



# „Resilient Seed“

## On the seed industry, EU seed laws and the engagement for seed-sovereignty

A booklet to accompany the documentary by Ella von der Haide on the Seed Sovereignty Action Days on 17-18 April 2011 in Brussels

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# „Resilient Seed“ - the film

Documentary by Ella von der Haide (2011), 30 min.

Original version with subtitles

**A documentary about  
the Seed Action Days that took place  
in Brussels on 17-18 April 2011**

Company interests and restrictive laws represent a threat to something that should be a matter of course for everybody: the production and exchange of seeds. This development is due to transnational seed and agribusiness companies strongly influencing the legislation in Brussels through their lobby firms.

The „European Campaign for Seed Sovereignty“ organised a diverse and colourful protest in Brussels against this menace and invited people to seed swaps in order to bring free heritage seeds back into use.

This documentary is available with subtitles in English, French, German, Dutch, Greek, Japanese and Spanish.

Available at  
[www.seed-sovereignty.org/film.html](http://www.seed-sovereignty.org/film.html)

Further information:



With our thanks to the organisations that have provided financial support :



# „Resilient Seed“ - the booklet



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**Impressum:** Authors: Anne Schweigler and Andreas Riekeberg, English translation: Nicolas Bell, Photos: Anne Schweigler, Udo Schilling and Johannes Geiermann (Seed Campaign), Photos p. 17/18: Arantxa Aldunzin (Umbruch Bildarchiv), Drawings p. 3/11: titom.be (CC: BY-NC-ND\_2.0-be). Published in Autumn 2012 for the Campaign for Seed Sovereignty ([www.seed-sovereignty.org](http://www.seed-sovereignty.org)):



# 1. GET INFORMED AND TAKE ACTION!

Seeds are a fundamental base for growing our food both in agriculture and gardening. For seed and agrochemical companies, they represent a resource that enables them to earn a lot of money and to gain control over food production. For decades they have been breeding varieties to facilitate their control.

These are either hybrid varieties, making it necessary to constantly buy new seeds because

only the first generation gives a good harvest. Alternatively the varieties are patented and thereby totally privatised. This is one of the reasons for genetically modifying seeds: to be able to patent them. However, patents have also been granted for plant characteristics that have not been obtained through genetic modification. In order to grow, all of these varieties need a powerful input of artificial fertilizers, pesticides and irrigation.



*Seed box at seed exchange in „Maison des Cultures et de la cohésion sociale de Molenbeek-Saint-Jean“, Brussels*

Since the middle of the last century, seed and agrochemical companies have been determining what agricultural crops are planted and by what methods in an increasing number of countries. One of their main strategies

for imposing their interests is their enormous influence on legislation and international trade agreements. A recent example is the present revision of the European Union seed marketing

legislation.

The Seed Action Days were organised on 17-18 April 2011 in Brussels in order to combat a further tightening up of this legislation and particularly against the exclusion of non-registered seeds from sale. The Seed Sovereignty Campaign (Seed Campaign) conducted a protest, together with initiatives and organisations from many European countries, against the domination of seed and agrochemical companies. This is what

## 1. GET INFORMED AND TAKE ACTION!

the documentary „Seeds in Resistance“ is all about.

At the first European seed swap in Brussels and at decentralised seed events in many European countries, especially Poland and Portugal, activists and seed lovers emphasised the importance of creating practical alternatives.

It is important that more people get actively involved with seeds and learn to conserve and multiply them. At seed swaps gardeners and farmers can exchange not only seeds but also their knowledge about the cultivation and use of plants and other interesting information. Seed swaps are ideal occasions for networking, attracting people from different cultures and of different ages.

The Seed Sovereignty Campaign calls for „Seed Swaps everywhere“! More information and a checklist on „How to

organise a seed exchange“ can be found in the following pages.



*Protest march through the European Union district of Brussels on 18/4/2011*

We aim to achieve seed sovereignty – meaning that people should be able to have access to the seeds required for their own food. This involves local social networks bringing together farmers and gardeners using regionally adapted, free and open

pollinated heirloom varieties in agriculture or urban community gardens, in household or allotment gardens or on the balcony. At the same time, we need agriculture and seed policies that promote this practice and facilitate the access to seeds, breaking the domination of the big seed companies by prohibiting genetically modified seeds and seed privatisation.

This is what we are fighting for! You are invited to become part of the growing world-wide movement for seed and food sovereignty!

## 2. THE POWER OF SEED AND AGROCHEMICAL COMPANIES

### ...in plant breeding

A major problem in the field of plant breeding is the growing influence of agrochemical companies and their strategies in the field of plant breeding. Over the past decades, many medium-sized plant-breeding companies have been bought up by international companies that produce pesticides and artificial fertilizers. These are, however, not at all interested in undemanding, locally adapted varieties. They are only interested in agricultural varieties adapted to the input of their chemicals, because these companies gain more money selling pesticides and artificial fertilizers than they do by selling seeds. For them, seeds are like the worm on the fishhook: fish, in this case the peasants, are meant to bite - consequently buying the agrochemical products needed to grow their plants. Such multinational companies develop genetically modified organisms (GMO) in order to make huge profits,

while contributing to the destruction of biodiversity.

### ... Terminator seed varieties for total control

The priority given by seed companies to gaining maximum profits in their plant breeding work leads to perverse developments such as „terminator varieties“. These are plants whose seeds are sterile unless they are treated in

time with a special chemical. At present, terminator technology is subject to an international moratorium. However, the very fact that efforts have been made to develop them shows that the seed industry is not interested in highly fertile varieties, but in gaining worldwide control over agriculture and horticulture, making it necessary to buy new seeds every year

The fact that the key criteria in plant breeding is ensuring maximum profits for the chemical industry represents a life-threatening dead end, resulting in an



*Banner at march in Brussels on 18/4/2011*

## 2. THE POWER OF SEED AND AGROCHEMICAL COMPANIES

increasing loss of agricultural biodiversity. To counter this trend, the criteria for plant breeding should be the well-being of plants and the human beings who eat them. This is a task for the whole society, and it should be financed with public funds.

### **... fewer and fewer companies have more and more control**

The concentration of the seed market is growing daily. The three seed and agrochemical companies Monsanto, Dupont and Syngenta already control 53% of the worldwide seed trade. German companies like Bayer, BASF and KWS and the French Limagrain are also among the Top 10 on the global seed market. Together they already control 73%.

(Who will control the Green Economy?  
See [www.etcgroup.org/en/node/5296](http://www.etcgroup.org/en/node/5296))

The multiple interconnections between seed companies and their subsidiary firms are clearly portrayed in Philip H. Howard's „Seed Industry Structure“ graphic: [www.msu.edu/~howardp/seedindustry.html](http://www.msu.edu/~howardp/seedindustry.html).

### **... development aid for more „industrial“ seeds**

These huge companies make use of this concentration of power to get local seed traders to work for them in many parts of the world. In certain regions of India, for example, for some time it was only possible to buy genetically modified BT cotton seeds, forcing local farmers to grow GM cotton because in their region they could not obtain conventional seeds.

Transnational companies also manipulate development aid projects. For some years, great sums of so-called development aid money have been invested in Africa in order to create an infrastructure for the seed and agrochemical business. The seeds traded there are not regionally adapted, patent-free, heirloom seeds but products of companies that dominate the global market. The goal of extending this market domination is masked by the pretext of humanitarianism. The role of major actors, such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation in Africa is

## 2. THE POWER OF SEED AND AGROCHEMICAL COMPANIES

well described in the etcgroup's study „Food Sovereignty or Green Revolution 2.0“ [www.etcgroup.org/en/node/612](http://www.etcgroup.org/en/node/612)

### ... seeds and lobbying

All of these private companies also have great influence on national legislations and international treaties, such as the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV), the Convention

on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources (ITPGR-FA). In addition, by means of „revolving door politics“, companies put their people in the appropriate positions where laws are drafted: [www.corporateeurope.org/projects/revolving-doorwatch](http://www.corporateeurope.org/projects/revolving-doorwatch).

In Brussels, where seed legislation is at present being revised and the EU Common Agricultural Policy is decided, there are plenty of biotech and agrochemical industry lobby organisations. The organisation „Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO)“ documents and denounces the power of such companies in Europe. It took an active part in the protest during the



*Rally in front of the EU Directorate-General on 18/4/2011*

Seed Action

Days, distributing a brochure about the main actors in Brussels, such as the European Seed Association (ESA), EuropaBio (a coalition of biotech company lobby groups), Monsanto (by far the biggest company on the seed market), Bayer and BASF. This information is available at: [www.corporateeurope.org/blog/biotech-lobby-brochure-launched-demo](http://www.corporateeurope.org/blog/biotech-lobby-brochure-launched-demo).



### 3. SEED LAW = SEED MARKETING LAW

The seed legislation, including the seed marketing laws and some related regulations, determines which seeds can be sold and according to what criteria. In the same way as new medicines, seeds can only be sold once they have been authorised as marketable goods by the state. One could ask oneself why seeds,

which are a source of life and diversity, need the state to determine what is allowed and what is not? Seeds - unless genetically modified - should not be subject to admission procedures at all, since any admission procedure includes the prohibition of the sale of whatever is not authorised.

The seed marketing legislation has been developed in Europe over the past 100 years, as seeds increasingly ceased to be objects of exchange between neighbours and started to become goods traded on a market in which people no longer know

each other. Certain criteria for seeds were developed with the justification that only seeds that would ensure sufficient yields should be permitted on the market. Minimum requirements are for example purity and germination capacity. In addition, in order to be put on the market, seeds have to pass an admission



*Cereal show-garden at the Ulenkrug farm*

procedure to be included in the recognised list of varieties. Admission criteria are distinctness, uniformity and stability - the so-called DUS criteria.

These criteria correspond to the industry's priorities and new varieties. Traditional, regionally adapted, heirloom varieties usually do not meet these criteria, as one of their key characteristics is that they possess a genetic variability within the variety itself, and they are not stable over generations. These characteristics enable varieties to adapt to changing regional and climate conditions.

### 3. SEED LAW = SEED MARKETING LAW

They are therefore the central starting point for further breeding.

The DUS criteria, together with the demands of agricultural and garden crop buyers using industrialised processing methods requiring homogeneity, have resulted in a massive loss of heirloom varieties from fields and gardens. Traditional, regional and heirloom varieties do not meet the DUS criteria. They are therefore not admitted for sale and hardly used anymore. The introduction of a variety catalogue in Germany in 1934 resulted in the disappearance of 72% of the varieties available at that time. Some varieties have, however, been conserved by „seed lovers“ and conservation initiatives and are today known as conservation varieties.

By distributing their conservation seeds to others, seed initiatives such as Arche Noah in Austria, Pro Specie Rara in Swit-

zerland or the associations VERN, VEN and Dreschflegel in Germany, have been acting within a legal limbo.

In the EU the Seed Marketing Law has been in effect since 1966. The legal framework for commercial seeds is defined in 12 directives that member states are obliged to integrate into their national legislations.

Since 2008 the EU is in the process of revising these directives and the new regulations should be completed by the end of 2012. As part of this revision, new so-called „conservation directives“ have already been adopted. They aim to close the legal „gap“ with regard to the marketing of traditional and conservation varieties. According to these EU directives, conservation varieties will also have to be registered in an official catalogue. While costs and bureaucracy are to be comparatively lower, the directives



*Seed exchange in Brussels on 17/4/2011*

### 3. SEED LAW = SEED MARKETING LAW

include restrictions. Conservation variety seeds may only be multiplied in defined „regions of origin“, and the market share of a conservation variety may not exceed 0.5% (the figure differs according to the variety) of the total market of the particular species. In addition, all conservation varieties may not account for more than 10% of the species. To make it even more complicated, the new directive also includes a category called „Varieties for special conditions“ (or amateur varieties). Different regulations apply for them.

These directives were all transposed into the national legislation of each member state by the end of 2010. One can find these national texts on <http://eur-lex.europa.eu> under the following CELEX numbers : „72008L0062“ (for agricultural conservation varieties), „72009L0145“ (for conservation varieties of vegetables)

or „72010L0060“ (for mixtures of fodder plants).

There is little leeway for less restrictive regulations with regard to the recognition of varieties and the production of seeds of these varieties. An examination of the legislation on conservation varieties is to be carried out by the end of 2013.

In general, it can be concluded that the EU's conservation directives neither facilitate the important work of those conserving such seeds nor promote biological diversity - on the

contrary, they guarantee that the seed industry will have 90% control over the seed market.

The Swiss legislation allows for more diversity but may become subject to changes due to its adaptation to EU laws.



## 4. SEED LAW = SEED MARKETING LAW

Presently, the EU Commission, in the form of the Directorate General for Health and Consumer Affairs (DG San-Co) in charge of the Seed Marketing Law, is working towards a stricter exclusion of heirloom varieties. But there is opposition!

### **European Court of Justice (ECJ) adopts a disastrously negative position**

On 12 July 2012 the ECJ announced its verdict in a case concerning Kokopelli. Taken to court by the seed company Graines Baumaux, this French seed conservation network with 6000 members had been sentenced to pay a fine of 10,000 euros for selling non-registered varieties. The Nancy appeal court followed Kokopelli's request to confer the question to the European Court of Justice in order to clarify if the present EU seed legislation violates fundamental principles. The EU Council and Commission had stated their opposition to Kokopelli, as had the governments of France and Spain.

On 19 January 2012, the Advocate General Juliane Kokott appointed by the ECJ to give an opinion on the case, demanded the suspension of the present prohi-

bition of sale for seeds of plant varieties that are not included in the official variety catalogues. She considered the prohibition of marketing of non-tested varieties to be disproportional as compared to the objectives of maintaining existing biodiversity. If the ECJ had followed this opinion, the EU seed marketing legislation would have become untenable and EU seed directives and the corresponding national laws would have had to be revised accordingly.

Unfortunately, the ECJ did not follow the position of its own magistrate. Instead; it confirmed the validity of existing EU legislation. This is a highly regrettable outcome for all the initiatives, small companies and individuals dedicated to the conservation and development of heritage varieties, and the distribution of their seeds. Such initiatives cannot the time and money required to register these varieties.

The Seed Campaign has published „11 questions and answers concerning EU seed legislation in the context of the ECJ verdict“.

## 5. PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION AND UPOV

Plant variety protection (PVP) is intended to protect intellectual property in plant breeding. Independent plant breeders' rights were first introduced in the Federal Republic of Germany in 1953, in the United Kingdom in the Plant Varieties Seeds Act in 1964.

Since then, community plant variety rights have become more important in the EU. They are administered by the Community Plant Variety Office in Angers, France. By the end of 2009, a total of 16,783 Community Plant Variety Rights had been approved.

### **International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV)**

On an international level, Plant Variety Protection is regulated by the international organisation UPOV (Union Internationale pour la Protection des obtentions végétales) which was established in 1961 with its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. The UPOV Convention (International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) was revised and tightened up in 1978 and 1991.

While UPOV had few members in the 1960s, this number has risen significantly over the past few years. Many so-called „newly industrialised countries“ joined the 1991 Convention (the 1978 version cannot be signed officially anymore, although it is still valid), because they had been put forced to do so by bilateral treaties with the USA or the EU.

The objective of UPOV is the codification of intellectual property rights for plant breeders. Member States must guarantee minimum standards for breeders' rights. For example, UPOV demands the breeder's authorisation for the production, multiplication, storing, selling and marketing, importing and exporting of his variety. However, the PVR legislation allows (or rather allowed) for two exceptions.

On the one hand, the former farmers' right, today known as „farmers' privilege“, gives the right to farmers to save and re-use seeds from protected varieties.

On the other hand, the breeder's right, today called „breeder's exemption clause“, was part of farmers' rights. This allows breeders to use a protected variety as the

## 5. PLANT VARIETY RIGHTS AND UPOV

basis for breeding new varieties, without having to pay licence fees or requiring the original breeder's authorisation.

In comparison to the 1978 UPOV Convention, the 1991 Convention limited the general possibility of saving seed free of charge, and breeders must now be compensated.

The regulations concerning the scope of property rights now largely resemble patent rights. The protection period is now also at least 20 years (before 15); parallel protection by patent is also allowed (earlier, double protection was prohibited); the scope of plant protection has been considerably increased, and the limited farmer's privilege was left to the judgement of the respective national legislations.

The reason given for plant variety rights, licence fees for protected seeds and fees for seed saving is that breeders should be paid for their work. However, the idea that in this sector there are above all many small and medium-sized companies is misleading. Many of them are branches of a handful of transnational chemical corporations that dominate the

seed market. These develop new varieties, not because of their better adaptation to local conditions or resistance to diseases, but in order to sell the agrochemical products, fertilizers and pesticides necessary for their growth.

UPOV favours the seed/chemical industry and its misguided development of varieties with very uniform (i.e. hostile to diversity) and stable (i.e. not flexible) characteristics.

Because of the criteria for variety admission, UPOV treaties force member states to follow this mistaken strategy of the seed industry. They actually prohibit breeding for the good of plants and people.

In 2007 GRAIN published „The end of farm-saved seed? Industry's wish list for the next revision of UPOV". This briefing traces recent discussions within the seed industry and explores what will happen if a plant variety right becomes virtually indistinguishable from a patent. (<http://www.grain.org/article/entries/58-the-end-of-farm-saved-seed-industry-s-wish-list-for-the-next-revision-of-upov>).

## 6. PATENTS ON PLANTS

Patents are granted on inventions that are new, implicate an innovation and can be used commercially. The invention has to be described and thereby made public. If a patent is granted, the owner disposes of the sole right to use the invention for a certain time (usually 20 years), meaning that s/he can exclude others from using it. Normally it is the task of national patent offices to grant patents that are only valid on the respective national territory. Patent owners have to pay fees to the patent offices for the granting and implementation of a patent, which is how these offices are financed.

Patent claims on plants can go much further than plant variety rights: they do not only apply to seeds, but also to plants, parts of plants, their harvest and derived products.

For a long time biological material, such as plants, their parts and properties, could not be patented in Europe.



*March through Brussels on 18/4/2011*

However, Article 27 of the World Trade Organisation TRIPS Treaty of 1995 obliged all member states to introduce a patent system. It is true that plants and animals (with the exception of micro-organisms) and biological procedures (with the exception of non-biological and microbiological procedures) for breeding plants and animals can be excluded from patentability. However, it was precisely the exceptions to this exceptions regulation that opened the door for the patenting of plants, for this was what they had been created for. Even before European and national laws could be adapted accordingly, the European Patent Office (EPO), located in Munich (Germany), started patenting

## 6. PATENTS ON PLANTS

characteristics resulting from genetic manipulation in plants which were considered „non-biological“ breeding procedures.

In 1995, the European Parliament failed to adopt a EU directive aimed at implementing this TRIPS article. Only in a second attempt, after an immense lobbying effort by the industries concerned, EU „Directive 98/44/EC on the legal protection of biotechnological inventions“ was adopted in 1998. In Germany and other European countries, this controversial directive was not implemented before the end of 2004, due to its significant shortcomings. German law, however, was designed in such a way as to have no influence whatsoever on EPO patent decisions. The EPO works mostly at its own discretion.

Since then, the European Patent Office has not only granted patents on genetically implanted characteristics of plants but also on plant characteristics resulting from conventional breeding methods where genetic engineering techniques only play a marginal role, such as for the description or selection of varieties.

Objections may be raised free of charge between the application for a patent and its granting. After the patent has been granted, objections can be presented during nine months, but have to be paid for. These are dealt with by the EPO. After that, national authorities and courts are responsible for patents - but in such cases appealing against patents becomes very expensive.

In our opinion, all organisms, whether plants, animals or human beings, and their specific characteristics, cannot be considered to be inventions. They are the result of natural development. This alone makes the patenting of something alive an absurdity. Like the network of the same name ([www.keinpatent.de](http://www.keinpatent.de)), we demand: „No patents on life“.

Privatising life comes to the same as robbing nature, which is the common property of all!



## 7. HOW TO ORGANISE A SEED EXCHANGE

More and more people are becoming interested in agriculture, garden and self-sufficient projects. They are starting to think about ways to regain control over their food supply and thereby become more independent of disease-provoking industrial food production.

But where do the seeds for these gardens and projects come from? Often



*Action in Berlin on Via Campesina Day, 17/4/2011*

from infertile F1 hybrid varieties bought in the garden centre. This way, people lose the possibility to obtain their own seeds the following year, thus giving away part of their independence. But there are alternatives - unpatented, fertile seeds! You can find them at seed

conservation initiatives, from small farmers and the old gardener next door ...

We are not willing to accept the prohibition of these alternatives, since human beings all over the world have at all times exchanged seeds, thus creating such rich diversity. Free access to seeds is a basic human right. Seeds are common property and the basis of all food.

Organise seed swaps and seed parties, exchange your seeds and seedlings. Find out which varieties grow well in your area, and become independent of seed and chemical companies, their pesticides and their destructive role in the worldwide industrial food and agriculture business.

The more seed swaps we organise, the less control companies will have over us! And what comes from your garden will always taste much better anyway!

In April 2012 an initiative called 'Organic Seeds by Organic Growers' was launched. This is a move to encourage learning skills in seed growing and selection by organic and biodynamic growers. It is coordinated jointly by

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[www.open-pollinated-seeds.org.uk](http://www.open-pollinated-seeds.org.uk). and [www.gardenorganic.org.uk](http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk)

The objective of 'Organic seeds by organic growers' is also to ensure that many more open-pollinated varieties are maintained by organic producers. For this to happen, it is of course necessary to develop seed skills..

### CHECKLIST:

#### Who is to organise the seed swap?

If there are not enough of you to organise the seed swap, you can put up posters at suitable places (cultural centre, farm/wholefood shop, allotment



*Urban garden „Ton-Steine-Gärten“ in Berlin  
on Via Campesina Day 2011*

gardens etc.) or directly address people and groups who might be interested in order to find participants (community or international gardens, anti-biotech groups, organic farming associations...)

#### Where do the seeds for the exchange come from?

Local, amateur and professional gardeners are invited to bring along fertile seeds (no F1 hybrid varieties). Since it is not yet common again to produce one's own seeds, invite seed conservation initiatives or small organic breeders for support and ask them for advice!

Another way of getting things moving is to exchange not only seeds but also seedlings, which are more likely to be found in your gardens.

#### Where and when should the seed swap take place?

Outside would be a good place, but you need an alternative in case of bad weather. Apart from that, it also depends on the participants (if the seed swap is going to involve people from a community garden or organic farm, do

## 7. HOW TO ORGANISE A SEED EXCHANGE



*A little impression of corn diversity (Brussels 17/4/2011)*

it there) and how big the event is going to be (how many additional activities in the programme). The best time to have a seed swap is in the beginning of the year, before the gardening season starts.

### What else can be part of such a seed swap?

- food (find volunteers to arrange for food and drinks)
- cultural and political programme (invite specialists for a presentation, show a film, organise an exhibition),
- exchange knowledge: practical workshops about seed production and other topics
- information stands on particular

topics, book stalls, leaflets, signature lists, etc.

- Children entertainment (potato print, painting faces...)
- joint planting sessions.

**Do not forget to invite people personally and advertise the event!**

**Very important:** Have fun together!  
In the end, this is also about creating social seed networks.

For a more detailed checklist for organising a seed swap and further useful information see:  
[www.seedysunday.org](http://www.seedysunday.org).



*Seed swap in the inner courtyard of „Maison des Cultures“, Molenbeek, Brussels 17/4/2011*

## 8. APPEARING IN THE DOCUMENTARY:

### **Seed campaign**

The Campaign for Seed Sovereignty ([www.seed-sovereignty.org](http://www.seed-sovereignty.org)) was launched in 2008 by the „European Cooperative Longo Mai“ network and the BUKO Campaign against Biopiracy. Many people from different European countries followed their call to protest against the EU seed legislation. The Brussels Action Days were only possible thanks to the support of many committed people.

### **European Cooperative Longo mai**

This network consists of ten cooperatives located in five European countries. For almost 40 years, they have above all practiced farming, mostly for their own needs, and are involved in many political campaigns, many of them linked to agricultural questions. The farm „Ulenkrug“ was founded in 1995. It is located in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania (Germany), and runs a show garden for old wheat varieties and other cereal varieties. It has played an important part in the seed campaign.

### **BUKO Campaign against Biopiracy**

The „BUKO Campaign against Biopiracy“ ([www.biopiraterie.de](http://www.biopiraterie.de)) has been active since 2002, organising opposition against seed, pharmaceutical and food companies and their appropriation of genetic resources, thus giving support to initiatives mounted by traditional and local communities as well as peasant producer groups. Since the European Seed Seminar in Halle in 2007, the emphasis has been placed on „liberating the genetic resource“: seeds. BUKO („Bundekoordination Internationalismus“) is the German coordination on internationalism

### **Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO)**

CEO ([www.corporateeurope.org](http://www.corporateeurope.org)) is a research and campaign group working to expose and challenge the privileged access and influence enjoyed by corporations and their lobby groups in EU policy making. They investigate the interconnections between economy and politics in Brussels in different fields (agricultural, economic, international, energy and water policies).

## 8. APPEARING IN THE DOCUMENTARY:

### **IFOAM EU Group**

IFOAM EU Group (<http://www.ifoam-eu.org>) is the Brussels based EU working level of IFOAM – the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements. IFOAM's goal is the worldwide adoption of ecologically, socially and economically sound systems that are based on the principles of Organic Agriculture.

### **Association Kokopelli**

Kokopelli ([www.kokopelli.asso.fr](http://www.kokopelli.asso.fr)) is a seed conservation initiative in France which in 2008 was sentenced for „unfair competition“. The French seed company Graines Baumaux had sued Kokopelli for selling seeds of vegetable varieties not registered in the national variety catalogue. On Kokopelli's request, the French court conferred the case to the European Court of Justice to clarify whether European seed legislation violates fundamental European principles. More information is given above in Chapter 4.

### **Seedy Sunday**

The initiative Seedy Sunday ([www.seedysunday.org](http://www.seedysunday.org)) has been organising seed swaps in Brighton (Great Britain) for ten years, now attracting thousands of visitors. At the same time, Seedy Sunday considers itself a campaign for biological diversity and against the increasing control over seed availability exercised by a few big companies.

### **Internationale Gärten e.V.**

The International Gardens ([www.internationale-gaerten.de](http://www.internationale-gaerten.de)) in Göttingen (Germany) are places where refugee, migrant and German families relate to each other and together set a positive example for international understanding and integration through intercultural cooperation. The project was founded in 2003 and has ever since been opposing exclusion by creating alternatives for the social integration of refugee and migrant families.

## 8. APPEARING IN THE DOCUMENTARY:

### **Stiftung Interkultur (fondation interculture)**

The „Interculture Foundation“ ([www.stiftung-interkultur.de](http://www.stiftung-interkultur.de)) was founded in 2003 and seeks to contribute to a new understanding of social integration. The foundation advises people on the creation and development of intercultural gardens, provides knowledge and experience from other projects in a summarized form, evaluates and researches project practices, coordinates a research network, combines and enriches different discourses on immigration and intercultural subjects and illustrates the potential of self-organization and DIY initiatives.

### **Çiftçi-Sen**

is a federation of farmers unions in Turkey and a member of the world-wide peasant network Via Campesina. The unions are organised according to the products their members cultivate : the tea, hazelnut, olive, grape, tobacco, sunflower and cereal growers unions and the animal breeders union.

### **Green Foundation, India**

The Green Foundation (<http://www.greenconserve.com>) works towards a well-preserved, diverse ecosystem that will sustain the rural livelihoods of the present generation without eroding the resource base of the future. It works with small, marginalised farmers in the dry regions of southern India in order to promote sustainable agriculture.

### **Shalini Bhutani, India**

Shalini Bhutani is a lawyer and was with GRAIN ([www.grain.org](http://www.grain.org)) for years until 2011, she is still associated with the Pesticides Action Network Asia Pacific ([www.panap.net](http://www.panap.net)), especially monitoring the CGIAR centre in Asia IRRI (<http://www.panap.net/en/ap/page/about-pan-ap/143>). She also works together with several small farmer organisations and local communities across the region. Her focus areas include international agrarian and trade agreements and their impact on India, peasant agriculture and biological diversity.

# Thank you!

We would like to thank all of the local groups that supported the Seed Action Days with decentralised actions in several countries.

And also to thank all the committed individuals in several countries and the following organisations for making these days of protest possible:

**in Brussels for actions taken there:**

- Le Début des Haricots
- CEO (Corporate European Observatory)
- Le collectif du 123
- Rencontre des Continents
- Agenda 21
- FUGEA

**in Europe:**

- L'association Kokopelli
- Österreichische Bergbauern- und Bäuerinnen Vereinigung (ÖBV)
- Via Campesina Austria
- BUKO Campaign against Biopiracy
- European Civic Forum
- European Cooperative Longo Mai



*Action Theatre at the end of the march in Brussels on 18/4/2011*



Handing-over of signatures for „Sowing a future – harvesting diversity” to three members of the European Parliament

Isabelle Durant, Vice President of the EU Parliament, Marc Tarabella and Kriton Arsenis (MEPs) taking the signatures to the Parliament



Campaign for Seed Sovereignty - [www.saatgutkampagne.org](http://www.saatgutkampagne.org) / [www.seed-sovereignty.org](http://www.seed-sovereignty.org)  
Demonstration and handing over signatures on 18/04/2011, in Brussels