



**GOOD SEEDS
GOOD FOOD
GOOD HEALTH**

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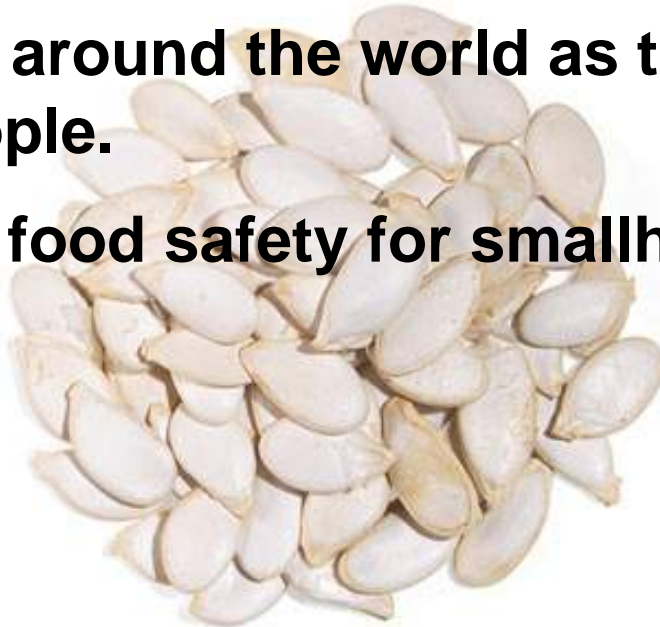
**Why and how should
everyone get involved in
promoting local crop seeds?**



WHAT ARE SEEDS?

Among other plant propagation material (tubers, cuttings, onions...) seeds take an important place:

- **Seeds can be stored and used over many years.**
- **Seeds are important staple food (cereals, beans...).**
- **Seeds bring genetic renewal with each generation.**
- **Seeds reflect cultural and nutritional customs.**
- **Seeds travel around the world as they are swapped between people.**
- **Seeds mean food safety for smallholders.**



NO SEEDS – NO AGRICULTURE.

Seeds are at the base of agriculture and thus play an important role in human nutrition.

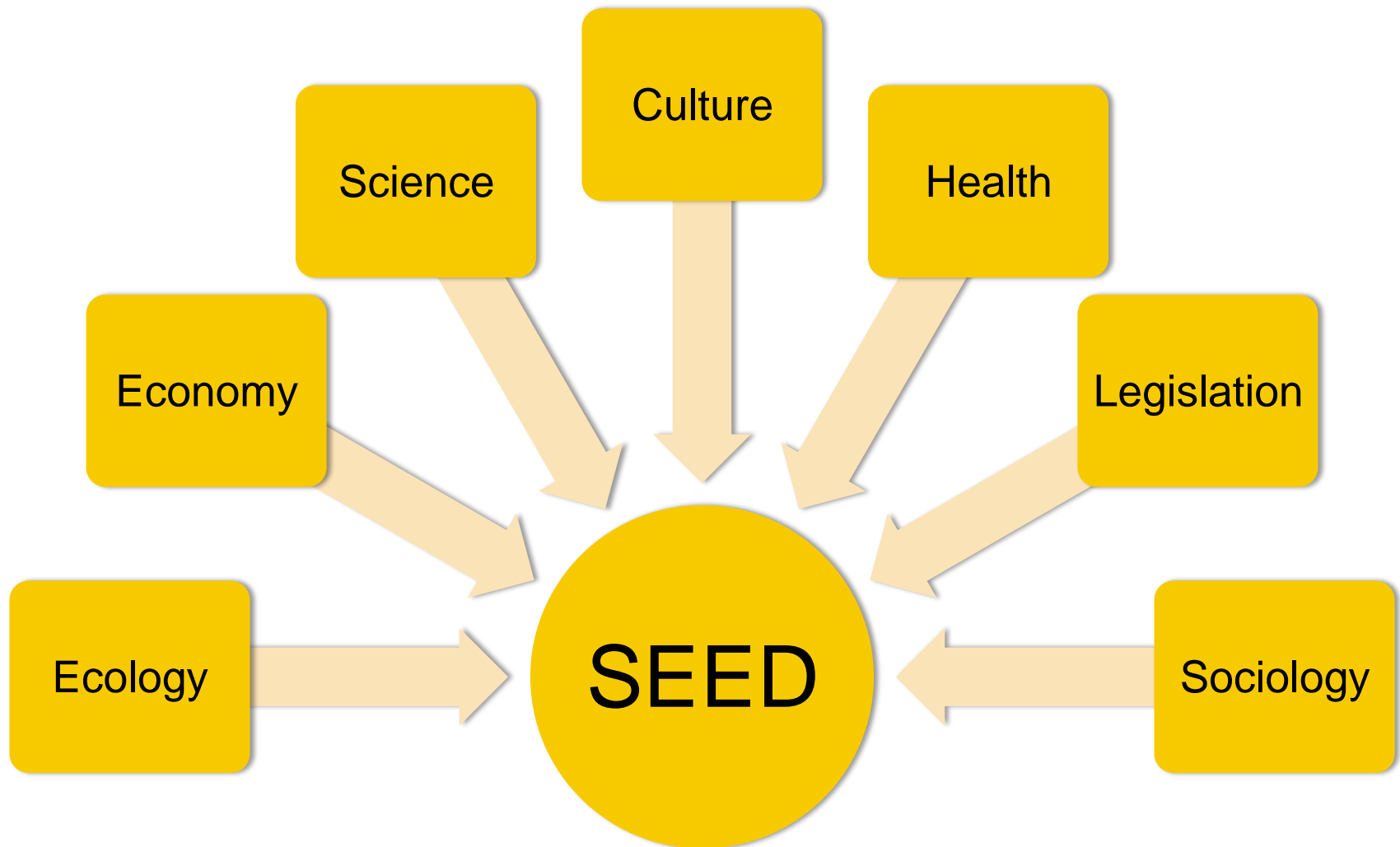
Crop seeds include cereals and vegetable seeds. Unlike fruit trees crop seeds give annual or biennial plants.

Thus, life cycles are short and genetic evolution rapid.

This also means that when crop seeds are not used and are stored for too long, they die and disappear.

Seeds are a fragile treasure...

**SEEDS DO NOT ONLY CONCERN AGRICULTURE.
THEY ARE LINKED TO MANY IMPORTANT FIELDS
OF HUMAN LIFE.**



TWO KINDS OF SEEDS TO CHOOSE



« modern »
high-tech
genetically modified
non-reproducible
standardised
uniform
universal
input intensive
private
commercial value



traditional
artisanal
natural
reproducible
diversified
variable
local
extensive
public / common
cultural value

SEEDS AS COMMODITIES

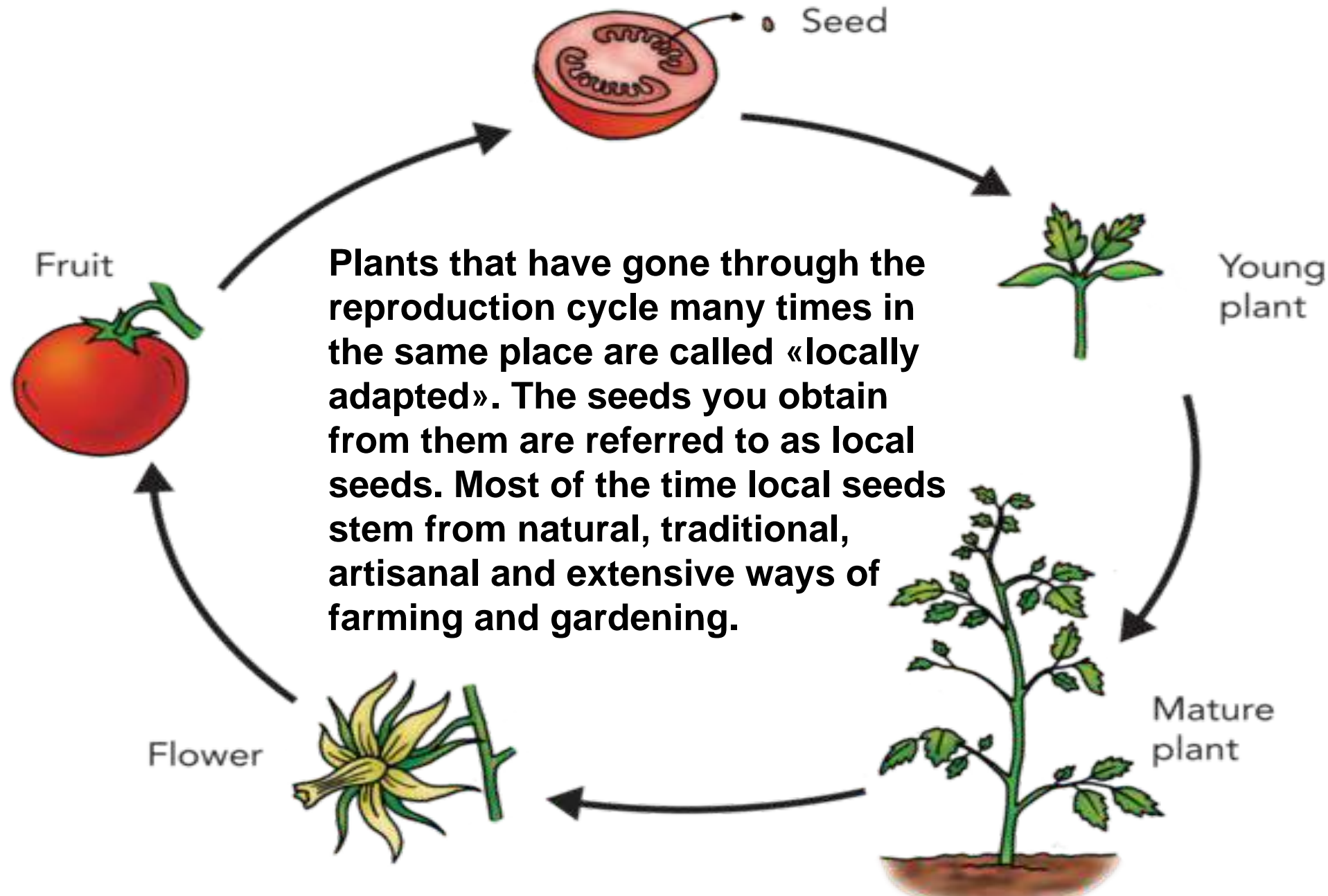
The fact that seeds more and more turn into privatised industrial products bear a multitude of worrisome issues:

- loss of genetic diversity
- loss of cultural heritage
- lower nutritional value
- lack of natural resistance
- lack of resilience
- lack of sustainability
- lack of knowledge in genetics
- health risk of GM crops
- rising prices
- dependance of smallholders
- need for more fertilisers
- need for more pesticides

WILL LOCAL SEEDS BE PART OF THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE?



AND WHAT DOES “LOCAL” MEAN?



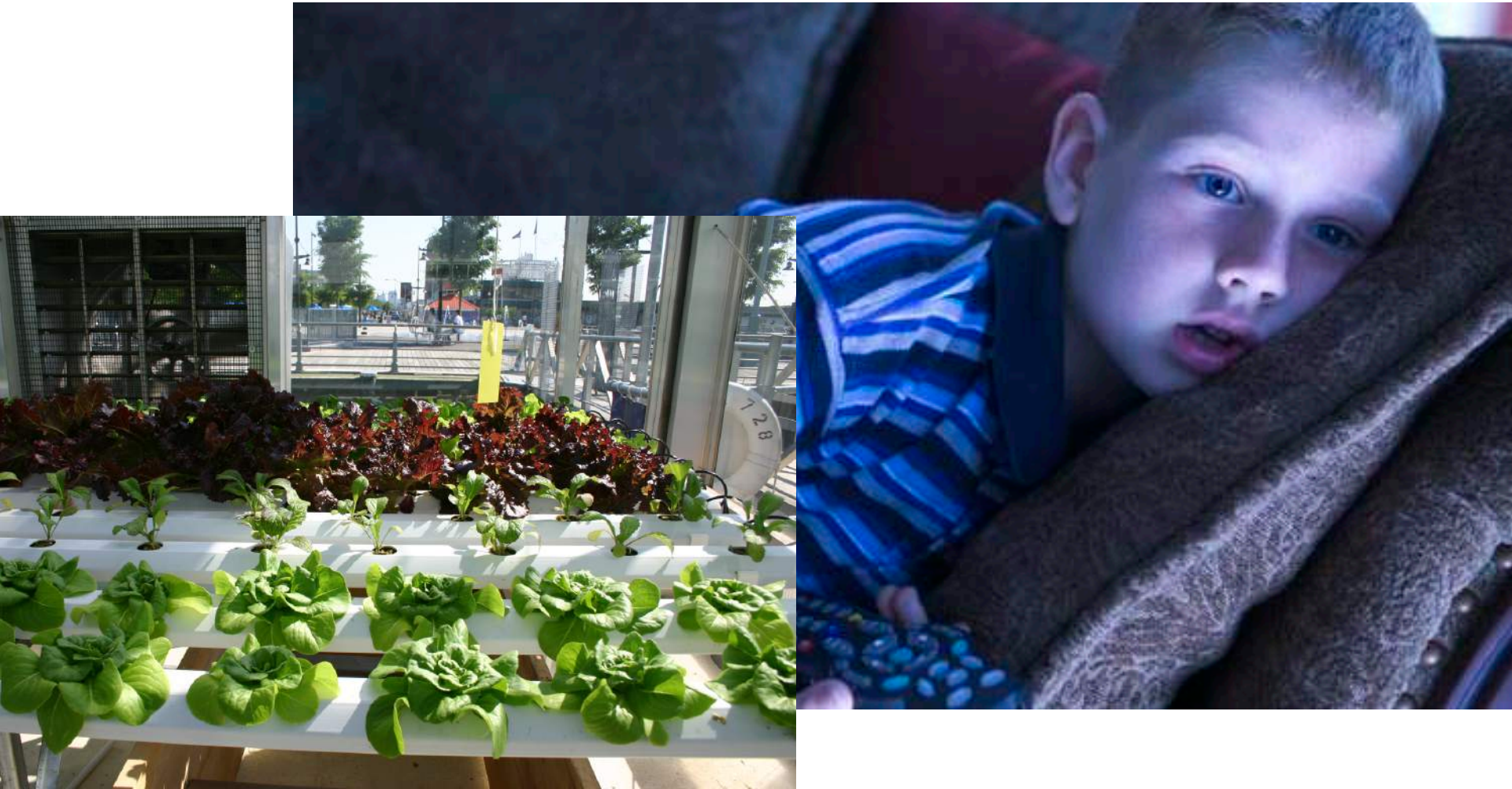
LOCAL SEEDS FOR OUTDOOR PLANTS

Plants that grow «out in the fields» without too much support from the grower tend to be healthier than...



...INDOOR PLANTS

Plants that grow in green-houses artificially lighted and heated, fed with soluble mineral fertilisers and protected by chemical pesticides tend to be less vital and more «lazy».



***IN TERMS OF
OUTDOOR PLANTS
AND
LOCAL SEEDS...***



***Have
you
already
seen...***

***A BEETROOT
GO TO SEED?***





***OR SOME
RADISH
PODS?***

PARSLEY IN BLOOM?



***AN ONION
BLOSSOM
OPENING?***



CABBAGE BUDS?



CHICORY GETTING POLLINATED?



CARROT SEEDS IN THEIR NATURAL SHAPE?





***FLOWERING
CORN SALAD?***

NATURAL SEEDS GIVE NATURAL FOOD BEST FOR HUMAN HEALTH

Locally adapted crops that grow under extensive and natural conditions are richer in vitamins, secondary compounds and antioxidants than industrial crops. On top of this they attain a natural state of maturity and therefore have a richer flavour.

Recent research in the field of epigenetics confirms the saying „You are what you eat“.



LOCAL SEEDS ARE:

Natural

because they are "handmade"

Ecological

because they result from biotic and abiotic interactions within a natural environment

Healthy

because they are naturally mature, rich in secondary compounds and antioxidants

Fair

because they are based on an approach of global solidarity

Democratic

because they are independent commons

Social

because they integrate all citizens in the process of breeding and cultivation

SEEDS MATTER!

Would it be exaggerated to say that seeds have their place in the very middle of society?

And if they do, wouldn't we need a new social alliance around seeds?



open source
seed initiative

citizen
SCIENCE



A VISION FOR THE FUTURE: PARTICIPATORY PLANT BREEDING AND SEED CULTIVATION

Farmers

Seed growers

Researchers

Nutritionists

Doctors

Chefs

Educators

Politicians

And all citizens

**Cooperation
for
seed quality,
food quality and
human health**

BE PART OF IT!

**Initiatives of
promoting seed diversity
all over Europe and
everywhere in the world:**

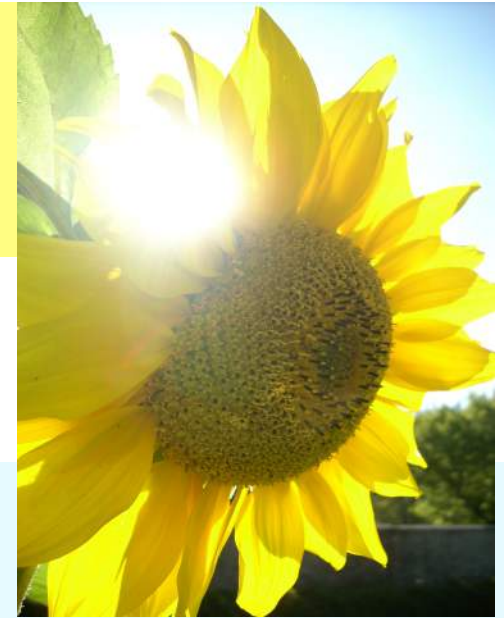
- Organic plant breeding**
- Living seed collections**
- Farmer's seed movements**
- Citizen's seed houses**

**Innovative concepts for a
sustainable and resilient agriculture**

- Agro-ecology**
- Community supported agriculture**
- Transition movement**



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
KIND ATTENTION!**



**«Our aim is
not only to multiply seeds
but also to multiply the multipliers of seeds!»**

**Frank Adams
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www.seed-net.lu
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