“Involving the food chain in Organic Breeding”
- examples of best practice

FAIR-BREEDING®

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Initial situation: lack of interest in seeds

Majority opinion of market stakeholders (also in Organic!): Seeds are matter of farmers!

- last 50 years development of very productive, high performance agriculture, also in context of organic / biodynamic agriculture.

- permanently increasing economic pressure leads to intensive use of hybrids, modern resistances, high input varieties for high input production systems.
Initial situation: lack of interest in seeds

- the price: increasing deficit of food quality, huge loss of biodiversity in our agricultural systems, increasing use of biotechnology in conventional breeding.

- increasing dependency of the organic sector on conventional seed companies and their varieties, developed under and for conventional conditions.

Seeds are matter of farmers? Is that true?
the actors

- Naturata international gemeinsam handeln e.V.
- Kultursaat e.V.
  - association for biodynamic vegetable breeding
the history

► 2003: discussion by Demeter to “cell fusion” and “CMS (cytoplasmatic male sterility)

► 2003: workshop at Naturata Luxemburg

► 2005: Demeter bans CMS hybrids for biodynamic agriculture
leaving the problem at farmers level leads to loss of whole groups of important crops – or to loss of trueness.

seeds and breeding issues are not only matter of farmers! The choice of varieties is intensively influenced by all members of the market value added chain.

retailers, processors and wholesalers have to take the responsibility by financing alternative breeding concepts.
Fair Breeding partners spend a certain percentage (0.3%) of the whole turnover of fresh products to breeding projects. Thus a single product is not overloaded.

Fair Breeding partners define a special need / target (e.g. cauliflower). Breeding partners define the practical implementation.

partnership driven agreement of a common will and a common intention.
idea for solution

- support is granted for a certain timeline (10 years, with prolongation) to ensure long term breeding projects.

- no private property rights and exclusivity for marketing on developed varieties by Fair Breeding partners.

- communication to consumers to let them participate.
► 2007: Naturata International starts Fair Breeding together with Kultursaat e.V.

► 2011: IFOAM international: discussion to ban varieties from Cell Fusion / CMS

► 2013: scandal in Germany: CMS – material (brokkoli, cauliflower, chicories) detected in organic / biodynamic food
course of events underline the project

► 2016/17: Demeter bans varieties from “NBT – new genetic engineering”

► 2017: IFOAM international “Position Paper on breeding techniques”

► 2018: broad discussion to promote and speed up organic breeding within the whole organic sector - searching for appropriate methods of support.
story of FAIR-BREEDING®

Bio-dynamische Pflanenzüchtung als Teil assoziativen Wirtschaftens

2008

2011

2007 → 2017 ca. 180.000 Euro!

2014

2017
potential

- to recognize and to take responsibility for seed and breeding affairs by every market value added partners.

- in consequence to create own activities together with partners: setting up concrete objective targets for breeding projects with binding character, but without dependency.

- to keep the results derived from those projects within common goods instead of private ownership.
potential

- after successful projects: marketing of really and truly biodynamic / organic products: „from the very beginning of breeding via farm to fork“.

- traceability and engagement lead to consciousness and safety.

- appropriate information: inclusion of consumer‘s expectation and needs, participation to create solutions – responsibility of consumers.
does not solve all problems and needs of alternative breeding, e.g.:

- general breeding basic research
- implementation and sustaining of breeding stations
- education in breeding affairs
- pre-breeding as precondition for concrete breeding projects
- setting up and keeping of genetic pools
- niche market concepts and crops
but is a very modern, really sustainable and future oriented answer to

- all monopolized, biotechnology dominated, conventional breeding business of global corporations like Monsanto, Bayer, Syngenta .....

- private owned, shareholder value driven, patent oriented breeding business models

- paralysis of the organic sector facing the huge problem of dependency from conventional concepts and economy.

... is active and concrete!
➢ spends motivation and enthusiasm

➢ is enabling and empowering
connects visions and initiatives

is active assoziative partnership
Thank you for your attention!

Gebhard Rossmanith