



## 14th European Forum "Let's Liberate Diversity"

# Farm to Fork - Seed to Plate Regional Seeds and Varieties for the Future of our Food

## Conference and diversity fair on cultivated plant diversity

Lycée Technique Agricole Luxembourg  
1 Kréiwénkel, 9374 Gilsdorf

5 September 2025  
16:00 – 22:00

- 16:00 Opening of the fair "*Diversity Varieties*" with actors from different European countries and from Luxembourg
- 18:00 Opening remarks to the conference by Luxembourg's Minister of Agriculture Martine Hansen
- 18:10 Keynote speeches on the topic "*Patents versus Biodiversity*"
- 19:00 Round of experts from the field
- 19:50 Closing remarks
- 20:00 Vin d'honneur, walking dinner and live music



## **Further details**

The diversity of varieties market brings together various initiatives on the topic of agrobiodiversity. In addition to producers who work in the areas of plant breeding, variety development and seed propagation, marketers and various organisations and institutions in the areas of education and development will also participate.

The conference 'Patent Rights versus Biodiversity' aims to provide information on the future of seeds and thus of food production. At a time when seeds are subject to increasing standardisation, centralisation and privatisation, arguments will be discussed that demonstrate the need to preserve regional varietal diversity.

Speakers will give keynote speeches on this topic and experts will report on their practical experiences.

## **Keynote speeches**

### Riccardo Bocci

Agricultural engineer, Technical Director of Rete Semi Rurali, President of ECLLD

The keynote speech by R. Bocci deals with the relationship between crop diversity, regional seed systems and participatory plant breeding. Genetic diversity can only arise, be maintained and further developed in diversified regional systems. The value of traditional varieties lies not only in their role as genetic resources for plant breeding, but in their use in the context of a 'living diversity' that is cultivated in fields, passes through the hands of farmers and finally lands on people's plates.

### Stephanie Klaedtke

Doctor of Agricultural Sciences, Officer for Seed Health and Crop Diversity at ITAB, Angers, France

The keynote speech by S. Klaedtke discusses the question of the extent to which *on-farm* plant breeding and seed propagation represent a perspective for agroecological, food production that can simultaneously ensure long-term harvest security and food quality.

*On-farm* plant breeding and seed propagation are based on ecosystemic interactions between plants and their environment and on continuous and progressive development and adaptation processes that strengthen the natural resistance of plants.

## Christophe Golay

PhD in International Relations (specialising in international law), Senior Research Fellow, Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights

C. Golay's keynote speech refers to the rights of peasants as defined by the United Nations in a declaration, including Article 19 on the unrestricted right to use, propagate and market farmers' seeds. However, such seed sovereignty of farmers is increasingly under pressure from international free trade agreements and seed laws. How can this contradiction be resolved at the legal, political, economic and practical levels?

## Katherine Dolan

Bachelor in social and political science, Master in international studies, head of the policy department at Arche Noah, Schiltern, Austria

The keynote speech by K. Dolan describes the tension between the market rules for seeds and the work for crop diversity by organisations, farmers and gardeners against the background of the planned legal reform for the marketing of seeds in the European Union. What legal provisions are needed to ensure that the many regional stakeholders can freely pursue their work for diversity in the public interest and for the sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture?

## **Panel of experts from the field**

In the expert panel, three representatives from the cereal, fruit and vegetable sectors are asked about topics such as regional diversity, plant and seed health, variety development, agroecology, practical experiences and economic aspects.