmers in Pajottenland (Belgium) breeding varieties specifically developed for the production of Lambic and Gueuze beers; [Stefan Doeblin](#), founder of two seed companies (Portugal and Spain) and a NGO, focusing on improving the availability of varieties specifically developed for organic farming; [Tuna Hanım](#), a Turkish farmer who has been involved in local seed saving for more than thirty years; or [Jan Gonne Thams](#), a young cereal producer on the island of Pellworm (Germany) who recently decided to produce his own seed.





Last July, we went one step further and [brought several of these committed people together on the island of Pellworm](#) to observe Jan Gonne's trials of organic and heterogeneous cereal varieties and to discuss the **opportunities that this activity could generate, not only for him but also for the agricultural development of the whole island**, which is particularly exposed to the effects of global warming.

That experience was truly important to us and **we wish to be able to repeat it in 2022, with more breeders and farmers.**

2022 will certainly be a special year, with the **entry into force of the new European Regulation on organic production**, introducing the possibility of marketing seeds of "organic heterogeneous material" with no obligation to be tested or registered in official catalogues.

We believe that this new legislation is a real advance for cultivated biodiversity and could reinforce the sustainability of organic agriculture by allowing the marketing of **improved quality and diversity of seeds fit for organic production.**

For these regulatory advances to be effective though, it is necessary that **field operators seize this opportunity and commit** to the marketing, reproduction and use of seed of OHM varieties.

With this in mind, we have been working on the publication of a **booklet outlining the**

regulatory steps to be taken in order to market OHM-labelled varieties.

At the moment the booklet is available in English. We are preparing a **German version** in collaboration with the organisation [Arche Noah](#), as well as a **French and a Dutch versions.**

If you would like to receive a few copies to distribute to your members and partners, [please contact us directly by mail.](#) We'll ask you to cover the postage costs only.

You can also **download the digital version below.** **Please give us your feedback!**

We hope this will be useful to the sector. Do not hesitate to give us your feedback!

DOWNLOAD THE BOOKLET

On the right you can see the **first seed packets produced by Tuna Hanim and her family** on the Turkish plateau of Kuseyr, in the province of Hatay.

Local varieties of beans, tomatoes, basil, red pepper, aubergine or watermelon, wrapped in beautiful labels that show **partnership with the European platform Seeds4All.**

We hope that these seeds will find takers on our side of the continent and that we'll soon have the opportunity to visit the beautiful gardens of Karsu village, to bring more of it!



more on it:

Looking into 2022, we actually see plenty of exciting new activities coming.

One of them is our participation in the "**Global Beans Project**", which [2000m2](#) and [ARC2020](#) will be promoting together with a wide range of activists and professionals.

This initiative aims at **gathering experiences and promoting a climate friendly production of leguminous crops** of which beans are ideal to sensitize farmers for better crop rotation and consumers for a new more plant based diet.

We'll soon tell you more about the development of this project and the activities that will be organised.

Speaking of leguminous crops, we learned that [Jan Gonne Thams](#) will start experimenting with beans seed production next year! And recently sent us news that we want to share with you:

With his sister Lea Marie he made a **short video explaining the process of seed cleaning and sorting** with a new machine which he recently acquired.

New is perhaps a bit misleading - the year of construction is 1975! He bought it in Austria, from where it was sent to Ukraine for overhaul. It cleans and sorts his seeds of cereal populations, future protein crops or whatever he decides to produce.

We leave you with this machine, wishing you that everything you have in mind for 2022 sorts out like Jan Gonne's grain... **Have a peaceful, joyful and happy New Year.**

See you in 2022!





(english subtitles are available if you select it!)



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