
10th Organic Seed Growers Conference
February 12–15, 2020 | Corvallis, Oregon
Welcome to the 10th Organic Seed Growers Conference

Welcome to the 10th Organic Seed Growers Conference. The biennial event represents 20 years of this community working to build a future where organic seed systems are healthy, diverse, equitable, and just.

As we celebrate the 10th Organic Seed Growers Conference, we reflect on why this event is revolutionary to so many participants. Past conference goers report that the most impactful opportunities at the conference are those that allow them to collectively take stock of our histories, identify and renew their commitment to shared values, and resolve to stay true and connected to these values as we all go our separate ways to further the good seed movement. And so this year’s conference theme captures a charge to participants, to Reflect. Renew. Resolve.

We’re grateful to Washington-based artist Nikki McClure for sharing her art with us to make this conference theme even more inspiring – and beautiful!

In the program you’ll find sessions covering a range of issues falling under four tracks: plant breeding, seed growing, policy advocacy, and seed ethics. A track dedicated solely to sessions focused on seed ethics is new to the conference this year, and OSA staff and our planning committee are especially excited to offer it. We know that agronomics, field techniques, and policy work are only part of what makes for a thriving seed community. It’s the people, histories, accountability, and values that are the beating heart of the good seed movement. That’s why we’re convening integral discussions focused on seed ownership, stewardship, and resistance, resilience, and reconciliation at this year’s conference.

We’re honored to welcome Ricardo J. Salvador as the Saturday keynote speaker. Ricardo is the Director and Senior Scientist of the Food & Environment Program at the Union of Concerned Scientists in Washington, DC. He leads a team of scientists, economists, policy analysts and organizers to make the case that modern, sustainable practices can be highly productive while also protecting the environment, producing healthy food, and creating economic opportunity for all. His agronomic background coupled with his social justice work makes him the ideal person to deliver this year’s address focused on the sordid history of agriculture’s exploitation of both people and the planet.

OSA would like to thank our tireless conference planning committee, the seed ethics intensive and track planning committee, and our conference proposal review committee. Collectively, more than fifty members of this seed community helped make decisions about the conference agenda, keynote speaker, and other event logistics. We would not have been able to pull off this year’s conference without the following individuals: Heron Breen, Fedco Seeds; Melissa DeSa, Working Food; Steph Gaylor, Invincible Summer Farms; Ken Greene, Seedshed; Chelsey Lenczyk, Bejo Seeds; Matt Levitt, Albert Lea Seed; Jovan Sage, Sage’s Larder/Gilliard Farms; Jacqueline Pilati, Reclaim Seed NYC; Theresa Podoll, Prairie Road Organic Seed; Don Tipping, Siskiyou Seeds; Andrew Still, Adaptive Seeds; and Owen Taylor, Truelove Seeds.

Thank you for joining us here in Corvallis, Oregon. We hope you will use this time to learn and evolve your understanding of the topics discussed at this year’s conference, and to contribute your own perspective and experiences to the tapestry of seed stories woven throughout the weekend. It’s our hope that after this week’s conference these connections deepen and become a part of our everyday work, and that this tapestry of the good seed movement is even larger, more vibrant, and woven together when we gather again in 2022.

May we all resolve to deepen our commitment to the work ahead of us: to embrace and expand diversity at every level as we, together, create a sustainable food and farming future that begins with organic seed.

In gratitude,

Cathleen McCluskey
Outreach Director and Conference Chair
Organic Seed Alliance Staff

Micaela Colley, Program Director
Kitt Healy, Research & Education Associate, Midwest
Kiki Hubbard, Advocacy & Communications Director
Amber Keeney, Southern California Hub Coordinator
Cara Loriz, Executive Director
Cathleen McCluskey, Outreach Director
Laurie McKenzie, Research & Education Associate, NW
Katie Miller, Research Field Assistant
Steve Peters, California Research & Outreach Associate
Jennifer Turney, Financial Manager
Jared Zystro, Research & Education Assistant Director

Organic Seed Alliance Board of Directors

Sebastian Aguilar, President, Chickadee Farm
Amy Grondin, Vice President, Sustainable Seafood Consultant
Adrienne Shelton, Secretary, Vitalis Organic Seeds
Adam Wagner, Treasurer, Oregon Blueberry Farms & Nursery
Heron Breen, Fedco Seeds
Ira Wallace, Southern Exposure Seed Exchange

Keynote Address
from Ricardo J. Salvador

Saturday, 10:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
LaSells Stewart Center/Austin Auditorium

The planning committee is honored to welcome Ricardo J. Salvador as the keynote speaker for this year’s event. Ricardo is the Director and Senior Scientist of the Food & Environment Program at the Union of Concerned Scientists in Washington, DC. He leads a team of scientists, economists, policy analysts, and organizers to make the case that modern, sustainable practices can be highly productive while also protecting the environment, producing healthy food, and creating economic opportunity for all. He is a member of the Board of Agriculture and National Resources of the National Academy of Sciences, and of the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food. He has advised a range of leading organizations in sustainable and equitable agriculture, including the Fair Food Program of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, The Land Institute, FoodCorps, National Farm to School Network, Center for Good Food Purchasing, Food System 6, and the HEAL Food Alliance.

Conference Hosts

Special Thanks

OSA would like to thank the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program for their support. This funding helped many beginning farmers make it to the conference.
THE Seed Swap (!!!)

**Saturday, 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**
**LaSells Stewart Center Foyer**

There’s a ton of exciting offerings every year at the conference, but let’s be honest, the seed swap is always one of the stars of the gathering. Share your newest loves, find an old favorite, and connect with your fellow participants over the entity that’s brought us all together: seeds. Maybe you’re bringing something you found and have stewarded since the 2018 seed swap or maybe you’re coming with empty envelopes and the glimmer of future seed saving. All are welcome – gather and share seeds, stories, and highlights from your conference.

The Art of Seed

**Throughout Friday and Saturday**
**LaSells Stewart Center Gallery**

What do seed stories look like? Every year the Hudson Valley Seed Co commissions contemporary artists to interpret twelve seed stories through their art. The original works become unique origami-like seed packs. Visit this mini gallery exhibit of original pieces, fine art prints, and seed packs on display in the LaSells Stewart Center Gallery. Are you an artist? Know any artists? The call for art is out now! To see all the art or apply visit hudsonvalleyseed.com.

Synergy Space

**Throughout Friday and Saturday**
**LaSells Stewart Center/Ag Production Room**

The Synergy Space is an opportunity for participants to self-organize conversations with conference goers outside of the main sessions. This is a space for emerging ideas, issues, and organizing in the organic seed community. For example, in the 2018 Synergy Space a group of farmers interested in flower seed production met in the Synergy Space, formed a collaborative group that continued to meet after the conference, and built momentum/collaborations such that they’ve organized a flower seed production session in the 2020 conference agenda. Visit the Agriculture Production Room to check out what’s been planned so far and/or recommend to host a topic.

Seed People Portraits

**Throughout Friday and Saturday**
**Sign Up with Seedshed in LaSells Stewart Center**

Do you have a personal seed story to share? We’re shining a light on seed people and the seeds they love. Seedshed has been taking portraits of people who are caring for seeds, protecting seed diversity, fighting for seed freedom, struggling for seed justice, and sharing seeds through community. Each portrait brings to life a personal, cultural or spiritual seed story by illustrating the plant lovingly intertwined with its dedicated seed steward. Sign up at the Seedshed table in the LaSells Steward Center to have your portrait professionally taken during the conference and you and your special seed may be selected for inclusion in the Seed people portrait project! More info seedshed.org.

¿Necesitas servicios de traducción al Español?

**Throughout Friday and Saturday**

Envía un correo electrónico a Micaela Colley a micaela@seedalliance.org.

Conference Merchandise

**Online at seedalliance.org/conference**

Wear your commitment to the organic seed movement with shirts featuring the inspiring art of Washington-based artist Nikki McClure. Proceeds from the sales of these shirts support OSA and the Organic Seed Growers Conference.
Morning Yoga with Leta

Friday and Saturday, 7:00 a.m. - 7:30 a.m.
Alumni Center/Giustina Library

Leta Fetherolf is an avid student of embodied living. She finds both yoga and farming to be powerful ways of unifying mind and body, and nourishing holistic well-being. Her yoga style is heavily Vinyasa-influenced, focusing on aligning movement with breath, flow, and presence with what is. Leta lives in Port Townsend, where she teaches acroyoga and works with Organic Seed Alliance on select seed outreach projects. Join Leta for a half-hour of gentle movement, as we rise, root and spread fresh leaves towards the day’s first light.

OSGATA Meet & Greet

Thursday, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
McMenamins Corvallis Pub

OSGATA invites all conference participants to join them for a meet and greet on Thursday evening after the Willamette Valley Seed Tour buses return. Catch up with old friends and meet new ones at McMenamins Corvallis Pub located at 420 NW 3rd St in Corvallis.

OSGI Community Gathering and Five Year Anniversary

Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Alumni Center

The Open Source Seed Initiative (OSSI) invites farmers, gardeners, seed savers, plant breeders, seed sellers, and anyone with an interest in access to crop genetic resources to join them for a free community gathering and celebration following the conference. OSSI board members will be present along with a number of seed company partners and OSSI-contributing plant breeders. There is no charge to attend this event. Food and drink will be provided.

National Organic Research Agenda Listening Session

Friday, 5:45 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Alumni Center/Willamette Room

Join the Organic Farming Research Foundation and Organic Seed Alliance for an interactive listening session to identify and prioritize the most pressing research needs for organic farmers and ranchers. The conversation will center around the following three areas: (1) organic producers’ production research and informational needs, (2) changing environmental and economic conditions, and (3) evolving challenges for organic producers. Attendees will have the opportunity to join different groups to discuss a number of research topics, such as seed and plant breeding, soil health, and economic barriers to organic production. Each group will identify research needs within their topic and then reconvene as a group to prioritize. The session will last 45 minutes.

Scientific Research Poster Session

Friday, 1:15 p.m. and 5:45 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.
Alumni Center/Ballroom and Foyer

We’re thrilled to welcome over a dozen researchers for this year’s Scientific Research Poster Session. Each presenter will give a lightening pitch about their research during lunch in the Ballroom on Friday and you’ll have a chance to connect with them to learn more about their work later that evening during the session.
Organic Variety Tasting

**Friday, 5:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.**
**Alumni Center and LaSells Stewart Center**

Taste your way though some of the exciting culinary evaluation research being conducted in the organic plant breeding community. This year’s tasting includes hominy and purple sprouting broccoli from Organic Seed Alliance trials, barley from Oregon State University, lentils from Timeless Seeds in Montana, beets from University of Wisconsin-Madison, and more. Chef Jonny Hunter will be also be serving a dish showcasing regional breeding projects, including lentils, hominy, and purple sprouting broccoli greens.

Grass Roots Booksellers

**Throughout Friday and Saturday**
**LaSells Stewart Center Gallery**

If only there were enough hours in the day to read all of the books on our list! Hey, it’s worth a try. Be sure to visit the Grass Roots Books area in the LaSells Stewart Center Gallery throughout the conference. The local Corvallis booksellers will have hundreds or books related to seed, breeding, agriculture, justice in the food system, and more for sale.

Broadcasting and Recording

**Various session throughout Friday and Saturday**
**LaSells Stewart/Construction & Engineering**

Conference co-host eOrganic will be recording and live broadcasting various sessions throughout the conference. That means we’re able to share a bit of the conference with seedheads throughout the world and you’re able to revisit a few sessions after the conference on the eOrganic website. You’ll see the symbol on the right here throughout the agenda next to the sessions that we’re recording.

Explore the Seed Expo

**Throughout Friday and Saturday**
**Alumni Center and LaSells Stewart Center**

The seed world is on display as the 10th Organic Seed Growers Conference welcomes 23 exhibitors to our Seed Expo. You’ll find great products, superior services and expert exhibitors as you visit the tables in both the Alumni Center and LaSells Stewart Center foyers.

This is your opportunity to connect with the business end of organic seed, to build new networking relationships and to enter the fabulous Seed Growers Raffle!

Our vendors and sponsors have offered an incredible cornucopia of products, gear, gift certificates and more! To enter: visit each Seed Expo booth, ask the vendor to mark your raffle ticket, and drop it in the basket at the raffle table.

Many thanks to our 2020 exhibitors:

- **Alumni Center**
- Southern Exposure
- Vitalis Organic Seeds
- Territorial Seeds
- SeedLinked
- High Mowing Organic Seeds
- Osborne Quality Seeds
- OFRF
- Seed Stories
- Drammatic Organic fertilizers
- Wood Prairie
- OSGATA
- Fedco Seed
- Seed Savers Exchange

- **LaSells Center**
- Row 7
- Gaia Herbs
- Luterra Enterprises
- Johnny’s Seedshed
- Adaptive Seeds (BM)
- OSSI/SOSP
- West Coast Seeds
- Our Family Farms
- OSU eOrganic
# 10th Organic Seed Growers Conference

## Quick Reference Agenda

### Wednesday, February 12th

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00a - 9:00a</td>
<td>AC/Foyer</td>
<td>Registration check-in for Building Ethical Seed Networks that Support Us</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00a - 9:45a</td>
<td>AC/Ballroom</td>
<td>Breakfast for seed ethics intensive participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00a - 5:00p</td>
<td>AC/Ballroom</td>
<td>Building Ethical Seed Networks that Support Us</td>
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### Thursday, February 13th

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:30a - 7:30a</td>
<td>AC/Foyer</td>
<td>Registration check-in for Willamette Valley Seed Tour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30a - 8:45a</td>
<td>AC/Foyer</td>
<td>Registration check-in for Organic Plant Breeding Intensive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00a - 8:30a</td>
<td>AC/Foyer</td>
<td>Breakfast for tour and intensive participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:45a - 8:00a</td>
<td>AC/Foyer</td>
<td>Gather and depart for Willamette Valley Seed Tour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00a - 6:00p</td>
<td>Off-site</td>
<td>Willamette Valley Seed Tour sponsored by Oregon Tilth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00a - 5:00p</td>
<td>AC/Ballroom</td>
<td>Organic Plant Breeding Intensive (Variety Trial Intensive is off-site)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00a - 5:00p</td>
<td>AC/Foyer</td>
<td>Registration check-in for main conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00a - 5:00p</td>
<td>AC &amp; LS</td>
<td>Seed Expo set-up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30p - 8:00p</td>
<td>Off-site</td>
<td>OSGATA Mixer at McMenamins Corvallis Pub (open to all)</td>
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### Friday, February 14th

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00a - 7:30a</td>
<td>AC/Living Room</td>
<td>Morning yoga with Leta Fetherolf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00a - 8:45a</td>
<td>AC/Foyer</td>
<td>Registration check-in for main conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00a - 8:45a</td>
<td>AC/Foyer</td>
<td>Scientific Research Poster session set-up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30a - 8:45a</td>
<td>AC/Ballroom</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00a - 10:30a</td>
<td>LS/Austin</td>
<td>Producing Organic Flower Seed</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LS/Construction</td>
<td>Accessing Agrobiodiversity: Practical Knowledge for Finding and Using Rare Seeds</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AC/111</td>
<td>Finding a Path Forward on Seed Licenses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AC/Willamette</td>
<td>Visualizing Our Seed Network; Bubble, Bubble, Toil &amp; Trouble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45a - 12:15p</td>
<td>LS/Austin</td>
<td>Welcome from Organic Seed Alliance; and Keynote: A 2020 Panel of Sages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30p - 1:45p</td>
<td>AC/Ballroom</td>
<td>Lunch and Scientific Research Poster Lightening Pitches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00p - 3:30p</td>
<td>LS/Austin</td>
<td>What the Hemp? Exploring Cannabis Breeding and Seed Production Opportunities</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LS/Construction</td>
<td>Utilizing Agrobiodiversity: Breeding for Diversity, Resilience, and In Situ Genetic Conservation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AC/111</td>
<td>In the Trenches and in State Capitals: Legislative Work to Protect Organic Seed</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AC/Willamette</td>
<td>Seed Ownership and Seed Commons: Part 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30p - 3:55p</td>
<td>AC &amp; LS</td>
<td>Coffee and snack break</td>
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### 10th Organic Seed Growers Conference

**Quick Reference Agenda**

#### Friday, February 14th (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4:00p</td>
<td>LS/Construction</td>
<td>Stepping Up Biennial Seed Production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00p</td>
<td>LS/Austin</td>
<td>What are We Learning from Trials? Applied Tools Can Improve Plant Breeding and Variety Testing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30p</td>
<td>AC/111</td>
<td>Moving the Dial Forward on Organic Seed Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30p</td>
<td>AC/Willamette</td>
<td>Seed Ownership and Seed Commons: Part 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30p</td>
<td>AC &amp; LS</td>
<td>Seed Expo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30p</td>
<td>AC &amp; LS</td>
<td>Organic variety tasting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:45p</td>
<td>AC &amp; LS</td>
<td>Scientific research poster session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:45p</td>
<td>AC/Willamette</td>
<td>National Organic Research Agenda Listening Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30p</td>
<td>AC/Ballroom</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
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</table>

#### Saturday, February 15th

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00a</td>
<td>AC/Living Room</td>
<td>Morning yoga with Let Fetherolf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30a</td>
<td>AC/Ballroom</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00a</td>
<td>LS/Construction</td>
<td>Small-scale Contract Seed Production Roundtable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00a</td>
<td>AC/111</td>
<td>Participatory Plant Breeding: Learning from International Farmer-breeders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00a</td>
<td>LS/Austin</td>
<td>Toward a Radical Vision of Food and Farm Policy in the U.S. Centered Around Regenerative Organic Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00a</td>
<td>AC/Willamette</td>
<td>Community Seed Stewardship Workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45a</td>
<td>LS/Austin</td>
<td>Keynote address: Ricardo Salvador from Union of Concerned Scientists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00p</td>
<td>AC/Ballroom</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30p</td>
<td>LS/Austin</td>
<td>Seed Processing Roundtable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30p</td>
<td>LS/Construction</td>
<td>Knowledge Exchange on Breeding Better Brassicas</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30p</td>
<td>AC/111</td>
<td>Excluded Methods: An Industry Perspective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30p</td>
<td>AC/Willamette</td>
<td>Seeds of Resistance, Resilience, and Reconciliation: Part 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00p</td>
<td>AC &amp; LS</td>
<td>Coffee and snack break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30p</td>
<td>LS/Construction</td>
<td>Seed Economics: Balancing Passion and Profitability in Seed Growing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30p</td>
<td>AC/111</td>
<td>Knowledge Exchange on Breeding Better Tomatoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30p</td>
<td>LS/Austin</td>
<td>Where Does Open-Source Seed Fit in an IP-dominated Industry?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30p</td>
<td>AC/Willamette</td>
<td>Seeds of Resistance, Resilience, and Reconciliation: Part 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:15p</td>
<td>AC/Johnson</td>
<td>OSGATA 2020 Annual Meeting (open to all)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30p</td>
<td>LS/Gallery</td>
<td>Seed Swap</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00p</td>
<td>AC &amp; LS</td>
<td>Seed Expo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00p</td>
<td>AC/Ballroom</td>
<td>Banquet dinner and Seed Expo raffle winner announcement</td>
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Seed Ethics Participatory Intensive:
Building Ethical Seed Networks that Support Us

Wednesday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. | Alumni Center/Ballroom

Like the plants, soil, and pollinators that provide the foundation for our collective work, we too thrive in dynamic communities, diverse in expression, heritage, and lived experiences. Join your fellow seed colleagues for a daylong, participatory intensive that will inspire, challenge, and cultivate awareness and understanding among all present. A combination of guided group activities and moderated open dialogue will be used by the group to unpack the conversation-al framework of “Building Ethical Seed Networks that Support Us.” Participants will critically reflect on their own identities (and how those identities are felt in different contexts), as a basis for understanding where our ideas and assumptions about ethics, justice, autonomy, and “the greater good” come from and how they influence the seed networks in which we participate. Diverse perspectives and mutual respect are the tools we will use to address complicated issues challenging the organic seed community and seed workers personally. Our divergent viewpoints and collaborative thoughts, captured by dedicated note takers, will build a working document intended to catalyze ongoing and evolving discussion throughout the conference and beyond.

During the Intensive, we will boldly address the social and cultural connections that constitute seed networks. These connections can be fraught with transformation, joy, suffering, and pain. While we can only speak for ourselves within the room, we can openly ask and discuss how building a better seed network can create mindful mechanisms for inclusion and economic equity. The voices that are not heard indeed matter. The work of those hands not present will be held in honor as we resolve to seek others as we seek ourselves.

We hope our dialogue will encourage us all to reflect, renew, and resolve to foster ethical seed networks in our local communities and beyond.

Why “Seed Network” instead of “Seed System”?

We often use the word “system” to describe something riddled with dehumanizing bureaucracy (health insurance), something vast, faceless, and mathematical (Social Security), or something that is working without us even giving it a thought (endocrine). “Systems” can coax us into believing we do not have a role in process or change, or that a “good” future will magically unfold from rote actions or habituated patterns of thought.

The word “network” asks for active participation and genuine human relationship. “Network” asks us to examine the present moment and intentionally create the shared agreements required to build something dynamic and durable. “Network” is intended to capture the spirit of a co-evolving inclusive seed community, engaged in an ethical, equitable seed economy. All are welcome in this discussion of ethical seed networks.
Seed Ethics Participatory Intensive:  
Building Ethical Seed Networks that Support Us  
Wednesday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  | Alumni Center/Ballroom

9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.  Breakfast  
10:00 a.m. - 10:10 a.m.  Welcome  
10:10 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.  Introductions  
10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.  Our Seed Timeline  
10:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  Ground Rules, Community Guidelines, and the framework for the day  
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  Spectrums Activity: Do we have the resources we need to do our seed work? How do we use our resources to make change?  
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.  Lunch  
1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.  Power Flower Activity: Calling in our many identities and how they influence our seed work  
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.  Breakout groups  
   In medium-size moderated groups participants will explore these questions:  
   1. What does your “seed network” look like? What are the relationships that link different parts of a seed network? How can we support our local and wider seed communities better?  
   2. What are the current ethics reflected in existing seed networks? What could an ethical seed network look like?  
   3. How is seed supporting/not supporting your livelihood? Do you feel supported/not supported as a seed worker/professional?  
   4. Who’s livelihood is being supported by their seed work?  
   5. How can we decolonize the way we market our indigenous seeds?  
   6. How many BIPOC are supporting their livelihood by stewarding seed that is culturally significant to them? How could our seed network uplift that work?  
   7. What is the future of this work? How can we better support elder and youth seed workers?  
   8. What is the history of this work? What voices are missing from the historical narrative?  
   9. How can seed networks connect to other agricultural and economic justice movements?  
  10. How can we build and maintain a welcoming and inclusive community of seed work/networks?  
3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.  Report backs, questions, and exploring connections  
4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.  Commitments going forward
Organic Plant Breeding Intensive

**Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. | Alumni Center/Ballroom**

This crash course in organic plant breeding will provide the basic skills to initiate or advance your organic breeding projects. We’ll learn strategies for breeding vegetable and grain crops of self- and cross-pollinated species. Organic public plant breeders and farmer-breeders will share advice on how to source germplasm, build breeding populations, manage crosses, integrate breeding activities on a working farm, and apply more advanced techniques to select for key traits under environmental challenges. Classroom and hands-on activities will demonstrate breeding tools and techniques. Presenters will also touch on the basics of lab-based breeding techniques that comply with organic methods, including marker-assisted selection.

**Speakers:** Richard Bernard, Independent breeder; Brigid Meints, Oregon State University; Jim Myers, Oregon State University; Johnathan Spero, Lupine Knoll Farm, and Bill Waycott, Nipomo Native Seeds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Breeding goals, germplasm selection, and evaluation methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Breeding strategies for self-pollinated crops</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Breeding strategies for cross-pollinated crops</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Participants select one of four breakout tracks to dive deeper into crop-specific breeding considerations, including breeding for organic systems and culinary qualities. The four breakouts will be determined based on registrant feedback. Participants can rotate to a new breakout after 30 minutes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Tips from farmer-breeders for on-farm management and selection</td>
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<td>2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Using Marker Assisted Selection in applied breeding work with examples in lettuce</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Walk to OSU greenhouse and lab sites near the Ag Life Science (ALS) building, approximately 4 blocks away</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>OSU greenhouse tours: Grain or vegetable options (follow your grain or vegetable track from the morning)</td>
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<td>4:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Tour of Sensory Science Malting Lab (all participants)</td>
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<td>4:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Final question and answer and walk back to Alumni Center</td>
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Organic Variety Trial & Culinary Evaluation Intensive

Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
North Willamette Research and Extension Center, 15210 NE Miley Road in Aurora, OR

Variety trials offer an important avenue for farmers to actively engage with plant breeders, seed companies, and consumers. This intensive will walk participants through the basics of designing and implementing a variety trial: from articulating goals and selecting varieties, through analyzing and communicating results. The intensive will feature a special focus on culinary evaluation, as more seed companies, researchers, and farmers are becoming interested in flavor and culinary quality as important components of variety decisions. Participants will gain hands-on experience in setting up a culinary evaluation and will interact with chefs and researchers who have been deeply involved in developing culinary evaluation methods. The intensive will combine presentation and group discussion formats, to encourage participants to share their experience and learn from one another.

Speakers: Micaela Colley, Organic Seed Alliance; Julie Dawson, University of Wisconsin-Madison/Seed to Kitchen Collaborative; Nicolas Enjalbert; SeedLinked; Solveig Hanson, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Jonny Hunter, Seed to Kitchen Collaborative; Lane Selman, Oregon State University/Culinary Breeding Network; and Timothy Wastell, Chef

9:00 a.m. - 9:10 a.m. Welcome and introductions
9:10 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. How to plan, implement and evaluate your variety trial
10:15 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. User-friendly tools and tricks for meaningful data analysis and results sharing
11:00 a.m. Break
11:15 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Culinary evaluation conversations and tastings
  • Building a flavor wheel for winter squash
  • Beet flavor lexicon development and evaluation
12:45 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Lunch catered by Tim Wastell
2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Intensive participants may choose to stay for the Organic Winter Vegetable Variety Trial Field Day at North Willamette Research and Extension Center
Willamette Valley Seed Tour

Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. | Various sites throughout the Willamette Valley

We’re kick starting the conference with a tour of mid-Willamette Valley seed production sponsored by Oregon Tilth! This year’s day-long tour features small to medium scale seed production, cleaning, and business management. We’ll visit organic seed companies, plant breeders, and farmers who integrate seed into their diverse vegetable operations, and glean knowledge from these successful seedspeople and each other. There is a lot to learn from our hosts and we can’t wait to hop on the bus with you.

**Bus A**

8:00 a.m. | Depart OSU Alumni Center
8:45 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. | Camas Country Mill Bakery/Store
10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. | Camas Country Mill
11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. | Camas Country Mill Warehouse
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Lunch at Camas Country Mill Bakery/Store
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. | Carol Deppe at Country Mill Bakery
3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Adaptive Seeds
5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. | Pitchfork and Crow
6:00 p.m. | Return to OSU Alumni Center

**Bus B**

8:00 a.m. | Depart OSU Alumni Center
8:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. | Adaptive Seeds
10:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Pitchfork & Crow
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. | Carol Deppe at Country Mill Bakery
2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. | Camas Country Mill Bakery/Store
3:45 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Camas Country Mill
4:45 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. | Camas Country Mill Warehouse
6:00 p.m. | Return to OSU Alumni Center

**Hunton Family Farm and Camas Country Mill, Southwest of Junction City** | Camas Country Mill is an extension of the Hunton Family – a third generation farm deeply rooted in the Willamette Valley landscape and community for over 50 years. They grow organic, transitional, and conventional cereals and legumes, and mill small batches of artisan flour down the road at their stone-burr mill. They are committed to building a strong, sustainable, and vibrant regional grain economy, and supply home and commercial kitchens with grains and mill products from the heart of the valley.

**Adaptive Seeds, Sweet Home** | Andrew Still and Sarah Kleeger established Adaptive Seeds in 2009. They are a certified organic farm based seed company who steward rare, diverse, and resilient seed varieties for ecologically-minded farmers, gardeners, and seed savers. Their seed is adapted to the Pacific Northwest and other short season northern climates. They sell only public domain open pollinated (OP) seed, as well as diverse gene pool mixes. They grow all of their seed with the exception of a few regional friends who help with isolation needs. If they didn’t grow it, they say who did in the variety description.

**Pitchfork & Crow, Lebanon** | Pitchfork & Crow is a small organic farm, heading into their twelfth year of growing vegetables and their eighth year of growing organic seed. The husband and wife team grows a variety of vegetables with a focus on heirloom and open-pollinated varieties and local seed sources, and a bit of organic seed. After 3 1/2 years of leasing farmland in Stayton, Dayton, and Lebanon they were able to purchase their 15-acre farm in August of 2012. Their growing practices are certified organic and long-term plans for managing the new farm include rotations for pest control and building soil fertility with annual liming and composted manure. In addition to vegetables, they manage roughly an acre of established fruit trees on the farm including many varieties of apples, pears, and plums.

**Carol Deppe** | Oregon plant breeder and author Carol Deppe holds a PhD in Genetics from Harvard University and specializes in developing open source crops for organic growing conditions, sustainable agriculture, and human survival for the next thousand years. Carol is a member of the Board of Directors of the Open Source Seed Initiative and is very passionate about and committed to the work they do to keep seed freely available and accessible. On this year’s Willamette Valley Seed Tour she will be giving a talk entitled “Taking organic plant breeding to the next level,” using examples from her own breeding work as well as that of others.

Producing Organic Flower Seed
Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
LaSells Stewart Center/Austin Auditorium

The cut flower sector is experiencing unprecedented growth right now, creating a tremendous opportunity for organic flower seed producers. However, there is a distinct lack of information on how to produce quality flower seed and the resources for species-specific seed production are limited. Growers are often stymied by the lack of information about which flowers and species are self- and cross-pollinating, how to judge seed maturity, how to collect and clean the seed, and what to do about low and/or variable germination rates. In addition, meeting the needs of cut flower producers for seed requires a familiarity with a marketplace that may be significantly different from that of vegetable producers and home gardeners. This panel of experienced producers will teach participants how to successfully manage and produce organic flower seed.

Speakers: Alan Adessee, Hands on Organics; Eric Budzynski, Floret Flowers; Stacey Denton, Flora Organic Flowers and Siskiyou Seeds; Frank Morton, Wild Garden Seed

Finding a Path Forward on Seed Licenses
Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Alumni Center/Room 111

As government support for public breeding programs has decreased over the years, universities have attempted to find new ways to keep developing and releasing new varieties. One controversial method has been the inclusion of licenses that restrict seed saving with seed sold to farmers. These licenses can cause organic farmers in particular to struggle first to be able to use organically produced seed of these public varieties and second to hold on to organically-adapted varieties as they go off market. On the other hand, universities see these licenses as critical for maintaining public breeding programs and for encouraging seed companies to distribute their varieties. Is there a way forward that can support breeding, production, and distribution of public varieties, while addressing the needs of organic farmers? Panelists and participants will discuss the current state of seed licenses and relevant laws, including the Plant Variety Protection Act, and work to develop solutions.

Speakers: Brigid Meints, Oregon State University; Jim Myers, Oregon State University; and Gary Whiteaker, Intrinsic Resources

Accessing Agrobiodiversity: Practical Knowledge for Finding and Using Rare Seeds
Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
LaSells Stewart Center/Construction & Engineering

Despite staggering losses in crop diversity over the past century — from commercial varieties falling out of favor to crop wild relatives lost to habitat destruction — the world is still home to a great diversity of plants relevant to agriculture (collectively known as “agrobiodiversity”). Between traditional farming communities, public and private seedbanks, garden-scale seed savers, and wild and feral plant populations, a wide array of crop plants are still available to people who work with seed. Learn practical tools and strategies from farmer-breeder, public breeders, and regional seed companies on how to find and access novel and diverse germplasm through formal and informal networks and collections. Discussions will include issues related to seed importation and recognition of sources of origin, including respect for farmers’ and breeders’ rights in using these plant genetic resources.

Speakers: Ester Casas Grier, Les Refrardes Coop; Sarah Kleeger, Adaptive Seeds; Nathaniel Kleinman, Experimental Farm Network; and Phil Simon, University of Wisconsin-Madison/USDA-ARS

Visualizing Our Seed Network: Bubble, Bubble, Toil & Trouble
Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Alumni Center/Willamette Room

Welcome to the Seed Ethics Track! Our first invocation session of seed ethics work will quickly introduce attendees to the overall concept and schedule of the track and orient us all to the ground rules for constructive and inspiring conversation. To kick off our engaged and raucous work, we will examine Phil Howard’s most recent seed industry consolidation graphic. Informed by our own lives and work, we will create our own “bubble graphic” that reflects the layers and relationships of organic and community seed. We will also assess what “bubbles” are needed to meet challenges and implement change. This guided visioning forum and the resulting chart will be available for all seed conference participants to add their own “bubbles” throughout the weekend.

Speakers: Heron Breen, Fedco Seeds; Ken Greene, Seedshed; and Kiki Hubbard, Organic Seed Alliance
What the Hemp? Exploring Cannabis Breeding and Seed Production Opportunities
**Friday, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.**
**La Sells Stewart Center/Austin Auditorium**

There is no doubt that the market for CBD and legal cannabis is exploding across the U.S. Adventurous seed growers are understandably interested in learning how to access this market, but there are key questions to consider: What does the breeding and genetics pipeline look like for CBD, cannabis, and grain varieties of hemp? What are the production, quality, and handling best practices to produce these crops for seed? How can small- to medium-sized operations capitalize on demand for well-adapted varieties? What legal, intellectual property, and regulatory considerations need to be taken into account to feasibly produce seed?

*Speakers: Seth Crawford, Oregon CBD; Tiffany Fess, Green Thumb Health Co; Mike Levine, Nature and Nurture Seeds; Tenasi Rama Lazar, Phytonyx; and Jessica Staha, Phylos Bioscience*

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In the Trenches and in State Capitals: Legislative Work to Protect Organic Seed
**Friday, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.**
**Alumni Center/Room 111**

Given the federal policy shortcomings related to the oversight of GMOs and the protection of organic seed, advocacy groups have been promoting state-based initiatives to fill federal gaps. This panel includes policy leaders who will share updates, stories, and lessons learned with an eye toward strengthening policy and legislative efforts at the state level. Topics include liability for GE contamination; protecting the Willamette Valley from commercial canola cultivation in high-value organic seed production areas; ballot measures to ban GE crops in Southern Oregon; resisting cultural appropriation in New Mexico; and other community organizing examples that aim to protect the viability and integrity of organic seed. This session will provide an opportunity for audience members to discuss other ways to educate, inspire, and advocate for organic seed in their communities and beyond.

*Speakers: Isaura Andaluz, Cuatro Puertas; Chris Hardy, Hardy Seeds; and Amy Wong, Our Family Farms*

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Utilizing Agrobiodiversity: Breeding for Diversity, Resilience, and In Situ Conservation
**Friday, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.**
**La Sells Stewart Center/Construction & Engineering**

Organic farming needs diversity at all levels and especially in seed. However, modern breeding for many crops is focused on creating very uniform and homogeneous varieties. Some organic breeders, farmers, and seed networks are working to counter this trend by consciously breeding for genetic diversity across and within crop types and varieties. Learn from the experience of several breeding initiatives, organic farmers, and researchers who are working to create genetically diversified populations through different strategies to stimulate adaptation. Several initiatives are also working in the European context where in spite of regulatory constraints farmers have organized networks and community seed banks to collectively manage landraces, local varieties, and their newly bred populations. Presenters will share the models and outcomes of two European projects – Dynaversity and Let’s Liberate Diversity – as well as applied, practical breeding strategies to conserve and expand diversity.

*Speakers: Véronique Chable, French National Institute for Agriculture, Food and the Environment (INRAE); Joseph Lofthouse, Lofthouse Seeds; and Estelle Serpolay, French Institute for Organic Food and Farming (ITAB)*

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Seed Ownership and Seed Commons (Double Session)
**Friday, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. (Part 1)**
**Friday, 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. (Part 2)**
**Alumni Center/Willamette Room**

Seed commons and seed ownership are complex and seemingly polarized elements in our dynamic seed community. We have a timely and profound opportunity to find paths forward and create a better organic seed network together. An organic seed network that serves a diversity of needs and empowers a diversity of approaches must confront the ethical challenges at the foundation of our community. Seed commons and seed ownership are part of that foundation. Please join us for a frank and purposeful discussion that will try to find some answers and strategies to the questions and challenges we face at the core of our organic seed network. Share your perspectives around intellectual property; fair compensation and recognition; open seed systems; individual, collective, and public ownership; seed access and equity; and more.

*Speakers: Jason Covatorta, EarthWork Seeds; Dan Cornelius, Intertribal Agriculture Council; Noah Schlager, Native Seeds/SEARCH; and Andrew Still, Adaptive Seeds*
Stepping Up Biennial Seed Production
FRIDAY, 4:00 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.
LaSells Stewart Center/Construction & Engineering

Producing biennial seed crops is challenging for seed growers in many climates. This workshop is designed to help seed growers gain confidence and skills in biennial seed crop production. A panel of presenters will dig into the details of handling specific crops in different climatic conditions while offering tips on storage, timing of planting, the optimum size, and protecting crops through winter. This session will combine a presentation format with group discussion at the end so participants can learn from others’ experiences.

Speakers: Beth and Nathan Corymb Clark, Meadowlark Hearth Farm; Laurie McKenzie, Organic Seed Alliance; and Petra Page-Mann, Fruition Seeds

What are We Learning from Trials? Applied Tools Can Improve Plant Breeding and Variety Testing
FRIDAY, 4:00 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.
LaSells Stewart Center/Austin Auditorium

Trials are a key part of plant breeding, variety selection, and variety commercialization. Learn how to take your trials to the next level by getting better information in the field. This workshop will walk you through new tools and techniques that can help you make better variety selections. Topics include developing better experimental designs to reduce the amount of replication needed; methods to combine information from trials across locations; new trial platforms; and tools to help you design, manage, analyze, and share trial information. Examples will be provided from the Northern Organic Vegetable Improvement Collaboration (NOVIC), Seed to Kitchen Collaborative, Seed Savers Exchange, and SeedLinked.

Speakers: Julie Dawson, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Nicolas Enjalbert, SeedLinked; Steffen Mirsky, Seed Savers Exchange; and Jared Zystro, Organic Seed Alliance

Moving the Dial Forward on Organic Seed Policy
FRIDAY, 4:00 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.
Alumni Center/Room 111

Organic seed policy is essential to building and protecting a robust organic seed supply. Twice a year, the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) provides recommendations to the National Organic Program (NOP) on ways to strengthen the organic rules and better enforce them, too. Over the last five years, the NOSB has consistently worked on three issues affecting the organic seed community: (1) organic seed (strengthening the organic seed requirement) 2) GMO contamination (addressing the genetic integrity of organic seed); and (3) excluded methods (evaluating which breeding techniques should be allowed in organic). This panel will provide updates and answer questions about the state of organic seed policy in the US, and encourages participants to come to the conversation with ideas and strategies for moving the dial forward on organic seed integrity and adoption.

Speakers: Brian Baker, Belcainr Concerns LLC; Kiki Hubbard, Organic Seed Alliance

Small-scale Contract Seed Production Roundtable
SATURDAY, 9:00 A.M. - 10:30 A.M.
LaSells Stewart Center/Construction & Engineering

Seed production can be an enticing way to diversify your operation’s income streams, workload, and overall crop diversity. However, at any scale, seed production is a niche market with its own slate of unique challenges. Navigating production contracts is a particular challenge, especially for growers who are just getting started. This session will cover different approaches to running a seed business from experienced producers and business owners. From small-scale seed growers to larger operations growing on contract for seed companies, we’ll hear from growers and seed companies about their experiences in this complex business that leverages diverse skill sets to share what they have learned about their model of doing business.

Speakers: Nikos Kavanya, Fedco Seeds; Beth Rasgorshek, Canyon Bounty Farm; and Karl Sutton, Fresh Roots Farm and Triple Divide Organic Seed Coop
Participatory Plant Breeding: Learning from International Researchers and Farmer-breeders  
**Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.**  
Alumni Center/Room 111

Participatory plant breeding (PPB) is an internationally renowned methodology that pairs the traditional knowledge of farmers with the technical skills of formal plant breeders. As these methodologies gain more prominence in Western and European farming contexts, it is important to recognize some of the innovators and adopters of this methodology outside of those regions. Speakers from Nepal, Honduras, and India will describe the widespread innovation of farmer-researcher groups who are working together to identify their seed security needs and establish breeding or variety selection programs to address them. Through sharing stories and research of how farmers came together to address food security and seed security needs through plant breeding and variety development, we can further our appreciation of farmer-led innovation and improve our own capacity as practitioners and advocates of participatory seed development methodologies.

*Speakers: Helen Jensen, SeedChange; Monika Messner, Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL); and Pedro Mendes Moreira, Polytechnic of Coimbra* 

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Community Seed Stewardship Workshop  
**Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.**  
Alumni Center/Willamette Room

Small and semi-formal seed systems – such as seed libraries, community seed banks, and seed cooperatives – enhance crop diversity and cultural continuity in ways that larger, formal systems cannot. Community seed stewardship initiatives thrive when they reflect their unique landscapes and stories, and the identities and cultural expectations they are embedded within. In this workshop, participants will engage with community seed researchers and practitioners to learn about existing frameworks for community seed stewardship, and envision new possibilities for their own community-based seed work. The first 30 minutes of the session will feature introductory presentations from a panel of three community seed stewards and researchers, followed by 60 minutes of discussion and small-group work exploring and co-evolving ideas for community seed networks.

*Speakers: Melissa DeSa, Working Food Florida; Noah Schlager, Native Seeds/SEARCH; and Daniela Soleri, University of California-Santa Barbara* 

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Toward a Radical Vision of Food and Farm Policy in the U.S. Centered Around Regenerative Organic Agriculture  
**Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.**  
LaSells Stewart Center/Austin Auditorium

What would it look like to have a federal government friendly to the organic seed movement, supportive of the broader food sovereignty and regenerative agriculture movements, and opposed to conventional industrial farming? What sort of programs, policies, and legislation would be necessary? What lessons can we take from recent wins and losses, as well as the history of U.S. agriculture policy? How can agricultural policy help create a more equitable farming system inclusive of people from historically oppressed communities? What are the biggest obstacles to achieving this vision? What would radical, transformative change look like in our food and farm laws and within our regulatory agencies? These questions and more will guide a visioning session led by organic agriculture advocates and practitioners with experience fighting in a wide range of campaigns. With a presidential election coming soon and the next farm bill due during the next presidential term, the possibility exists for dramatic changes in federal farm policy. Help us create a shared vision for a future in which food sovereignty and true sustainability take precedence over the mad pursuit of profits.

*Speakers: Kirtrina Baxter, Soil Generation; and Nate Kleinman, Experimental Farm Network* 

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Knowledge Exchange on Breeding Better Brassicas  
**Saturday, 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**  
LaSells Stewart Center/Construction & Engineering

Brassicas are one of the most malleable crops in terms of breeding. Modern breeding focuses on hybrid types which is motivating on-farm breeding of open-pollinated varieties for regional adaptation and seed saving. Because brassica breeding requires maintaining a large population size and avoiding cross-pollination, several participatory breeding efforts have emerged to coordinate breeding efforts across farms. Panelists will share their breeding experience and engage the group in discussions on breeding needs, strategies, and opportunities for improving these crops through on-farm and collaborative approaches.

*Speakers: Véronique Chable, French National Institute for Agriculture, Food and the Environment (INRAE); Rebecca Ivanoff, Seed Works Plant Breeding Club; Jim Myers, Oregon State University; Jean-Martial Morel, Kaol Kozh; and Jonathan Spero, Lupine Knoll Farm*
Excluded Methods: An Industry Perspective
Saturday, 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Alumni Center/Room 111

Since 2016, the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) has been grappling with the increased prevalence of new breeding technologies, and whether or not to classify them as excluded methods for organic production. While gene editing is perhaps the most well known of these new technologies, there are many other technologies that have been used to varying degrees by breeders to develop novel traits, speed up the breeding process, or assist with seed production. Some of the technologies are very new, while breeders have employed others for decades. Understanding the details of how these technologies work is critical in order to make a determination about their compatibility with organic systems. Yet becoming educated about these details is no simple task, nor is it easy to gain perspective on the extent to which these technologies have been used in the past, or are actively being used today, by plant breeders working in the private sector. The purpose of this workshop is to bring some clarity to the specific technologies that are currently being discussed by the NOSB. In addition, panelists will address critical questions, such as how extensively these technologies are being used, which crops are most impacted, and what possibilities exist for detecting the usage of these technologies?

Speakers: Colin Curwen-McAdams, Bejo Seeds; Jason Covatorta, EarthWork Seeds; and William Zeb Rehrig, Enza Zaden

Knowledge Exchange on Breeding Better Tomatoes
Saturday, 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Alumni Center/Room 111

Tomatoes are one of the most popular crops for on-farm breeding due in part to the ease of seed saving, high value, and incredible diversity of flavor, color, and type. Growers also need robust varieties with regional adaptation. Several on-farm, participatory breeding efforts are underway and provide examples of breeding strategies that may also be applied to other crop types and inbreeding species. Panelists will share their breeding experience and engage the group in discussions on breeding needs, strategies, and opportunities for improved tomatoes through on-farm and collaborative approaches.

Speakers: Fred Hempel, Artisan Seeds and Baia Nicchia Farm; Craig LeHouillier, author, Epic Tomatoes; Joseph Lothouse, Lofthouse Seeds; and Steve Peters, Organic Seed Alliance and Seed rEvolution Now

Seeds of Resistance, Resilience, and Reconciliation (Double Session)
Saturday, 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. (Part 1)
Saturday, 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Part 2)
Alumni Center/Willamette Room

The power of seed lies at the intersections of cultural, genetic, spiritual, environmental, and personal connections. But over the past 600 years, seed has been accidentally or systematically separated from their stories. More recently, their genetic and cultural stories have been appropriated for profit. This panel and facilitated group discussion will share ways in which we can responsibly reconnect seeds and their stories through our lived experience. We’ll hear personal, cultural, and agricultural stories of seed keeping as an act of resistance to oppression, resilience in overcoming systemic and personal challenges, and internal and external reconciliation. These stories will illuminate how culture, race, gender identity, language, sexuality, religion, and ethics inform our seed practices. By sharing a rich diversity of seed stories, many of which have been forgotten or erased, we will collectively unpack how they relate to seed justice in our current systems, and how we can practice resistance, cultivate resilience, and plant seeds for reconciliation through the ways we source, plant, save, and share seeds and their stories.

Speakers: Ken Greene, Co-Founder & Director, Seedshed; Amira Mitchell, Truelove Seeds; Kenny Perkins, Akwesasne Traditional Seed Keeper, Seedshed; and Vivien Sansour, Founder & Director, Palestine Heirloom Seed Library

Facilitators: Katherine Chiu, Farmer/Founder, Asian Vegetable CSA and Project Manager, Seedshed; Justin T. Herne, Program Assistant, Seedshed; Nathaniel Kleinman, Experimental Farm Network; Deborah Ni, Assistant Director, Seedshed; Mehmet Oztan, Ph.D., Seed Farmer & Co-owner, Two Seeds in a Pod Heirloom Seed Co.; and Jackie Pilati, Reclaim Seed NYC

Seed Processing Roundtable
Saturday, 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
LaSells Stewart Center/Austin Auditorium

Join your fellow conference attendees for a conversation and demonstration about DIY and professional seed cleaning equipment and techniques. Come with your questions and your own tips and tricks for cleaning difficult seeds, and swap information and ideas with others participating.

Speakers: Fred Hempel, Artisan Seeds and Baia Nicchia Farm; Craig LeHouillier, author, Epic Tomatoes; Joseph Lothouse, Lofthouse Seeds; and Steve Peters, Organic Seed Alliance and Seed rEvolution Now
Seed Economics: Balancing Passion and Profitability in Seed Growing

Saturday, 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
LaSells Stewart Center/Construction & Engineering

Seed growing holds immeasurable value – from the empowerment of adapting crops to thrive in a region to the urgent need for genetic and cultural preservation to the potential for increasing on-farm habitat. For many growers seed is a calling and makes agronomic sense in a diverse farming system, but the economics of seed must also be considered to ensure economic sustainability. This session will share tools developed by an agricultural economist working with farmers to track production costs and assess profitability. Panelists will include experienced and beginning seed producers across a range of crops, scales, geographies, and business models. Discussion will focus on how to use economic tools to make decisions in seed production and how these growers balance their assessment of the economic, environmental, and personal values of growing seed on farm. This moderated panel will include ample time for audience questions and honest exploration of the challenges and rewards of life as a seed grower.

Speakers: Steph Gaylor; Invincible Summer Farm; Beth Rasgorshek, Canyon Bounty Farm; Winston Oakley, Highland Economics; Judy Owosowitz, Terrapin Farm; and Karl Sutton, Fresh Roots Farm

Where Does Open-Source Seed Fit in an IP-dominated Industry?

Saturday, 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
LaSells Stewart Center/Austin Auditorium

This workshop delves deeper into the concept of “open-source seed,” including the advantages and pitfalls of advancing open-source models, as well as open source models in relation to existing intellectual property (IP) tools within the seed industry. The concept of open-source seed generally refers to a commitment or intent toward open-access of germplasm and shared benefit, and the desire to protect seed diversity from highly privatized and restrictive forms of IP. Our panel and group discussion will explore what meaningful role open-source models can play in challenging concentrated ownership of our seed. Questions explored will include: Can open-source be categorized as an IP model? What are the problems facing an open-source variety both in the short-term and long-term? How can open-source varieties meet the quality standards and supply needs of the larger seed system, or is there a greater seed paradigm shift needing clearer communication? What is needed to build better open-source awareness and models that offer a “better deal” financially and morally for breeders? Can open-source models generate reasonable financial returns for seed developers? Can open-source seed models contribute to seed justice, recognition, and inclusion? Are there other models that should be explored under the umbrella of the open-source concept?

Speakers: Elena Filatova, University of Denver; Claire Luby, University of Wisconsin-Madison; and Frank Morton, Wild Garden Seed

Seed Internship Program

Matching the organic seed growers of tomorrow with the experienced growers of today

Become an Intern

The Seed Internship Program matches interns with host farms that provide on-farm experience and formal training in seed production. Interns receive:

- Online, classroom, and field-based education
- Independent studies on the host farm
- Experience with the organic seed trade

Become a Host

Are you an experienced seed producer looking for interns? We need you to train the next generation of seed producers! Host farms receive:

- Assistance matching the right intern to your farm
- Educational materials, webinars, & other support

www.apply.mesaprogram.org/osa
**Speaker Biographies**

**Alan Adessee, Hands on Organics**  
Alan Adessee is a seedman, organic farmer, forester, and collector of medicinals. He has worked in seeds for 32 years and started four different farms since 1989. He has also wild collected medicinals and mushrooms for 40 years, and is a networker who engages in community development and charity work. Alan is a business owner, parent, family man, and world traveler, and is an elder statesman who has worked with youth teaching about self-healing organic food for the past 30 years.

**Isaura Andaluz, Cuatro Puertas**  
Isaura Andaluz is a life-long seed steward based in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She helped to establish the Arid Crop Seed Cache, New Mexico’s largest collection of native, drought-tolerant seeds. Passionate about food, bees, and seeds, she has advocated for the protection of these through the creation of the Save New Mexico Seeds Coalition. Isaura co-founded the local Slow Food group to educate consumers on New Mexico’s at-risk crops. The chile nativo and Zuni tomatillos are recognized by the Slow Food Ark of Taste. Isaura has served on the board of directors for the New Mexico Farmers’ Marketing Association, Organic Seed Growers and Trade Association, and American Origin Products Association. She has also published works in: “Seed Sovereignty, Food Security: Women in the Vanguard of the Fight against GMOs and Corporate Agriculture;” “The GMO Emperor Has No Clothes;” “Reclaiming the Diversity of Taste” in the 2018 Oxford Food Symposium Proceedings; and “Seed: Climate Change Resilience” in SeedBroadcast, 2019.

**Haley Baron, Organic Farming Research Foundation**  
Haley Baron is the education and research program associate at the Organic Farming Research Foundation. She helps oversee the grant program, farmer and rancher education, the annual research forum, and more. Her past work includes managing food access program evaluations, organic farming, sourcing local produce, and building community for women who love food. She has a master’s degree in Food Studies from New York University and a bachelor’s from Wesleyan University.

**Richard Bernard, Independent breeder**  
Richard Bernard grew up in southern France, in a place synonymous for mountains with granitic outcrops, deep forests, impregnable citadels, Roquefort cheese, and rugby. More than anything else, Richard remembers his grandma’s lush garden tucked between a greasy tractors repair shop and a forgotten railway station. His longing for those scents, colors, and flavors feeds his passion for plants and seeds time and again. After studying plant biology and genetics, Richard joined Graines Caillard, a French breeding company, where he worked on parthenocarpic Beit Alpha cucumbers, eggplant germplasm collection, and virus resistance in zucchinis. The company was absorbed by Syngenta, and Richard then joined Harris-Moran Seed Company, a United States subsidiary of the Limagrain seed coop. There he managed product development activities – first around the Mediterranean Basin and then in the United States, Mexico, and Central America. Growing frustrated with intellectual property and the patenting grip over the seed industry, Richard joined the organic seed world – first as Research and Development Manager for Seeds of Change and now as an independent contractor focused on seed sourcing, supply and production, variety trials, and seed stories.

**Heron Breen, Fedco Seeds**  
Born, raised, and residing in the small central Maine town of Saint Albans, Heron's plant “roots” derive from childhood chores in his family's large back-to-the-lander gardens and high school summers spent working (or pretending to) on a local organic vegetable farm. An ongoing 19 year career at Fedco Seeds has engaged him in diverse elements of the retail seed business including various daily operations, managing trial programs, and catalog writing. His day job has run parallel to establishing a personal farm operation which focuses on seed production and plant breeding. Sharing the experiential skill sets and relevant history of seed work in the Northeast is Heron’s passion, and is proud to be a co-organizer of the Northeast Organic Seed Conference. He is honored to serve the seed community as an OSA board member, valuing the model of “alliance” as our greatest strength.

**Eric Budzynski, Floret Flowers**  
Eric Budzynski graduated from University of British Columbia with a BSc in Global Resource Systems, focusing on land, food, and community. Over the next ten years he worked in the vegetable seed industry with Wild Garden Seed and then Uprising Seeds, and received an informal education in diversified seed production and on-farm plant breeding. Eric is now Seed Production Manager at Floret Flowers in Mount Vernon, Washington, where he coordinates ongoing flower breeding, develops new breeding projects, and organizes the growing and cleaning of the farm’s commercial seed crops.
Ester Casas Griera, Les Refardes

Ester Casas is a farmer, activist, and an agronomist specializing in organic seed production. For the last 15 years she has been the coordinator of Les Refardes, an organic artisan seed cooperative. She is an active member of the Red de Semillas: “resembrando e intercambiando” where she focuses on analyzing legislation and public politics that affect agricultural biodiversity.

Jason Cavatorta, EarthWork Seeds

Jason Cavatorta is plant breeder and president of EarthWork Seeds Inc., a plant breeding and wholesale seed company focused on creating and producing new vegetable cultivars that taste great and are easy to grow. He is based in Oviedo, Florida, and holds an MS and PhD in Plant Breeding from Cornell University.

Véronique Chable, French National Institute for Agriculture, Food and the Environment (INRAE)

Véronique Chable is a senior scientist at the Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique et de l’Environnement (INRAE) in Rennes, France. She has worked in participatory research with organic farmers in the frame of European seed networks for 20 years. She has coordinated EU projects since 2007. Through multi-actor and transdisciplinary approaches, these programs evaluate and enrich the diversity of cultivated plants within diverse agroecosystems in order to increase their performance, resilience, and quality. This research is re-discovering genetic resources of species and developing adapted diversity management and plant breeding for organic agriculture and marginal or specific conditions.

Katherine Chiu, Farmer/Founder, Asian Vegetable CSA and Project Manager, Seedshed

Katherine Chiu lives and farms in New York’s Hudson Valley, where she supports Seedshed’s organizational and program development along with program delivery in and out of the field. Outside of Seedshed, she runs her own no-till, no-spray hand-scale vegetable operation on a quarter acre. Through a CSA model, her farm supports local Asian-American families in reconnecting with many of the culturally relevant vegetables and culinary/medicinal herbs they know and love so that they may reintegrate seasonal, local produce into the comfort foods they cook at home. Previously, she lived in New York City for many years, where her community gardening and food justice organizing experiences, along with her education with Farm School NYC, shaped her understanding of how growing and sharing food can nurture and bring together communities working towards social justice.

Nathan and Beth Corymb Clark, Meadowlark Hearth

Nathan Corymb Clark trained in Biodynamic agriculture at Camphill Village Kimberton Hills, and in Biodynamic seed growing at Sativa Seed in Switzerland and Bingenheim Seed in Germany. He and his wife Beth, a former musician, founded Turtle Tree Biodynamic Seed Initiative and developed it as a sheltered workshop for people with special needs, where it continues at Camphill Village in Copake, New York. In 2010 they moved to Nebraska and began Meadowlark Hearth Farm where they produce Biodynamic Seed along with a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program, dairy, beef, poultry, and market vegetables. At Meadowlark Hearth they integrate farming and seed work into education and therapeutic work under the auspices of the Living Environment Foundation, a non-profit with a two-fold focus on biodiversity and serving vulnerable populations. In addition to their online seed offerings at www.meadowlarkhearth.org, each year they grow contract certified organic and Biodynamic seed for a number of seed companies in the United States.

Daniel Cornelius, Intertribal Agriculture Council

Daniel Cornelius, a member of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin, is the Intertribal Agriculture Council’s (IAC) Technical Assistance Specialist for the Great Lakes Region, which includes Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, and Iowa. His position focuses on helping Great Lakes Region Indian Tribes with food and agricultural issues. Mr. Cornelius also works for the University of Wisconsin Law School’s Great Lakes Indigenous Law Center where he focuses on the development of producer cooperatives, supply chain analysis, and legal and policy aspects of food and agriculture. In his free time, Mr. Cornelius grows corn and pumpkins, harvests wild rice, and moonlights as a ranch hand.

Seth Crawford, Oregon CBD

Seth Crawford is the co-founder of Oregon CBD, a leading developer of phytocannabinoid-rich industrial hemp varieties designed for large-scale production. Seth earned advanced degrees from Oregon State University (MPP, Public Policy) and the University of Oregon (MS, PhD, Sociology), and enjoyed a decade-long teaching career at Oregon State University. His published work on the political economy of cannabis provided the first structural analysis of Oregon’s decentralized, pre-legalization production and distribution networks. He “deinstitutionalized” in 2015 and transitioned from hobby-level breeding to industrial-scale field trials for developing novel, non-psychoactive cannabis. Early adoption of disruptive testing technology has helped Oregon CBD achieve a number of industry “firsts,” develop a large library of novel chemovars, lead the nation in feminized seed production (over 35,000
Colin Curwen-McAdams, Bejo Seeds, Inc.
Colin Curwen-McAdams is a Junior Breeder for Bejo Seeds, Inc. He graduated from Washington State University with a PhD in plant breeding where he designed and conducted research on wheat to differentiate the crop for the local agricultural system and economy, including field breeding under organic and conventional systems and cytogenetic investigation. Previously Colin worked at an organic Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm in Oregon and held several positions with Seed Savers Exchange in between studies at the university.

Julie Dawson, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Julie Dawson is an Associate Professor in the Department of Horticulture at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her background is in organic plant breeding and participatory research. Research topics include season extension methods, organic and participatory variety trials, and variety selection for small-acreage farms and gardens as well as extension resources for urban growers. She leads a project called the Seed to Kitchen Collaborative with other plant breeders to test varieties with local farmers and chefs that is focused on flavor for local food systems.

Carol Deppe, Open Source Seed Initiative (OSSI)
Carol Deppe is a plant breeder and author who focuses on breeding crops for flavor, organic adaptation, resilience, and human survival for the next thousand years, and in teaching others to do likewise. She is author of Breed Your Own Vegetable Varieties, The Resilient Gardener, and The Tao of Vegetable Gardening, and is breeder of ‘Cascade Ruby-Gold Flint’ corn, ‘Candystick Delicata,’ ‘Sweetmeat—Oregon Homestead’ squash, ‘Beef-Bush Resilient’ beans, ‘Fast Lady Northern Southern Pea,’ ‘Goldini Zucchini,’ and other varieties. She has a PhD in Genetics from Harvard, is owner of Fertile Valley Seeds, and is a member of the board of directors of Open Source Seed Initiative (OSSI). She is also chair of the OSSI Variety Review Committee and will have the forms for OSSI-Pledging varieties available at the Organic Seed Growers Conference. If you are a breeder with a variety you would like to pledge, look her up.

Melissa DeSa, Working Food
Melissa DeSa is a co-founder of Working Food, a non-profit organization based in Gainesville, Florida. She is a University of Florida graduate, with an MS in Interdisciplinary Ecology. Her background

Nicolas Enjalbert, SeedLinked
Nicolas Enjalbert brings a broad vision and passion for what is possible in the seed industry founded in his years of private sector plant breeding in multinational seed companies in Europe and the United States. His expertise in data architecture, crop modeling, fundamental breeding techniques, and participatory breeding strategies coupled with management and plant breeding program development find full expression in his continuing work and development of SeedLinked.

Tiffany Fess, Green Thumb Botanicals
Tiffany Fess is co-owner and director of grow operations at Green Thumb Botanicals located in Bridgeport, West Virginia. Established in 2016, Green Thumb Botanicals is a boutique hemp operation focused on organic and sustainably produced high-CBD hemp designated for the flower and cannabinoid extraction markets. She is also a PhD candidate in Agriculture Sciences at West Virginia University. Her doctoral research investigates the effects of N-fertilization on nutritional quality and gene expression in tomato crops. In addition to her research and business, she sits on the board of the Society of Organic Seed Professionals (SOSP) and organizing committee for the 2020 Student Organic Seed Symposium.

Elena Filatova, University of Denver
What impact can critical approaches to business and economics have on sustainable agriculture? Elena Filatova explores this question both as a graduate student in Economics at the University of Denver and as a consulting fellow with the Barton Institute for Philanthropy and Social Enterprise. Her graduate research continues the work she began in the University of San Francisco’s Entrepreneurship and Innovation program, investigating seed sovereignty at the industry level. She is also a consultant with the Dahlia Campus for Health and Well-Being where she is helping to ensure the sustainability of their inno-
vative local food program. In her free time, you can find Elena enjoying the company of trees, volunteering at edible school gardens, and overpopulating her living space with plants.

**Ken Greene, Seedshed**
Ken Greene is founder of the first seed library in the United States, a project he germinated in Gardiner, New York. Greene and his partner grew the library into the Hudson Valley Seed Company, a national seed company and regional seed farm devoted to ethically producing seed for home gardeners and farmers and celebrating seeds through art. Today, Greene is the founder/director of Seedshed, a non-profit organization focused on growing regional and cultural seed communities through seed literacy and seed justice programs.

**Chris Hardy, Hardy Seeds**
Chris Hardy has owned and operated Hardy Seeds since 2015, continuing generations of organic farming in his family. Inspired by his grandfather who used seed he saved on his farm operation, Chris now oversees more than 500 varieties of grains, legumes, and vegetable seeds. His extensive travels abroad have kept him passionate for seed diversity, regenerative agriculture, and community engagement. He was the initiator of the historic campaign in Southern Oregon to ban genetically engineered (GE) crops to protect traditional seeds from the threat of contamination. For more than 20 years he has advocated for local farms, helped organize regional seed swaps, and worked with farm to school programs to connect kids to seeds and their food. Chris is a founding board member of the Southern Oregon Seed Growers Association and is actively engaged in building a network of seed growers to strengthen diversity in the food system.

**Frederick Hempel, Green Bee Farm**
Fred Hempel is a tomato breeder and specialty produce farmer at Green Bee Farm in Sunol, California. He also co-owns Artisan Seeds with Heirloom Farms in Ensenada, Mexico.

**Justin T. Herne, Seedshed**
Justin T. Herne is the Native American Seed Sanctuary Assistant for the non-profit Seedshed. When he is not working for the Native American Seed Sanctuary, he is a Fish and Wildlife Technician in the Hudson River Fisheries Unit through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Based out of New Paltz, New York, Justin is responsible for conducting annual diadromous fish monitoring of striped bass, American shad, river herring, American Eel, and Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon in the Hudson River in accordance with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASM-FC) fishery management plans and state management and conservation. In addition, he is responsible for conducting annual blue crab monitoring for population trends and seasonal movement in the Hudson River.

**Kiki Hubbard, Organic Seed Alliance**
Kristina “Kiki” Hubbard is the director of advocacy and communications for Organic Seed Alliance. Kiki’s work on seed policy spans nearly twenty years in the areas of antitrust, biotechnology, consolidation, intellectual property, and organic regulation. Working on an organic farm piqued her interest in sustainable agriculture while an undergraduate in Wisconsin. She went on to pursue related law and policy issues at the Center for Food Safety in Washington, DC, before moving out west to complete an MS at the University of Montana in Environmental Studies with an emphasis in sustainable food and farming. Before landing at OSA, Kiki worked for a number of organizations, including the Center for Rural Affairs, National Family Farm Coalition, Organization for Competitive Markets (OCM), and the Western Organization of Resource Councils. While at OCM, Kiki led a national campaign on antitrust concerns in the seed industry that eventually set in motion a federal investigation by the Department of Justice. At OSA, Kiki leads efforts to promote policies and actions that advance organic seed systems. She manages OSA’s State of Organic Seed project and leads federal policy initiatives targeting Congress and federal agencies as well as the National Organic Standards Board.

**Rebecca Ivanoff, SeedWorks/Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario**
Rebecca Ivanoff is a member of the SeedWorks plant breeding club, as well as the Research and Seed Program Coordinator with the Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario. A childhood curiosity in the connection between plants and culture led her to pursue an undergraduate degree at the University of Guelph were she studied botany and anthropology. As part of an MS degree, she had the honor of working with farmers in Honduras who were conducting on-farm research and participatory plant breeding. These farmers inspired her to connect with local Ontario networks doing similar work. In 2013, she joined Whole Circle Farm as a Collaborative Regional Alliance for Farmer Training (CRAFT) intern and worked up to co-managing the 10-acre Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and market garden. During this time, she helped to reintroduce seed production to the farm system. She started a participatory pepper breeding project with southern Ontario farmers who now form the group SeedWorks.

Sarah Kleeger, Adaptive Seeds
Sarah Kleeger began working on organic farms in 2003. In 2009, she and her husband Andrew Still started Adaptive Seeds, located near Sweet Home, Oregon, two hours south of Portland. Adaptive Seeds offers organic, open-pollinated, diverse, and resilient seed varieties for ecologically-minded farmers, gardeners, and seed savers. Over 85% of the varieties in the catalog are grown on the farm. Sarah’s roles at Adaptive Seeds include management of both the fields and the finances.

Koby Jeschkeit-Hagen, Seed Savers Exchange
Koby Jeschkeit-Hagen seed efforts include community seed education with her company Seed Sages and her full-time position as the seed production manager at Seed Savers Exchange. She draws upon a variety of interdisciplinary grassroots and academic experiences to create resilient seed production plans. She has a Masters in Community and Regional Planning: Natural Resources, the Environment, and Seed Systems from the University of New Mexico, obtained her Permaculture Design Certificate in New Mexico and her Permaculture Teacher Certificate in Minnesota, management and consultant experience with urban and rural farms, and has produced seed in New Mexico, Colorado, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. She aims to inspire and support new and veteran seed growers to dive deeper into regenerative methods and share our seed abundance.

Niko Kavanya, Fedco Seeds
Niko Kavanya comes from a long lineage of farmers and has always had dirt under her fingernails – as an herbalist, a market grower, and the seed maven at Fedco Seeds for over three decades.

Helen Jensen, SeedChange
Helen Jensen holds a PhD in Biology from McGill University, and an MSc and BS in Biology from the University of Ottawa. During her doctoral research, she studied the evolution and disease resistance of barley varieties in Morocco, in collaboration with researchers and agricultural producers in the Taounate region. Helen has been with SeedChange since 2013, contributing to the implementation of The Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security. She works on participatory plant breeding and participatory variety trial networks to develop varieties adapted to the needs of organic and ecological producers. She is an adjunct professor at Bishop's University Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems in the Department of Environment and Geography. (she/her)

Craig LeHoullier, author Epic Tomatoes
Craig LeHoullier lives and gardens in Raleigh, North Carolina. A Rhode Island native, he caught the gardening passion from his grandfather, Walter, and dad, Wilfred. Craig achieved his PhD in chemistry at Dartmouth College, which resulted in a 25 year career in pharmaceuticals that ended in 2008. Craig’s gardening obsession, which started the year he and Susan were married and their first garden in 1981, is passing through several stages. His love of heirloom tomatoes began with his joining the Seed Savers Exchange in 1986, an organization for which he continues to serve as adviser for tomatoes. He is responsible for naming and popularizing many well-known tomatoes, such as ‘Cherokee Purple.’ In 2005 he added amateur tomato breeding to his garden resume and continues to co-lead the Dwarf Tomato Breeding project, which is responsible for creating 125 new compact growing varieties for space-challenged gardeners. His writing career kicked off with a 2012 request from Storey Publishing to write a book on tomatoes, resulting in Epic Tomatoes (2015). His second book, Growing Vegetables in Straw Bales, soon followed (2016) and his book on the Dwarf Tomato Breeding project is in progress. Craig is a popular lecturer across the country at major gardening events, as well as a frequent guest on podcasts and radio shows.

Nate Kleinman, Experimental Farm Network
Nate Kleinman is a farmer, plant breeder, activist, and co-founder of the non-profit Experimental Farm Network (EFN). He was born in Philadelphia and lives and farms today in Elmer, New Jersey and Norwich, New York. A graduate of Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service, he worked in a range of fields — from theater to politics to union organizing to disaster relief — before settling into farming (though he still occasionally works for politicians or runs for Congress). EFN uses an open-source online platform to facilitate collaborative research in sustainable agriculture, plant breeding, and climate change mitigation, especially through the development of perennial staple crops, and functions as a small-scale cooperative seed company, offering rare heirlooms, landraces, breeding populations, and perennial vegetables unavailable from other commercial sources. Nate is passionate about many crops, but at the moment is most focused on sorghum, Job’s tears, mayapple, monkey puzzle, and chinquapin chestnut.

Michael Levine, Nature and Nurture Seeds
Mike Levine has been obsessed with edible plants for his entire adult life. He has worked in the gardening, farming, and ecological restoration fields since 1995. Since graduating from University of Michigan’s School of Natural Resources, Mike has stayed busy doing ecological restoration for the City of Ann Arbor,

Joseph Lofthouse, Independent breeder
Joseph Lofthouse breeds promiscuously pollinating landrace crops for low-input subsistence-level agricultural systems.

Claire Luby, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Claire Luby is a faculty associate in the Department of Horticulture at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is a plant scientist who focuses on seed systems to address agricultural challenges ranging from the broader effects of intellectual property rights on plant varieties to supporting food and seed sovereignty efforts. Her research seeks to enable more diverse peoples to work with more kinds of seeds in more places using plant breeding to uniquely diversify agricultural systems. In addition to her teaching and research, she co-founded and currently sits on the boards of the Open Source Seed Initiative (OSSI, www.osseeds.org), the Student Organic Seed Symposium, and the Society of Organic Seed Professionals.

Markael Luterra, Luterra Enterprises LLC
Mark Luterra joined Wild Garden Seed in 2014, where he developed and refined the Winnow Wizard seed cleaning machine that is now operating in twelve states and has been described as a game changer for small-scale seed producers. The open-source design uses a series of metal gratings to create an even flow of air for precise density separations, removing persistent chaff and light/low germ seeds. Mark has a passion for appropriate technology and appropriate scale. Through his designs and community volunteer work he aims to support community-scale food and seed webs, restoring a relational dimension to a commodified world.

Laurie McKenzie, Organic Seed Alliance
Laurie McKenzie is Research and Education Associate for the Pacific Northwest region and one of OSA’s vegetable breeders. She manages OSA’s research farm in Chico, California, where she conducts breeding projects, vegetable variety trials, and seed production on a variety of crops. Laurie has authored and co-authored several publications and taught dozens of classes and workshops on seed production and plant breeding. She received her MS in Horticulture and Plant Breeding from Oregon State University in 2012 and has over a decade of farming and seed production experience. Laurie focuses on breeding for organic production systems using participatory strategies. She is currently working on several collaborative breeding projects focused on cabbage, kale, carrots, Swiss Chard, and purple sprouting broccoli. In her spare time Laurie enjoys creating her budding homestead, playing with her farm animals, and growing flowers in the garden.

Brigid Meints, Oregon State University
Brigid is a Postdoctoral Research Associate with the Barley Breeding program at Oregon State University. She grew up in Corvallis, Oregon, and developed a love for plants at a young age. She earned a BA from Scripps College in Anthropology and Gender and Women’s Studies, but found her way back to plants after graduation when she began working for the barley breeding program at Oregon State University (OSU). She earned her MS from OSU in Crop Science with a focus in Plant Breeding and Genetics and completed her PhD in Crop Science at Washington State University. Her research focuses on breeding multi-use naked barley for organic systems.

Pedro Mendes Moreira, Escola Superior Agrária de Coimbra
Pedro Mendes Moreira holds a PhD in Quantitative Genetics from ITQB/UNL in Lisbon, Portugal, and an MS in Agriculture and Sustainable Agriculture and Agronomy at Instituto Superior de Agronomia. He is an Assistant Professor and the coordinator of the MS in Organic Agriculture program at Coimbra College of Agriculture in the Polytechnic of Coimbra (PC-ESAC). He is also a researcher at the Research Center for Natural Resources, Environment and Society (CERNAS) where he focuses on strategies for genetic social inclusion of people in difficulties. For 10 years, he has worked on a two hectare farm in Chavagne, a small city near Rennes, the capital of Brittany. He produces 60 kinds of vegetables, which are distributed thanks to an Association pour le Maintien de l’Agriculture Paysanne (AMAP), a French form of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). He grows 90% of his vegetables from his own seeds. His on-farm plant breeding and seed production are managed in interaction with Kaol kozh association of which he is co-president.

Jean-Martial Morel, Kaol Kozh
Jean-Martial Morel is a French peasant, seed producer, and vegetable grower for 40 years. Besides farming, he has trained young organic growers and engaged to help co-directing Project Grow Community Gardens, working on organic farms, and managing Saguaro Plant Nursery. Since 2001, Mike Levine and Erica Kempter have operated Nature and Nurture, LLC, an organic landscape gardening business. In 2013, Mike and Erica Kempter bought their dream farm just outside of Ann Arbor that has now expanded to 122 acres. Their farm hosts Nature and Nurture Seeds — their Mid-west-adapted heirloom/open-pollinated organic seed company, fruit nursery, experimental homestead orchard, shiitakes, and much more. In 2019, they planted hemp for organic seed production. Mike is excited to explore the possibilities of the newly legal hemp industry and grow more seed.

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resources conservation and valorization. He is responsible for the Vale do Sousa (VASO) project – a participatory maize breeding project initiated in 1984 at Sousa Valley Region, Portugal. He is responsible for the H2020 LIVSEED European project, has 14 Internation Scientific Indexing publications, 10 book chapters, and more than 150 communications in national and international conferences, and has been a reviewer in a number of scientific journals.

Monika Messmer, Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL)

Monika Messmer received her PhD in plant breeding in 1993. She worked as scientist in the cereal breeding at Agroscope for six years before joining VitaPlant AG where she conducted medicinal plant breeding. Since 2009 she has led the plant breeding and cultivar testing team at the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL www.fibl.org) where she focuses on breeding for mixed cropping systems and plant microbe interaction. She is president of the European Consortium for Organic Plant Breeding (ECO-PB www.eco-pb.org), a board member for Bioverita (www.bioverita.eu), and a member of the IFOAM Seed Platform and the IFOAM EU seed expert group. She also works in participatory cotton breeding (www.greencotton.org) and is the scientific coordinator for the EU LIVSEED project (www.liveseed.eu).

Steffen Mirsky, Seed Savers Exchange

Steffen Mirsky is the Evaluation and Trials Manager at Seed Savers Exchange in Decorah, Iowa. Since joining the team in 2011, he has helped document about 6,000 varieties of fruits and vegetables from the Seed Savers Exchange collection. He also manages the Citizen Science Corps, where participants from around the country trial varieties from the collection and send feedback on their performance. A graduate of the University of Washington, Steffen got his feet wet in agriculture through the World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms (WWOOF) program and has a passion for the natural world and sustainable food systems.

Amirah Mitchell, Truelove Seeds

Amirah Mitchell has been working in agriculture and the food movement for over a dozen years, initially as a teen farm intern, team leader, and board member at The Food Project in Boston, Massachusetts. She has worked on urban farms in Massachusetts, Georgia, and Pennsylvania. Amirah has delivered workshops to community, college, and high school audiences on various agroecology topics, including agroforestry, soil ecology, urban gardening, seed-keeping, and more. Amirah is a practicing seedkeeper of two years, focusing on food crops of the African diaspora. Currently Amirah is studying horticulture at Temple University and works at Truelove Seeds, a Philadelphia-based seed company.

Frank Morton, Wild Garden Seed

Frank Morton has farmed organically for 40 years, and has operated Wild Garden Seed with his wife Karen for 26 years. He’s a compulsive breeder and an obsessive seed guy, greatly attracted to lettuce, peppers, quinoa, brassica, and flowers. If there is a god with six legs, he expects to go to that heaven.

Jim Myers, Oregon State University

Jim Myers holds the Baggett-Frazier Endowed Chair of Vegetable Breeding and Genetics in the Department of Horticulture at Oregon State University (OSU). He breeds green beans and broccoli for processing and has projects for fresh market for edible podded pea, broccoli, tomato, and winter and summer squash. His main interest has been to improve vegetable and field crop varieties for disease resistance, human nutrition, and organic production systems. At OSU he has released several vegetable varieties including ‘Legend’, ‘Indigo Rose’, ‘Indigo Cherry Drops’, ‘Indigo Pear Drops’, and ‘Indigo Kiwi’ tomatoes and ‘OSU5630’ bush blue lake green bean. He has several more varieties of broccoli, peppers, squash, and peas in the breeding pipeline.

Deborah A. Ni, Seedshed

Deborah A. Ni (she/her/they) is the Assistant Director at Seedshed, a Hudson Valley-based nonprofit organization that helps cultivate seed literacy and seedkeeping practices through educational programs and community partnerships. She is also an MS Candidate at New York University, focusing on the food justice movement in the United States.

Winston Oakley, Highland Economics

Winston Oakley is a Research Economist with Highland Economics, a consulting firm that specializes in agricultural economics (as well as other areas). Winston has been involved in a number of consulting projects that examine economics of seed crop production. His most recent work has been with Organic Seed Alliance in developing a software tool that allows organic seed growers to record and analyze their production costs. Winston has a BS from the University of Minnesota in environmental policy and management, and an MS from Oregon State University in natural resource and environmental economics.

Judy Owswowitz, Terrapin Farm

Judy Owswowitz has been farming for over 40 years in the ever-surprising climate of Northwest Montana. She is owner/operator/head weeder at Terrapin Farm, which has been certified organic for 25 years. Terrapin Farm produces vegetables, herbs, flow-
ers, farmers, and seeds on eight acres. Active in the organic community, she advocates for seeds at every opportunity. Farming is her living and seeds are her passion.

**Petra Page-Mann, Fruition Seeds**
Growing up in her father’s garden, Petra believes each seed and each of us is in the world to change the world. Her passion, curiosity, and love of food led her all over studying seed, song, and culture worth celebrating. In 2012, she founded Fruition Seeds to share the seeds, knowledge, and inspiration gardeners need to be more successful in the Northeast. If she’s not farming she is singing, skiing, snuggling her dogs, hunting mushrooms, or sharing a feast with a friend.

**Kenny Perkins, Seedshed**
Kenny Perkins is a traditional seed keeper from Akwesasne Mohawk territory. He works for Seedshed leading the Akwesasne Seed Sanctuary collaboration and is working towards seed sovereignty for the Hotinonshonni Nations.

**Steve Peters, Organic Seed Alliance and Seed rEvolution Now**
A lifetime gardener, Steve began his agricultural career in the 1970s, growing organic vegetables for local farmers’ markets. He earned an MS at Cornell University in soils and vegetable crops, which led to working as a research agronomist for the Rodale Research Center. As the seed production and product development manager for Seeds of Change, he worked closely with a network of over 50 organic seed farmers. More recently he has been employed by Organic Seed Alliance to help California and other western state seed farmers develop regional seed hubs, and create a viable economy around seed production and improvement. He also has an independent seed consulting, research, and production business, ‘Seed rEvolution Now’ that grows, promotes, and distributes high quality, organic, open-pollinated, public domain vegetable seeds. His current work focuses on breeding new tomato varieties and farming vegetable crops without irrigation (dry-farming).

**Jacqueline Pilati, Reclaim Seed NYC**
Jacqueline Pilati is a Professional Development Instructor at the New York Botanical Garden and Adjunct Instructor at Bank Street College of Education where she leads teacher institutes and courses in garden-based learning and elementary science investigations. She has taught in general and special education settings throughout New York City and Sonora, Mexico. During her tenure in the nonprofit space, she developed and led childhood, youth, and adult programming around urban ecology, scientific inquiry, and food justice. In 2018, she founded Reclaim Seed NYC, an urban seed initiative rooted in education and community. The project stewards community-sustained seed for the commons, while educating and organizing for seed and food sovereignty. Reclaim Seed NYC reconnects people to their foodways through history, education, and seed. Find us on Instagram @reclaimseednyc.

**Beth Rasgorshek, Canyon Bounty Farm**
Beth Rasgorshek founded Canyon Bounty Farm in 1999. The seven-acre, certified organic farm produces vegetable, flower, and herb seeds. Beth is a fourth generation farmer who feels fortunate to have successful seed farmers within her immediate family. Her seed crops are contracted with and sold to seed companies throughout the United States.

**William Zeb Rehrig, Enza Zaden**
William Rehrig obtained his BS in Horticulture at Colorado State University and after went to University of Hawaii for an MS working with orchid tissue culture. Upon graduating, he was employed with Monsanto in Hawaii where he was responsible for integrating biotech traits into corn breeding lines. In 2010, William moved to California to get a PhD degree in Plant Science with an emphasis in plant breeding. There he worked with jalepeño pepper populations that were segregating for disease resistance to identify regions and molecular markers associated to resistance. Upon graduation, he took the position he currently holds as onion breeder with Enza Zaden where he helps develop new varieties with improved yield, disease resistance, and quality traits for growers.

**Jovan Sage, Sage’s Larder/Gilliard Farms**
Jovan Sage is based in the Deep South on Georgia’s coast where her days are steeped in transforming seeds into plants and plants into warming teas, hearty medicine, and delicious dishes. As the Alchemist and birth worker behind Sage’s Larder, she guides people to find their own healing and resiliency through food, tea, and plants. She acts as seed keeper and chicken whisperer at Gilliard Farms – an African American Centennial family farm. She has spent the last decade focusing on sustainability, food, and agriculture – including working as a food retail consultant, a Director for Slow Food USA, and a consultant with Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group. Before moving to Georgia, she lived, roof-top gardened, and urban chicken-kepped in Brooklyn, New York. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for Seed Savers Exchange and is the founding President of Les Dames d’Escoffier International – Savannah & Coastal Georgia.

Noah Schlager, Native Seeds/SEARCH
Noah Schlager is the conservation program manager at Native Seeds/SEARCH on occupied Tohono O’odham and Yaqui land (Tucson, Arizona). In his capacity at Native Seeds/SEARCH, Noah brings together the conservation of the collection’s seeds with efforts to support and revitalize Indigenous farmers and communities. Through his mother, Donna Wiggins, he is Mvskoke-Creek and Florida Catawba/Cheraw – mixed with Carolina Indian, West African, and European Settler heritage. Through his father, Dan Schlager, he is Jewish. Noah’s maternal grandmother, Mama Nell Wiggins, was the one who first taught him to garden, forage, and cook foods that have been in his family since time immemorial. Noah received his MS from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and is committed to correcting the historic exclusion of Indigenous people from the environmental movement through opening up space for Indigenous people to lead in caring for our plant relatives and the land.

Vivien Sansour, Palestine Heirloom Seed Library
Vivien Sansour is an artist and conservationist who uses image, sketch, film, soil, seeds, and plants to enliven old cultural tales in contemporary presentations and to advocate for the protection of biodiversity as a cultural and political act. As the founder of Palestine Heirloom Seed Library and the Traveling Kitchen project, she works with farmers to promote seed conservation and crop diversity. Vivien was born in Jerusalem and lives in Bethlehem, Palestine, and Los Angeles, California.

Lane Selman, Oregon State University
Lane Selman is Professor of Practice at Oregon State University and the founder of the Culinary Breeding Network. She has worked with organic farmers, plant breeders, and chefs for over 15 years. Lane’s work has been featured in the media including Food & Wine, The Wall Street Journal, Civil Eats, Food Tank, The New York Times, and Eating Well magazine. Lane has been the recipient of many awards, including the Award of Excellence for Organic Advocate by the Oregon Organic Coalition in 2016. Lane grew up on a citrus farm her Sicilian great-grandparents planted in 1919 on Florida’s Space Coast. She has a BS in Agronomy and an MS in Entomology, both from University of Florida. In 2000, she moved to Oregon and since 2005 has been managing collaborative research projects and outreach events at Oregon State University with organic vegetable and grains farmers. In 2012, Lane created the Culinary Breeding Network to build communities of plant breeders, seed growers, farmers, produce buyers, chefs, and other stakeholders to improve quality in vegetables and grains. She currently serves on the Portland Farmers Market board. Lane lives in Portland, Oregon.

Adrienne Shelton, Vitalis Organic Seeds
Adrienne Shelton is the Northeast Organic Product Specialist for Vitalis Organic Seeds. She earned a Masters degree in Plant Breeding and Plant Genetics and a doctorate in Environment and Resources at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her research included plant breeding for organic farming systems and intellectual property rights for public cultivars. Adrienne is proud to have participated in the breeding and release of ‘Who Gets Kissed?’, an open-pollinated sweet corn bred for and with organic farmers. She helped to organize the first Student Organic Seed Symposium in Vermont in 2012, and has been actively involved with the group ever since. Adrienne serves on the board of directors for Organic Seed Alliance, and has been engaged with the organic farming movement as a farmer, organizer, seed saver, and researcher for 15 years.

Ricardo Salvador, Union of Concerned Scientists
Ricardo Salvador is the Director and Senior Scientist of the Food & Environment Program at the Union of Concerned Scientists in Washington, DC. He leads a team of scientists, economists, policy analysts and organizers to make the case that modern, sustainable practices can be highly productive while also protecting the environment, producing healthy food, and creating economic opportunity for all. He is a member of the Board of Agriculture and National Resources of the National Academy of Sciences, and of the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food. He has advised a range of leading organizations in sustainable and equitable agriculture, including the Fair Food Program of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, The Land Institute, FoodCorps, National Farm to School Network, Center for Good Food Purchasing, Food System 6, and the HEAL Food Alliance.

Estelle Serpolay, French Institute for Organic Food and Farming (IATB)
Estelle Serpolay has an MSc in agricultural science and focuses on the rediscovery of cultivated biodiversity for organic food systems at the French Institute for Organic Food and Agriculture (ITAB). Through research projects and in close collaboration with the French National Institute for Agriculture and Environment’s Cultivated Biodiversity and Participatory Research team, mainly with a participatory and multi-actor approach, she studies cultivated diversity to foster its development through on-farm breeding for innovative organic food systems. She also supports groups of stakeholders wishing to explore such diversified populations through trainings and/or facilitation.

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Phil Simon, USDA-ARS  
Vegetable Crops Research Unit  
Dr. Phil Simon is a USDA, ARS Research Geneticist and Professor of Horticulture at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research in vegetable genetics and breeding has focused on carrot improvement, targeting improved flavor and nutritional quality, and nematode, disease, and abiotic stress resistance. He led the development of widely used carrot germplasm with high carotene content, sweet, mild flavor, purple color, and root-knot nematode resistance. To complement his breeding effort, along with students and collaborators, he has developed breeding tools, including the sequencing of the carrot genome, and he has collected carrot, Allium, and other vegetable germplasm in ten collecting expeditions. He has undertaken related plant breeding research including the first production of true seed in garlic, and the development of cucumber and melon germplasm with orange color and elevated carotene content. He has supervised the training of 35 graduate students, is a Fellow of the American Society for Horticultural Science, recipient of the ASHS Vegetable Breeding Award, and of an Honorary Doctorate from the Agricultural University of Krakow, Poland. He is a past chair of the Plant Breeding Coordinating Committee.

Daniela Soleri, University of California-Santa Barbara  
Daniela Soleri is an ethnoecologist working with farmers, gardeners, and their crops in small-scale low input agriculture. She has conducted research on farmer and plant breeder knowledge, crop selection, traditional maize systems, farmers’ genetic perceptions and risk assessment, traditional foods and crop diversity, and food gardens in the context of the trends of the anthropocene. In collaboration with California seed and garden activists Daniela is starting a new statewide project exploring adaptation and diversity in common bean.

Jonathan Spero, Lupine Knoll Farm  
Jonathan Spero began crossing and selecting sweet corn varieties in 2001 at Lupine Knoll Farm in southwest Oregon. The pace picked up after retiring his unrelated work as a land surveyor in 2008. Growing on about five acres in Southern Oregon, Jonathan has created four varieties of sweet corn that he selected from a single cross featuring an Anasazi seed parent that are now in the f8 generation. He also does selection in kale and broccoli. He developed ‘Solstice’ broccoli selected from a population originally provided by Dr. Jim Myers and Oregon State University in 2002 as a part of the Farmers Cooperative Genome Project. Jonathan was a member of the Board of Directors of the Open Source Seed Initiative from 2014-2018.

Jessica Staha, Phylos  
Jessica Staha was a Clinical Development Scientist specializing in quantitative polymerase chain reaction at Molecular MD, and Staff Scientist at Synthetic Genomics Inc. She holds multiple patents, and has degrees in both Biophysics and Horticulture from Oregon State University.

Andrew Still, Adaptive Seeds  
Andrew Still is a co-founder and seed steward at Adaptive Seeds. He is an agricultural biodiversity advocate, organic seed farmer, and plant breeder. He and his wife Sarah Kleeger began working on organic farms in 2003. In 2006, they started The Seed Ambassadors Project to promote seed stewardship locally and internationally through seed swaps, seed saving workshops, and the distribution of rare and heritage seed varieties. In 2009, they started Adaptive Seeds, a farm-based seed company, as a way to further distribute the varieties they had collected with The Seed Ambassadors Project. Adaptive Seeds offers organic, open-pollinated, diverse, and resilient seed varieties for ecologically-minded farmers and gardeners. His roles at Adaptive Seeds include, in part, maintaining and developing soil health, the seed collection, and plant breeding projects. Adaptive Seeds is located near Sweet Home, Oregon. Andrew currently serves as a board member with The Open Source Seed Initiative.

Karl Sutton, Fresh Roots Farm and Triple Divide Seed Cooperative  
Karl Sutton and his wife Darci Jones own and operate Fresh Roots Farm in Polson, Montana. Certified organic since 2012, Fresh Roots Farm specializes in vegetable and flower seed, strawberries, raspberries, and greens for direct market sales. In 2017, Karl and his family started Flare Pops, a value-added enterprise that uses the farm’s second quality fruits, vegetables, and herbs to create paletas, which are sold at farmer’s markets and festivals. Karl is a founding member of Triple Divide Organic Seeds Cooperative whose mission is to develop plant varieties that grow well in Montana and other northern latitudes. He is a former high school teacher, wilderness guide, and cooperative business specialist.

Don Tipping, Seven Seeds Farm  
Don Tipping farms at Seven Seeds Farm, a small, biodynamic family farm in the Siskiyou Mountains of southwest Oregon since 1997. They produce organic fruits, vegetables, seeds, flowers, herbs, nursery stock, willow, wool, eggs, and lamb. Seven Seeds helps to mentor new farmers through internships and workshops, including the biennial Seed Academy training. Seven Seeds has also been active in USDA Western SARE.
Organic Seed Alliance, Seed Schools and other seed initiatives to advance the development of open-pollinated organic seeds. In 2009, Siskiyou Seeds was established as a bioregional organic seed company operated from the home farm. Don has helped to found two farmer-owned marketing and distribution cooperatives. As an amateur plant breeder, Don has released a number of original varieties through Siskiyou Seeds and has pledged them through the Open Source Seed Initiative (OSSI).

Bill Waycott, Nipomo Native Seeds, LLC
Bill Waycott is currently the owner/manager of Nipomo Native Seeds, LLC, located in San Luis Obispo County, California, breeding leafy green vegetables, producing organic seeds on contract (including hand pollinated F1 hybrids), and raising seed of California native plant species. He previously worked as a plant breeder in California for 30 years both for private breeding companies and the USDA.

Gary Whiteaker, Intrinsic Resources LLC
Dr. Gary Whiteaker is a native of Eugene, Oregon, where he grew up on the family farm. Gary graduated from Oregon State University with BS in Horticulture and received his PhD in Genetics and Plant Breeding from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Gary has made his 45-year professional career in various research and management positions in the domestic and international vegetable and flower seed industry.

Amy Wong, Cultivate Oregon
Amy Wong is a Portland-based attorney who earned a JD with a certificate in Environment and Natural Resources Law from Lewis and Clark law school. Amy’s involvement with the organic seed community started as a law clerk at the Center for Food Safety, where she had the privilege of getting to help successfully defend Jackson County’s ban on the cultivation of genetically engineered (GE) crops. Last year, Amy represented a coalition of non-profit organizations, including Our Family Farms and Cultivate Oregon, in Salem who advocated for legislation to create liability for GE contamination events, as well as to limit canola acreage in the Willamette Valley.

Jared Zystro, Organic Seed Alliance
Jared Zystro is OSA’s research and education assistant director. He has an MS and PhD in plant breeding and plant genetics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he studied efficient methods of developing new organic sweet corn varieties. Jared currently manages OSA’s regional development in California, conducts participatory breeding projects and variety trials, and teaches farmers about seed production and plant breeding at workshops, conferences, and field days.
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Main Topics:
- Celebrating culinary diversity and exploring the potential to breed for taste and flavor
- Plant breeding methods, approaches, and models for supporting the transition to truly sustainable food systems
- Participatory plant breeding and seeds as commons as tools to integrate biodiversity in society
- Supporting the growth and success of the next generation of organic plant breeders and seed ambassadors
- Innovating a systems approach for organic plant breeding to reflect IFOAM principles, addressing the needs of people and planet

Objectives:
- Raise awareness on the importance of organic seed and plant breeding;
- Engage young seed ambassadors and seed pioneers, build relationships and broaden international representation within the organic seed community;
- Stimulate knowledge exchange and provide a think tank for innovating organic seed and breeding systems in line with IFOAM principles;
- Broaden international representation within the organic seed community;
- Revitalize and diversify IFOAM organic seed working groups;
- Celebrate and share diversity of culture, food, seed, and methodologies;

Expected Outcomes:
- Ensure an international network of culturally diverse organic seed actors across continents
- Achieve a paradigm shift towards holistic
- Recruit organic seed experts as facilitators for working groups under the umbrella of the IFOAM SEEDS Platform and for participation in ad hoc Seed working groups of the IFOAM Board
- Establish a roadmap of prioritized actions for the next 3-5 years and develop plan for maintenance of the IFOAM SEEDS Platform
- Develop a declaration and communication strategy for boosting organic seed and plant breeding.

Format & Duration: 2 days
- Field tour of research and farm sites working in organic seed and plant breeding
- Interactive culinary activities
- Participatory workshops
- Facilitated group discussion

Contact Person:
- Monika Messmer
  FiBL / ECO-PB
  monika.messmer@fibl.org

Language:
- English with translation services in Spanish and French
- Additional translation services may be available for up to 10 participants

Target Audience:
- international actors working in organic seed and plant breeding, such as –
  - NGOs
  - Public and private breeders
  - Community seed networks
  - Seed activists
  - Young breeders and students
  - Farmers

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