EGON

Development of organically bred fruit varieties in commons-based initiatives
Research Project EGON

- Joint project with partners from science and praxis
  - Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg (Bernd Siebenhüner, Dirk C. Albach, Stefanie Sievers-Glotzbach, Nicholas P. Howard, Hendrik Wolter)
  - Apfel:gut e.V. (Inde Sattler)
  - Öko-Obstbau Norddeutschland e.V. (Matthias Ristel)
- Runtime: 2017 – 2019
- Funded by the Ministry for Science and Culture of Lower Saxony
Content and Research Approach

• **Goal:**
  - EGON investigates the development of **organically bred fruit varieties in commons-based initiatives**. This breeding approach is characterized by the utilization of the **genetic diversity** of heirloom and underutilized varieties in breeding, as well as the **practical participation** of a community of farmers and breeders.
  - Studies are conducted from **different perspectives** in order to evaluate this breeding approach ecologically, economically, and socially.

• **Inter- and Transdisciplinarity:**
  - Close and integrated form of **cooperation** between agricultural and breeding actors, organizations, and scientific partners.
  - Research contributions shall have a **practical relevance** for fruit growing and breeding.
Commons-based Fruit Breeding

- Collective Management
- Normative Entry Points
- Certain Degree of Openness
- Collective Ownership
- Shared Norms
- Resource(s)
Commons-based Fruit Breeding

Collective management on-farm; decentralized decision-making; collective rule-making

Normative Entry Points

Different ecological, political, personal motivations

Seedlings, Fruits, Knowledge, Varieties

Collective Management

Collective Ownership

Shared Norms

Organic Agriculture

Seedlings and farming/breeding knowledge shared as collectively owned resources inside the breeding community; free access to newly developed varieties

Certain Degree of Openness

Sharing of breeding knowledge to a certain degree with everyone

Example:

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