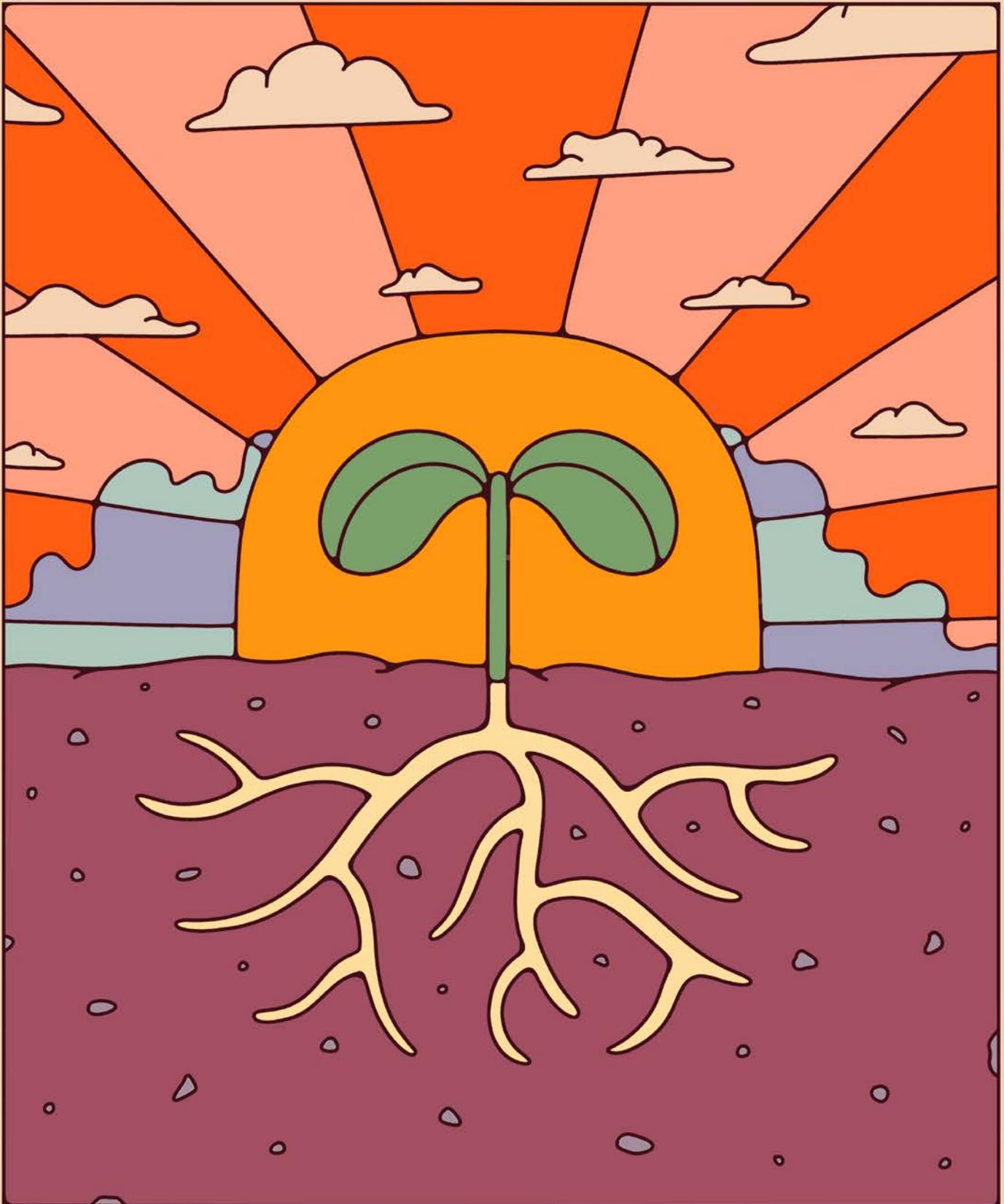


# 11<sup>th</sup> Organic Seed Growers Conference



February 4-11, 2022 | Virtual

[seedalliance.org](https://seedalliance.org)

# Welcome to the 11<sup>th</sup> Organic Seed Growers Conference

The Organic Seed Growers Conference is a biennial gathering by and for agroecological seed communities in the U.S. and across the world. The event creates spaces where experienced and emerging seed stewards can convene timely conversations, educational trainings, and strategy sessions. The gathering serves as a conduit for making new connections and catching up with old friends, networking across organic seed communities, sharing knowledge with other participants, and celebrating the growing movement. Organizers curate a conference agenda that reflects the multifaceted needs of seed growers and advocates, no matter the ease or discomfort of the topics. The goal of the Organic Seed Growers Conference is to inspire individuals, communities, organizations, and businesses to take actions that support and improve the integrity of the philosophical and practical systems that make up the organic seed movement and trade.

The 2022 conference will be held virtually on the Organic Seed Commons platform and include both live and pre-recorded content, and plenty of opportunities for participants to network and skill-share with one another. The conference is the largest organic seed event in the U.S. and will be an all-virtual event for the first time, providing an eight-day agenda of demonstrations, farm tours, lightning talks, art, regional meetups, regional/topical/affinity synergy spaces, keynote presentations, and celebration.

## 2022 Conference Theme

This year's conference will be held virtually on a new and emerging platform called Organic Seed Commons. As such, the 11th Organic Seed Growers Conference theme is *Organic Seed Commons* to reflect a desire to broaden organic seed communities both in virtual and physical spaces. We see the virtual gathering as an opportunity to deepen community interactions beyond the conference cycle by supporting participants to leverage this new on-line network to meet their needs both at the event and beyond.

## A Note About Organic

Our vision for organic seed systems includes all seed growers committed to agroecological practices and principles that align with equity and justice. We believe in organic certification and the benefits to growers, consumers, and the planet. We also recognize that organic certification is not the right fit for every grower and that barriers to certification and the organic marketplace exist.

Additionally, we recognize that the term "organic agriculture" was formulated in response to conventional agricultural practices by largely white colonial societies, and that agriculture was used as a tool to dispossess and displace Indigenous peoples from their land on this continent and elsewhere. Agriculture has been and continues to be a means to resist colonization and maintain a cultural identity for Indigenous, Black, People of Color, and immigrant communities in North America and around the world. Organic certification enables transparency and trust of production practices in a distanced and transactional society, but we recognize that many seed-keepers, plant breeders, farmers and gardeners who do not use organic certification are expressing values that encompass the values of the organic community.

## About the Organic Seed Commons Virtual Platform

Organic Seed Commons, hosted by OSA and an advisory committee, is an online space for seed people to learn, connect, and grow together. The network was developed in its BETA phase in February 2021 as a virtual event space to deliver educational material and connect people working with seed through educational resource sharing, networking, and collaborative working groups. Organic Seed Commons was built with the intention of being an open space that will evolve and morph to fit the needs of the larger seed community.

Conference attendees will gain access to a dedicated space that will allow them to network and share with other attendees in real time. In addition to conference content the network is home to a vibrant community that includes active educational courses, regional seed groups and initiatives.

## Organic Seed Alliance Staff

Micaela Colley, Program Director  
Melanie Edwards, NW Research, Education, & Outreach Assistant  
Kitt Healy, Research & Education Associate, Midwest  
Kiki Hubbard, Advocacy & Communications Director  
Rebekah Korenowsky Woods, Information & Events Coordinator  
Michael Lordon, Midwest Research & Education Associate  
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

Amy Grondin, President, Sustainable Seafood Consultant  
Tessa Peters, Vice President, The Land Institute  
Adrienne Shelton, Secretary, Vitalis Organic Seeds  
Angela Day, Treasurer, Agricultural business leader  
Benjamin Uchitelle-Pierce, Harvest Plus  
Ira Wallace, Southern Exposure Seed Exchange  
Anjali Vats, University of Pittsburgh School of Law

## Special Thanks

This conference was supported in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Organic Agriculture Research and Education Initiative, Accession #1026618.

 National Institute of Food and Agriculture  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## Conference Planning Committee Members

### Bonnetta Adeeb, Steam Onward & Ujamaa Cooperative Farming Alliance

Ms. Adeeb is the Founder & President of STEAM ONWARD, Inc., a Non-profit 501(c3) organization in Southern Maryland which serves as Incubator for Ujamaa Cooperative Farming Alliance (UCFA). Ms. Adeeb is also a Commissioner for the Cooperative Garden Commission (CGC) a grassroots collective working towards food sovereignty in response to the Covid 19 pandemic. Ms. Adeeb, now retired from teaching was an educator for 37 years. She taught social studies and Career Research and Work-based Learning, a school-to-work educational program.



### Jay Bost, GoFarm Hawaii

Jay Bost got hooked on seed as a student at Prescott College and went on to spend time getting further inspired at Elixir Farm in Missouri, Seeds of Change, and Abundant Life Seed. A love of tropical agriculture led him to Hawaii, where he spent the last 10 years, training new farmers with GoFarm Hawai'i, growing seed with the Hawai'i Seed Growers Network, and organizing two Variety Showcase events with the Culinary Breeding Network. A long curiosity about breeding was encouraged by the late Dr. James Brewbaker, who pushed Jay down the maize rabbit hole. Wanting to know more, Jay recently participated in the UC-Davis Plant Breeding Academy where he learned what he thought he wanted to know and so much more. The desire for seasons, native birds, lower population density, and hopefully lower pest and disease pressure, sent Jay and family recently to Boone, North Carolina where they are in the infant stages of their new farm which will include seed.



### Alice Formiga, eOrganic

Alice Formiga is an Assistant Professor of Practice at Oregon State University. Alice is the program director of eOrganic, which publishes science-, experience-, and regulation-based



information on certified organic farming and research, and conducts outreach for organic research projects. She formerly worked for Renee's Garden Seeds and on organic vegetable farms in the U.S. and Germany.

### **Rue Genger, University of Wisconsin-Madison**

Rue Genger has worked with organic vegetable farmers in the Upper Midwest for the past 15 years. As a scientist in the University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Horticulture, Rue is part of the Seed to Kitchen Collaborative, a group of direct-market growers, plant breeders, and chefs who come together to select vegetable varieties with great flavor that are adapted to Upper Midwest growing conditions. In a previous position with the UW-Madison Department of Plant Pathology, Rue collaborated with Seed Savers Exchange to produce disease-free seed potato stock for over 80 heirloom varieties and facilitated participatory trials of these varieties through a network of organic farmers and gardeners. Their research interests include collaborative plant breeding for organic systems, seed systems for potatoes and other vegetatively propagated crops, and reduced tillage methods for climate resilient organic vegetable production.



### **Nate Kleinman, Experimental Farm Network**

Nate Kleinman is a farmer, activist, and co-founder of the Philadelphia-based non-profit Experimental Farm Network (EFN). He lives and farms in Elmer, New Jersey and Norwich, New York. After graduating from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, he worked in a range of fields — theater, politics, archaeology, union organizing, disaster relief, etc — before focusing on farming and food justice organizing. EFN, founded in 2013, 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. EFN also serves as a small-scale seed company, offering rare heirlooms, landraces, breeding populations, and perennial vegetables unavailable from commercial sources. Nate is a founding member of the Ujamaa Cooperative Farming Alliance and the Cooper-



ative Gardens Commission, and serves on the board of the Philadelphia Orchard Project, Bullock Garden Project, and Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey.

### **Rebekah Korenowsky Woods, Organic Seed Alliance**

Rebekah Korenowsky Woods joined Organic Seed Alliance as the Information & Events Coordinator in 2021. In this role, Rebekah connects people to resources and to each other through the Organic Seed Commons, biennial Organic Seed Growers Conference, and other events and programs. As a systems-thinker and problem-solver, Rebekah has previously conducted research and restoration at the land-water-human interface and stewarded collaborative community relationships for several environmental nonprofit organizations. Rebekah's education includes a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Geology from Ohio University and coursework in the Master of Environmental Studies program at The Evergreen State College. On the creative side, Rebekah is also a fiber artist who uses natural materials and home-grown or scavenged dyes to create simple, functional pieces. Rebekah lives in Port Townsend, Washington and uses she/her and they/them pronouns interchangeably.



### **Michael Lordon, Organic Seed Alliance**

Michael Lordon began working with Organic Seed Alliance in 2021, supporting the research and education program as the Midwest Research and Education Associate. He has over five years professional experience in the organic seed industry working with Nature & Nurture Seeds, helping to grow the business, the seeds, and the community. Michael has a master's degree focused on conservation ecology from the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources & Environment, a bachelor's degree in biological science from DePaul University, and is the co-author of multiple peer-reviewed articles in the field of population and community ecology. Currently, he's involved with several Midwest-based seed projects, including growing the organic seed breeding network in the region. Michael wants to create accessible spaces for learning and exchange while exploring research questions involving agroecological



data and human stories. He is committed to helping seed growers make decisions when confronted with both environmental and social dilemmas.

### **Cara Loriz, Organic Seed Alliance**

Cara Loriz is executive director of Organic Seed Alliance (OSA) and serves on the Organic Seed Commons advisory committee. She is excited to contribute to this conference and our collective efforts to advance organic seed research, education and advocacy. Her work focuses on broadening the reach of OSA and on cultivating new and lasting relationships with partners and supporters. Her interests in organic seed are rooted in a love of gardening and were nurtured during her tenure as executive director of Sylvester Manor Educational Farm, a nonprofit farm and historic site on Shelter Island, New York.



### **Cathleen McCluskey, Organic Seed Alliance**

Cathleen McCluskey has the honor of leading the Organic Seed Growers Conference Planning Committee and the Organic Seed Commons Advisory Committee, and is the outreach director for Organic Seed Alliance. She has worked on food sovereignty campaigns; helped launch a local seed library; and researches the social, biological, and economic impacts of on-farm genetic diversity. Cathleen holds an MS degree in Agroecology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and is pursuing graduate studies in environment and resources through the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



### **Petra Page-Mann, Fruition Seeds**

Growing up in her father's garden in the Finger Lakes of New York, Petra believes each seed and each of us is in the world to change the world. In 2012, she co-founded Fruition Seeds in 2012 to share the seeds, skills and inspiration growers need to be more successful in the Northeast, re-imagining a culture of curiosity and care centering seeds of resilience and justice. If she's not farming she is singing, skiing, snuggling her dogs or sharing a feast with a friend.



### **Natalia Pinzón Jiménez, Farmer Campus**

Natalia is the co-founder of Farmer Campus where she offers consulting in distance learning pedagogy and evaluation in agriculture. As a Colombian immigrant working in three continents, Natalia has seen the diversity of ways that farmers and peasants are impacted by and respond to globalization and climate change. She thus is specializing in agroecology as a means to reduce global climate risk in her Ph.D. research at UC Davis. As a biologist and science education specialist, Natalia has created three web-based learning communities, 30 online curriculum modules, and led six online certificate programs, supporting over 1,500 multicultural farmers. Natalia never turns down cocoa or a good backpacking trip.



### **Karl Sutton, Fresh Roots Farm**

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 seeds, berries and popsicles. Fresh Roots Farm is a founding member of Triple Divide Organic Seeds, whose mission is to develop plant varieties that grow well in Montana and other northern latitudes. Karl is a former cooperative business specialist, high school teacher and wilderness guide. Karl enjoys skiing and riding his fat bike as much as possible in the winter and floating rivers, paddle boarding and climbing mountains as much as the farm allows.



### **Alexis Yamashita, Ujamaa Farming Cooperative & Southern Exposure Seed Exchange**

Alexis Yamashita is a Co-Director of Ujamaa Farming Cooperative Alliance and a member of the Southern Exposure Seed Exchange management team. Her seed work is centered around supporting BIPOC communities in accessing and reclaiming culturally meaningful foods, which is nourished by her Japanese American family history.



## Opening Ceremony & Keynote Presentation by Jim Embry

Friday, February 4

7:00 – 8:45A HST / 9:00 – 10:45A PST / 10:00 – 11:45A MST / 11:00A – 12:45P CST / 12:00 – 1:45P EST

### Live Spanish and French Interpretation

We'll come together to begin our conference week with art, celebration, intention setting, an orientation to Organic Seed Commons, and a keynote address by Jim Embry who serves as the director of the Sustainable Communities Network.

### Jim Embry, Sustainable Communities Network

Jim Embry cares deeply about people, communities, justice, and the environment. As a great grandson of family who were enslaved but who cared so much for the land, Jim has embraced this legacy to create a more sustainable and equitable world and educate others about the environment. This family legacy of activism was passed down to him as a 10 year old participant in the Civil Rights Movement guided by his mother who was the president of the local chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality.



Jim has worked to connect social justice, food justice and environmental justice within other social movements for the past 50 years, participating in most of the major social justice movements of his era, including Black Power, Anti-war movements, and rights for women and the LGBTQ community. With a focus on youth Jim has organized the Youth Green Corps, Bluegrass Youth Sustainability Council, and other environmental efforts that engage young people in community sustainability projects.

Now serving as director of the Sustainable Communities Network, Jim cultivates collaborative efforts at the local, national and international levels with a focus on local sustainable food systems. He is at home at every level, whether as a five time USA delegate to Slow Food's Terra Madre in Italy, a visitor to Cuba to study organic farming, his local work in sustainable and

urban agriculture, or as steward of a 30 acre farm. Jim maintains that the local food and sustainable agriculture movement is the foundation of a sustainable community, believing that we need big ideas that connect humans in a sacred relationship with the Earth – to his words, thinking “not just out-of-the-box, but also out-of-the-barn.”

## Closing Ceremony & Keynote Presentation by Vivien Sansour

Friday, February 11

10:00A – 12:00P HST / 12:00 – 2:00P PST / 1:00 – 3:00P MST / 2:00 – 4:00P CST / 3:00 – 5:00P EST

### Live Spanish and French Interpretation

We'll gather to celebrate, reflect on the conference week and how we will bring our experiences to our daily seed work, and set intention for re-entering our daily routines. We're honored to be joined by Vivien Sansour from the Palestine Heirloom Seed Library for a closing keynote address.

### Vivien Sansour, Palestine Heirloom Seed Library

Vivien Sansour is an artist, storyteller, researcher and conservationist.



She uses image, sketch, film, soil, seeds, and plants to enliven old cultural tales in contemporary presentations and to advocate for seed conservation and the protection of agrobiodiversity as a cultural/political act. Vivien founded the Palestine Heirloom Seed Library as part of this work with local farmers, and has been showcased internationally, including at the Chicago Architecture Biennale, V&A Museum in London, Dutch Design Week in Eindhoven, and the Venice Art Biennale.

A culinary historian and enthusiastic cook, Vivien works to bring threatened varieties “back to the dinner table to become part of our living culture rather than a relic of the past”. This work has led her to collaborate with award winning chefs, including Anthony Bourdain and Sammi Tamimi. Born in Jerusalem, Vivien lives in both Bethlehem, Palestine and Los Angeles, USA. She is currently a Religion, Conflict, and Peace Initiative Fellow at Harvard University.

## Seed Swap Happy Hour

Sunday, February 6

1:00 – 2:00P HST / 3:00 – 4:00P PST / 4:00 – 5:00P MST / 5:00 – 6:00P CST / 6:00 – 7:00P EST

What's a seed conference without a seed swap? Stop on by with seeds you have to share and meet new friends. We've got music, “seed dating,” and a virtual system in place for swapping seeds via snail mail. Bring along your seeds for Show & Tell if you'd like!



## Synergy Space Meet-Ups

Various days throughout the week

Synergy Space Meet-Ups are for participants to connect with folks by region, topic, or identity. We have pre-scheduled spaces and open sign-up slots for participants to self-organize and host conversations with other conference goers.



## Conference Garb

Grab your 2022 Organic Seed Growers Conference gear featuring the 2022 logo today! We're thankful to have a community space to gather but pretty bummed to not be meeting, learning, and celebrating in person. Grab your conference tees, tanks, and sweatshirts to help brighten your screen! More styles and colors available. Proceeds from shirt sales support the event, in particular our ability to keep registration costs affordable. Artwork by the incredibly talented Carmen Kelly IG @california\_dirt.



## Trade Show & Raffle

Saturday, February 5

9:00 – 9:45A HST / 11:00 – 11:45A PST / 12:00 – 12:45P MST / 1:00 – 1:45P CST / 2:00 – 2:45P EST

Wednesday, February 9

9:00 – 9:45A HST / 11:00 – 11:45A PST / 12:00 – 12:45P MST / 1:00 – 1:45P CST / 2:00 – 2:45P EST

Meet conference sponsors and learn more about their businesses and organizations. We're also hosting an Organic Seed Commons Raffle. You will automatically be entered after you visit the Trade Show Booths and attend one live Trade Show social hour.

### Lots of prizes, lots of winners!

Acres A \$150 gift certificate to their store

FEDCO Swag, book and seed collection gift box

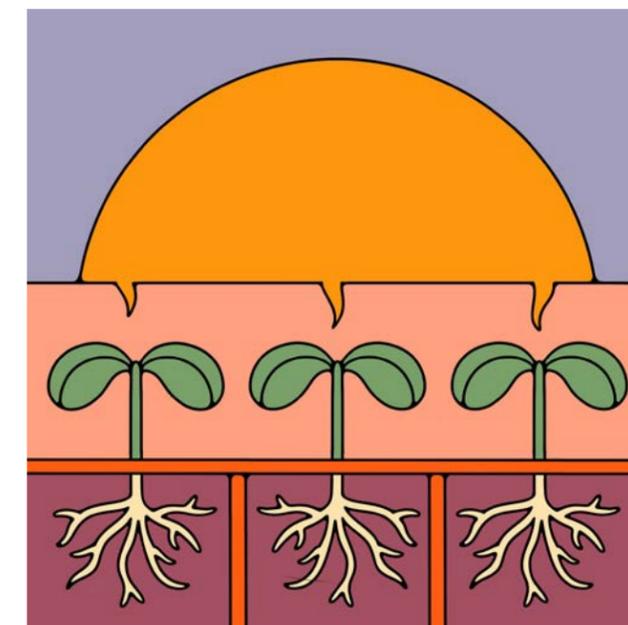
Gaia Herbs Herbaceous Gift Basket

High Mowing Organic Seeds \$75 gift certificate

Johnny's Selected Seeds Seeds, hats, knife and gift certificates

Territorial Seed \$25 gift certificates

OSA An Organic Seed Growers conference T-shirt and OSA hat



# Agenda At a Glance

Time				Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Mon	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
PST	MST	CST	EST	Feb 4	Feb 5	Feb 6	Feb 7	Feb 8	Feb 9	Feb 10	Feb 11
7:00 AM	8:00 AM	9:00 AM	10:00 AM					Synergy Space Meet Ups M	Synergy Space Meet Ups Q	Synergy Space Meet Ups S	Synergy Space Meet Ups U
8:00 AM	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	11:00 AM		Yoga	Yoga		Yoga	Yoga	Farm Tour Q&A Round	Yoga
9:00 AM	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	12:00 PM	Opening Ceremony	Welcome + Main Stage Panel	Welcome + Main Stage Panel		Concurrent Sessions D	Welcome + Main Stage Panel	Welcome + Main Stage Panel	Concurrent Sessions I
10:00 AM	11:00 AM	12:00 PM	1:00 PM								
11:00 AM	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	Poster Session Q&A Round 1	Trade Show Q&A Round 1	Lightning Talks Q&A Round 1		Synergy Space Meet Ups N	Trade Show Q&A Round 2	Synergy Space Meet Ups T	Feedback Listening Session
12:00 PM	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	Concurrent Sessions A	Concurrent Sessions B	Concurrent Sessions C		Concurrent Sessions E	Concurrent Sessions F	Concurrent Sessions H	Closing Ceremony
1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	4:00 PM								
2:00 PM	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	Synergy Space Meet Ups J	Synergy Space Meet Ups K	Synergy Space Meet Ups L		Poster Session Q&A Round 2	Concurrent Sessions G	Lightning Talks Q&A Round 2	
3:00 PM	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	Happy Hour	Seed Swap			Synergy Space Meet Ups O			Musical Performance
4:00 PM	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	7:00 PM					Synergy Space Meet Ups P	Synergy Space Meet Ups R		

## Friday, February 4 | Concurrent Sessions A

10:00 – 11:30A HST / 12:00 – 1:30 PST / 1:00 – 2:30 MST / 2:00 – 3:30 CST / 3:00 – 4:30 EST

### Next Steps for Organic Seed Production Education

*Live Spanish Interpretation*

2021 was the second season of Organic Seed Alliance's 6-month Organic Seed Production Course. This roundtable will serve as a dual purpose related to the future of the course. First, course leaders will present on the curriculum and answer questions from participants interested in taking or having their staff/interns take the course. Second, session leaders would love to hear educational priorities from aspiring or experienced seed producers, plant breeders, or others moving forward. If you could design your ideal seed course or series of courses, what would that look like?

PRESENTERS: KITT HEALY, ORGANIC SEED ALLIANCE; NATALIA PINZON, FARMER CAMPUS; ANA GALVIS, ORGANIC SEED ALLIANCE; LAURIE MCKENZIE, ORGANIC SEED ALLIANCE; JARED ZYSTRO, ORGANIC SEED ALLIANCE

### Breeding Barley for Organic Systems

Organic growers need new crops, markets, and rotation options supported by varieties that are developed specifically for organic conditions. Currently, organic barley end-uses and markets are stratified due the presence of an adhering hull and grain  $\beta$ -glucan content. This OREI-funded research is focused on breeding naked (hull-less) varieties that have potential environmental and economic benefits for organic producers. The researchers are breeding for naked barley with modest levels of  $\beta$ -glucan to create varieties suitable for brewing, feed use, and that will meet FDA guidelines for soluble fiber in human diets. Traits that have been identified as being especially important for multi-use barley grown in organic systems include resistance to smut, early plant vigor and ground cover, resistance to embryo damage, kernel hardness, and threshability. Development, assessment, and breeding of naked multi-use barley is being conducted in five regions/states using four classes of germplasm assessed under organic conditions. Agronomic, food, feed, malting, and brewing performance is being evaluated on the organic trials.

PRESENTERS: BRIGID MEINTS, OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY; CHRIS MASSMAN, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON; CRISTIANA VALLEJOS, OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY; KARL KUNZE, CORNELL UNIVERSITY

## Friday, February 4 | Concurrent Sessions A

10:00 – 11:30A HST / 12:00 – 1:30 PST / 1:00 – 2:30 MST / 2:00 – 3:30 CST / 3:00 – 4:30 EST

### Perspectives on Seed Policy

Native Seeds/SEARCH is a Tucson based non-profit dedicated to conserving the rich agro-biodiversity of the Southwest. Our collection contains approximately 1,800 arid-adapted seed varieties and represents cultural heritage from 50 regional Indigenous communities. In the past year we re-examined our stewardship and obligation to the seeds we care for. Are we doing enough? Are we listening to our stakeholders, more specifically, are we incorporating the views and perspectives of the original seed bearers, our Tribal communities? We formed a Seed Policy Committee, that includes members of Southwest Tribes, to review and discuss these questions. This work culminated in an updated Seed Policy – a guiding document for the organization on how to best steward the seeds in the collection for multiple purposes, including collections management, documentation, health concerns, relations with regional Indigenous communities, and research. This roundtable session will include an overview of this new policy.

PRESENTERS: ALEXANDRA ZAMECNIK, NATIVE SEEDS/SEARCH; ANDREA CARTER, NATIVE SEEDS/SEARCH; JACOB BUTLER, NATIVE SEEDS/SEARCH; SHERYL JOY, NATIVE SEEDS/SEARCH; TUDOR MONTAGUE, NATIVE SEEDS/SEARCH

### Black Seed Stories

Black people in the U.S. have a fraught relationship with farming. This uneasiness and anxiety is born of the deep wounds inflicted by generations of enslavement, followed by decades of white supremacist terror, economic and social marginalization, and official oppression sponsored by a succession of governments dedicated to preventing Black people from building wealth on the land. Yet throughout the centuries, enough Black folk have held fast to culture and tradition to keep alive the seeds of our ancestors. Today, new generations of Black farmers and seed keepers are reclaiming our rightful place in the American agriculture landscape, and heritage seeds are playing a vital role. This special panel will feature Black seed stewards whose personal seed stories reflect the history of Black farming in the U.S. in all its staggering complexities.

PRESENTERS: BONNETTA ADEEB, UJAMAA COOPERATIVE FARMING ALLIANCE; GORDON REED, FARMS TO GROW; MELONY EDWARDS, ORGANIC SEED ALLIANCE; MICHAEL CARTER, JR., CARTER BROTHER SEEDS & CARTER FARMS

## Saturday, February 5 | Main Stage

7:00 – 8:45A HST / 9:00 – 10:45A PST / 10:00 – 11:45A MST / 11:00A – 12:45P CST / 12:00 – 1:45P EST

### **Protecting Seed's Diversity: Maize, Mexico, and the Future of Biodiversity**

*Live Spanish Interpretation*

Each year, 91, 000 million acres of maize is grown by U.S. farmers, and about 92% is genetically modified (GM) and patented. The biological and sociological impacts of this monoculture are well documented and extend beyond the production region of the Midwest, including to its neighbors in Mexico. Understanding the impacts of GM corn in Mexico is particularly important to the future of biodiversity, given it is the center of domestication and ongoing diversification carried out by peasant farmers. This panel will focus on historical perspectives of two legal cases working to protect ancient seed practices and diversity as biocultural common goods – olotón and the Collective Corn Class Action Lawsuit.

It will include recent findings on olotón, a corn variety that biologically fixes nitrogen and the array of beneficial outcomes to save farmers' expenses on synthetic fertilizers and reduce emissions that disrupt climate. The panel will present a brief report about the "Demanda Colectiva Maíz," which has had three major victories since 2013. The Collective in the lawsuit aims to protect corn's diversity as a human right and it's fostered by corn producers, apiculturists, seed and human rights organizations, artists, and scientists versus transnationals in Mexico. Come learn about these successes and consider mechanisms for breaking up corn monoculture in the U.S. for the future of biodiversity.

PRESENTERS: ANA RUIZ DÍAZ, INDEPENDENT ADVISOR, DEMANDA COLECTIVA MAÍZ; Dr. ANTONIO TURRENT FERNÁNDEZ, MEXICO NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR FORESTRY, AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK RESEARCH; ERNESTO HERNÁNDEZ LÓPEZ, CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

## Saturday, February 5 | Concurrent Sessions B

10:00 – 11:30A HST / 12:00 – 1:30 PST / 1:00 – 2:30 MST / 2:00 – 3:30 CST / 3:00 – 4:30 EST

### **State of Organic Seed: A Five-Year Update**

State of Organic Seed (SOS) is an ongoing project that monitors organic seed systems in the U.S. Every five years, Organic Seed Alliance releases this progress report and action plan for increasing the organic seed supply while fostering seed grower networks and policies that aim to decentralize power and ownership in seed systems.

More than ever, organic seed is viewed as the foundation of organic integrity and an essential component to furthering the principles underpinning the organic movement. This session will cover key findings from the most recent report published in January 2022. Speakers will report out on findings from a number of data sets that help us understand the state of organic plant breeding, organic seed production, organic seed sourcing, and organic seed policy. Speakers will also provide a roadmap for increasing the diversity, quality, and integrity of organic seed available and leave plenty of time for questions and discussion.

PRESENTERS: KIKI HUBBARD, ORGANIC SEED ALLIANCE; JARED ZYSTRO, ORGANIC SEED ALLIANCE; LIZA WOOD, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA – DAVIS

### **Rocky Mountain Heritage Grain Trials: Grassroots Research to Identify Grains of the Past for Food Systems of the Future**

*Live Spanish Interpretation*

For the past six years, Rocky Mountain Seed Alliance (RMSA) has been working with a grassroots network of nearly 200 grain growers in diverse locations throughout the Western U.S. (and beyond) in trialing over 250 varieties of ancient and heritage cereal and alternative grains. Through grassroots trials, the 20 most adaptive and resilient varieties of wheat, barley, and rye were identified and further assessed in organic farming systems through randomized replicated block design at four research sites. Data on field performance and yields was collected, and lab analyses were conducted on grain quality and baking performance. Seed for these varieties has been scaled up through the project and offered to growers and farmers freely in the spirit of the Seed Commons. This presentation will include the voices of grassroots trialists and research partners who participated in the project.

PRESENTERS: CHRIS SALEM, GRAIN TRIALIST; DON LAREAU, ZEPHYROS FARM AND GARDEN; EMILY LOCKARD, COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY; LEE-ANN HILL, ROCKY MOUNTAIN SEED ALLIANCE; RON BOYD, RANCHO LA VILLITA FARM

### **Non-Binary Botany**

*Live Spanish Interpretation*

This roundtable will introduce ongoing work and conversations centered within non-binary botany and queer ecology. The session will begin with short video presentations of diverse scholarly, artistic, and lived-experience approaches to non-binary botany. This will be followed by a facilitated full group discussion where we reflect on the presentations and continue to constructively question the current dominant binary approach to plant classification. Our hope is for the group to share diverse approaches to non-binary

botany in ways that open up possibilities for how we talk about plant reproduction while celebrating our relationships with botany, seeds, and plants.

PRESENTERS: LUIS CAMPOS, RICE UNIVERSITY; HAWTHORN MCCrackEN, ROOTED; RIAN CIELA HAMMOND, ARTIST; CHRISTIAN KEEVE, UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY; K GREENE, HUDSON VALLEY SEED COMPANY

## Sunday, February 6 | Main Stage

7:00 – 8:45A HST / 9:00 – 10:45A PST / 10:00 – 11:45A MST / 11:00A – 12:45P CST / 12:00 – 1:45P EST

### **Race, Equity, and the Organic Movement**

*Live Spanish Interpretation*

Since its formation in the early 20th Century, the organic movement has largely focused on the day-to-day practices of farmers and food producers, aiming to advance a style of agriculture that preserves the natural world while providing healthy food, fiber, and medicine for humanity. For the most part, the organic movement has had little to say about broader societal issues beyond environmental preservation and human health. Though “Certified Organic” implies strict requirements surrounding chemical inputs and other farming logistics, it implies nothing with respect to farmworkers rights, environmental justice, or diversity, equity, and inclusion. At a time when institutions large and small are rightly questioning long-established practices as a first move toward building a more just future, shouldn’t the organic movement be doing the same? What long-established practices in organic agriculture should be changed or abandoned? Whom does the organic movement seek to serve and include among its ranks? Have we become too insular or exclusive? And what future is there for the organic movement if it fails to reach the communities that suffer most from industrial agriculture — and yet are also sometimes the most skeptical of the “USDA Certified Organic” label? This roundtable discussion aims to begin a conversation around these important questions. We hope panelists and attendees alike will approach this topic with the respect, candor, and open-mindedness it deserves.

PRESENTERS: ALEXIS YAMASHITA, UJAMAA COOPERATIVE FARMING ALLIANCE; CHANDA ROBINSON-BANKS, UJAMAA COOPERATIVE FARMING ALLIANCE; IRA WALLACE, SOUTHERN EXPOSURE SEED EXCHANGE; VIVIEN SANSOUR, PALESTINE HEIRLOOM SEED LIBRARY

## Sunday, February 6 | Concurrent Sessions C

10:00 – 11:30A HST / 12:00 – 1:30 PST / 1:00 – 2:30 MST / 2:00 – 3:30 CST / 3:00 – 4:30 EST

### **Democratizing Crop Variety Trialing Through Community Science**

This session will bring together a panel of folks involved in community/citizen science projects that engage farmers and gardeners to help screen established and in development crop varieties. By engaging with growers, project organizers are able to see varieties/lines in more environments, in larger numbers, and with fewer resources than possible otherwise. These projects also serve to engage and educate growers and gardeners. While this approach may appear to be win-win, it is not without complications. Participants will discuss joys and pains, and share practices and tools they have found effective in making such worthy projects most likely to succeed.

PRESENTERS: CHRIS SMITH, THE UTOPIAN SEED PROJECT; GLENN TEVES, UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII; JAY BOST, GOFARM HAWAII; KRISTYN LEACH, NAMU FARMS; LANE SELMAN, CULINARY BREEDING NETWORK; MARIELLE HAMPTON, UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII; NICOLAS ENJALBERT, SEED LINKED; STEFFEN MIRSKY, SEED SAVERS EXCHANGE; TYLER LEVINE, HAWAII SEED GROWERS NETWORK

### **Perspectives on Organic Vegetable Legumes: Current Status and Breeding for the Future**

With this panel we aim to highlight current work in breeding organic vegetable legumes and initiate a discussion about current and future varietal needs, while also tying the conversation to a larger stakeholder needs assessment. In past needs assessments, crops such as snap beans and garden peas have received only minor attention, being combined with the field crop forms of these species. Traits of importance for organic production are potentially different between field and vegetable crops. For example, there is a trend in conventional breeding, for snap beans (but not dry beans) to have lost the ability to fix nitrogen. This may have arisen because snap beans are a short season crop that is fertilized heavily, thereby relaxing selection for effective symbioses. The challenge for organic breeding is to develop cultivars with the ability to form rapid and responsive symbioses. In addition, these crops are important for both fresh market use and processing, with the latter a growing industry, but this usage has not been explored in past needs assessments. While snap beans and garden peas will be the core focus, this panel discussion could include other vegetable legume species such as lima bean, blackeye peas and asparagus bean, etc.

PRESENTERS: HAYLEY PARK, OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY; JIM MYERS, OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY; LINDA FENSTERMAKER, OSBORNE SEED; MICHAEL MAZOUREK, CORNELL UNIVERSITY; REBECCA MCGEE, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## Sunday, February 6 | Concurrent Sessions C

10:00 – 11:30A HST / 12:00 – 1:30 PST / 1:00 – 2:30 MST / 2:00 – 3:30 CST / 3:00 – 4:30 EST

### Addressing Seed Grower Concerns with Organic Certification

*Live Spanish Interpretation*

Many organic seed growers and seed suppliers have voiced frustration with their organic certification process and feel that the current system serves as a barrier to more seed producers becoming certified and may in fact lead to some seed producers dropping their certification. Based on Organic Seed Alliance's State of Organic Seed data, there is a clear need for organic policy makers and certifiers to hear directly from organic seed growers about their experiences and the burdens they face with the certification process. This roundtable discussion will allow for an open and honest dialogue that helps these different stakeholder groups understand the challenges on all sides – from policy making to enforcement to certification – and identify next steps toward solutions that provide clarity, ease burdens, and support further growth in the organic seed sector.

PRESENTERS: BETH ROTA, QUALITY CERTIFICATION SERVICES (QCS); DON TIPPING, SISKIYOU SEEDS; MARNI KARLIN, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE; LAURIE MCKENZIE, ORGANIC SEED ALLIANCE; MARGARET SCOLES, INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ORGANIC INSPECTORS; KYLA SMITH, PENNSYLVANIA CERTIFIED ORGANIC

### Labor in the Organic Seed Movement

*Live Spanish Interpretation*

The organic/regional seed movement has initiated a challenge to corporatized and globalized seed systems. But in what ways do global and corporate paradigms still shape and limit what we are doing, especially in terms of labor? Unless you have a stable job with a larger alternative seed company or organization, it is often a struggle to make a living in seed production or seed research, or to have reliable access to farmland. This in turn limits the pool of new seed farmers and workers, and the potential of our movement. We will touch on strategies seed workers are currently using to make ends meet, including starting new retail seed companies and growers cooperatives, and using grant funding. Much of the session will be spent envisioning changes we as a movement might make to better sustain seed workers and to make the work accessible to more people. Some questions we'll be asking include: 1) How can we better name and navigate the reality of competition with a poorly paid global labor market?, 2) How can we organize as seed workers to advocate for our needs? We'll consider models from existing farmer and farmworker organizing and advocacy groups, and consider

particular needs and complications for organic seed workers, e.g. doing retail sales, research, and plant breeding as well as contract growing, and also growing and selling food crops., and 3) How and to what extent can communicating to seed purchasers the value of sustainable and fair compensation for seed workers help?

PRESENTERS: CLINT FREUND, CULTIVATING THE COMMONS; EDMUND FROST, COMMON WEALTH SEED GROWERS; GARRETT GRADDY-LOVELACE, AMERICAN UNIVERSITY; KATHIA RAMIREZ, EL COMITE DEL APOYO POR LOS TRABAJADORES AGRICOLAS / FARMWORKER SUPPORT COMMITTEE (CATA); REILEY NEY, SNAKE RIVER SEED COOP

## Tuesday, February 8 | Concurrent Sessions D

7:00 – 8:45A HST / 9:00 – 10:45A PST / 10:00 – 11:45A MST / 11:00A – 12:45P CST / 12:00 – 1:45P EST

### Small- to Medium-Scale Seed Cleaning Equipment: How to Make the Best of What You Have and Know What You Need

Knowing which pieces of equipment will be most useful, scale appropriate, affordable, and provide the most return on your time and investment can be challenging. This session will include information on a range of seed cleaning equipment options including DIY and repurposed, must-have and favorite machines, and shared equipment options. Join a panel of farmers to hear directly from them what pieces of equipment they use, recommend, and dream about for their seed crops.

PRESENTERS: BETH RASGORSHEK, CANYON BOUNTY FARM; DAVID CATZEL, FARMFOLK CITY-FOLK; LOUISA BROUWER, FERRY BOAT SEEDS; ANAKA MINES, TWISP RIVER SEED; MARK LUTERRA, LUTERRA ENTERPRISES LLC

## Tuesday, February 8 | Concurrent Sessions D

7:00 – 8:45A HST / 9:00 – 10:45A PST / 10:00 – 11:45A MST / 11:00A – 12:45P CST / 12:00 – 1:45P EST

### The Power of Seed Names: Can We Do Better?

Seed names can be a beautiful connection to identity, culture, worldview, and history. Varietal names can often indicate a seed's origin, stewardship history, and phenotypic characteristics, yet many seeds have names that are derogatory in nature or simply incorrect. How do we as an organic seed community honor seeds, their stewardship history, and where they have come from while addressing seed names that may need to change? Deep work and real change begins when we ask difficult questions, show up wholeheartedly, and deal in nuance and paradox, all while remaining accountable to one another and to the seeds we steward. Join your fellow seed keepers, breeders, researchers, educators, farmers, and impacted community members in interrogating default perspectives, worldviews, and the challenges of seed names. Please bring your curiosity and thoughtfulness as we form a community workgroup to approach this complex topic from multiple perspectives and with intentional care.

PRESENTERS: HERON BREEN, INDEPENDENT SEED WORKER WITHIN COMMERCIAL AND COMMUNITY SEED, SEED SAVING, PLANT BREEDING, AND RETAIL/HOME GARDEN SEED BUSINESS; SHELLEY BUFFALO, MESKWAKI SEEDKEEPER AND AMERICORPS VISTA FOR SUSTAINABLE IOWA LAND TRUST; CRAIG LEHOULLIER, PHD, SEED SAVERS EXCHANGE ADVISOR, AUTHOR, AND AMATEUR BREEDER; KELLE MATSUSHITA-TSENG, SECOND GENERATION SEED COLLECTIVE MEMBER/EDUCATOR AND FARMER AT THE CENTER FOR AGROECOLOGY, UC SANTA CRUZ; MEHMET ÖZTAN, TURKISH SEED SAVER/KEEPER, FARMER, CO-OWNER OF TWO SEEDS IN A POD HEIRLOOM SEED COMPANY, AND PART-TIME SERVICE FACULTY AT WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY; SARA STRAATE, SEED SAVERS EXCHANGE SEED HISTORIAN; SECONDARY MODERATOR AND NOTETAKER SUSANA CABRERA-MARIZ, MASTERS CANDIDATE, IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY; AND MODERATOR, JEANINE SCHEFFERT, SEED SAVERS EXCHANGE EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT MANAGER.

### Seed is Liberation

*Live Spanish, French, and English Interpretation*

In order to reclaim our rights and agency lost to corporate consolidation, we all need to be invested in the movement to reclaim seed. That movement currently hinges on its capacity to confront policies and treaties that marginalize and criminalize seed saving around the world. Chief among them is the Union for the Protection of New Plant Varieties (UPOV), a treaty responsible for stripping seeds from the hands of farmers and turning over control to corporate breeders. Confronting UPOV legally has proved extraordinarily difficult, given the ways in which it's embedded within powerful insti-

tutions like the World Trade Organization (WTO). Ultimately, returning seeds to their rightful place – within communities – will require a mass movement. To catalyze that movement, we need to tell a new story about seed – one that recognizes the power in community autonomy through seed sovereignty, and that understands the corporate control of biodiversity as part of a long history of extraction from the Global South. This panel is an opportunity to share the ways in which our collective struggles, hopes, and liberation, are connected through seed and through resistance to UPOV.

PRESENTERS: EDWIN BAFFOUR, FOOD SOVEREIGNTY GHANA; FRANCES DAVIES, ZAMBIA ALLIANCE FOR AGROECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY (ZAAB); JUSTIN SARDO, A GROWING CULTURE; RAMÓN VERA HERRERA, GRAIN

## Tuesday, February 8 | Concurrent Sessions E

10:00 – 11:30A HST / 12:00 – 1:30 PST / 1:00 – 2:30 MST / 2:00 – 3:30 CST / 3:00 – 4:30 EST

### Seed Endophytes, Rhizophagy, Nutrient Density, Nitrogen Efficiency and Fixation in Corn

Breeding corn for 50 seasons for organic/biodynamic conditions by the Mandaamin Institute has led to plants that partner with seed borne endophytes. These endophytes cause rhizophagy, which helps the plants to obtain nutrients from the soil and lead to grain enriched in minerals and essential amino acids. Trials showed that some nitrogen fixing hybrids from the program respond negatively to direct manuring but positively to systems that build soil organic matter. Conventional corn does not appear to have these relationships. However, given the right parentage, environments, and selection, corn can generate such partnerships. Basic research at Rutgers University shows how rhizophagy works, where plants foster endophytes, and the biochemical dialogue associated with supplying plants with nitrogen. The overall results indicate paradigm shifts are needed in how breeders view and work with crops and how farmers fertilize soil and crops.

PRESENTERS: WALTER GOLDSTEIN, MANDAAMIN INSTITUTE

### UPOV and the Criminalization of Seed

*Live Spanish, French, and English Interpretation*

The Union for the Protection of New Plant Varieties (UPOV) is a symbol of corporate efforts to consolidate control of seed saving around the world. Understanding UPOV begins with the history of legal rights to seeds – from seed as collective commons to

seed as privatized commodity through intellectual property rights (IPR). This panel will explore the different forms of seed IPR, from patents to plant variety protection, and how UPOV blurs the line between the two. It will cover UPOV's evolution from UPOV 61 to UPOV 78 to UPOV 91, and how each iteration has steadily eroded farmers' right to seed. It will delve into UPOV's enforcement through the World Trade Organization (WTO) and Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), and its dire implications for communities around the world. Panelists will provide insight into some of the legal struggles against UPOV that communities have mounted in order to maintain sovereignty over their biodiversity. By understanding where those movements have succeeded and where they've faltered, we can chart a path towards a more just seed future.

PRESENTERS: INDRA SHEKHAR SINGH, INDEPENDENT AGRI-POLICY ANALYST; JUSTIN SARDO, A GROWING CULTURE; SILVIA RODRIGUEZ, COSTA RICA'S BIODIVERSITY COORDINATION NETWORK

## Discovering, Connecting, and Inspiring a Southeast Seed Network

The Southeast has historically been underrepresented in the organic seed movement, with most organic and alternative seed companies, and organizing efforts located in the North and West. This session aims to create an open space for sharing, connecting, and discovering existing seed work in the Southeast with the hope of inspiring more research, plant breeding, and seed networking in the region. Chris Smith and Melissa DeSa will begin the roundtable with a brief introduction to the emerging Southeast Seed Network and summarize the key focus areas of need. Edmund Frost, Ira Wallace, Michael Carter, Jr., and Meghan Allen will each share about their Southeast seed work before opening the floor for the main event: YOU! The bulk of this session is devoted to audience members sharing their own work or projects with the aim of inspiring and connecting people. We'll also share two tools: 1) The Southeast Regional Seed Network Synergy Space and 2) The SESEED.org website, which will begin by profiling and mapping seed work in the Southeast as an open resource for connection, community, and collaboration.

PRESENTERS: EDMUND FROST, COMMON WEALTH SEED GROWERS; CHRIS SMITH, THE UTOPIAN SEED PROJECT; IRA WALLACE, SOUTHERN EXPOSURE SEED EXCHANGE, UJAMAA COOPERATIVE FARMING ALLIANCE; MEGAN ALLEN, CARE OF THE EARTH COMMUNITY FARM; MELISSA DESA, WORKING FOOD; MICHAEL CARTER, JR., CARTER BROTHER SEEDS & CARTER FARMS

## Wednesday, February 9 | Main Stage

7:00 – 8:45A HST / 9:00 – 10:45A PST / 10:00 – 11:45A MST / 11:00A – 12:45P CST / 12:00 – 1:45P EST

### The Heirloom Collard Project: A Model for Collaborative Seed Work

*Live Spanish and French Interpretation*

The Heirloom Collard Project aims to build a coalition of seed stewards, gardeners, farmers, chefs, and seed companies working to preserve heirloom collards and their culinary heritage. This panel discussion will showcase the evolution of The Heirloom Collard Project as a learning case study for inter-organizational collaborations that can sustain themselves over time. This project has shown the strength of collaboration in many ways, but has also overcome challenges that come from working together. The result is a project that is greater than the sum of its parts, and we're proud to share some of that journey and the lessons learned along the way. What does it take to create a community? Why is collaboration important? What are the challenges and rewards of working together towards a common goal? Join this panel of collard loving community seed activists and leaders to discuss the project and be inspired to start your own.

PRESENTERS: BONNETTA ADEEB, UJAMAA COOPERATIVE FARMING ALLIANCE; CHRIS SMITH, THE UTOPIAN SEED PROJECT; IRA WALLACE, SOUTHERN EXPOSURE SEED EXCHANGE, UJAMAA COOPERATIVE FARMING ALLIANCE; MELISSA DESA, WORKING FOOD

## Wednesday, February 9 | Concurrent Sessions F

10:00 – 11:30A HST / 12:00 – 1:30 PST / 1:00 – 2:30 MST / 2:00 – 3:30 CST / 3:00 – 4:30 EST

### Building Your Seed Brand: Cultivating the World We Dream of While Growing a Sustainable Business

How do we cultivate the business and world we dream of? Often a daunting task for small-scale seed producers and seed companies, brand development and marketing is so much more than font choice, tech tools, and advertising. You'll hear both successes and lessons hard-learned from farmers in marketing along with strategies to help you develop your story, skills, and cultural imagination. Bring your questions and an open mind!

PRESENTERS: DAN BRISEBOIS, FERME COOPÉRATIVE TOURNE-SOL; ERICA KEMPTER, NATURE & NURTURE SEEDS; MIKE LEVINE, NATURE & NURTURE SEEDS; PETRA PAGE-MANN, FRUITION SEEDS

## Wednesday, February 9 | Concurrent Sessions F

10:00 – 11:30A HST / 12:00 – 1:30 PST / 1:00 – 2:30 MST / 2:00 – 3:30 CST / 3:00 – 4:30 EST

### **Student Collaborative Organic Plant Breeding Education: Cultivating New Varieties and Future Plant Breeders**

We will discuss results from the Student Collaborative Organic Plant Breeding Education (SCOPE) project, a participatory, student-led breeding program at University of California – Davis for zinnias, tomatoes, beans, peppers, and wheat in California. Luis Salazar, Will Hazzard, Danyelle Forte will share the goals of their projects (tomatoes, zinnias, and wheat, respectively), results from the 2021 field season, and protocols and results from experiments to assess the quality of breeding lines, such as zinnia vase life tests, wheat baking tests, and tomato taste tests. Laura Roser and/or Antonia Palkovic will discuss the upcoming release of 3 pepper varieties from the project, and how farmers and seed companies can collaborate with our projects. The pepper varieties that will be released include a yellow sunscald-resistant bell pepper, a jalapeño with a larger cavity for stuffing for jalapeño poppers, and a large, spicy jalapeño for stuffing and frying.

PRESENTERS: ANTONIA PALKOVIC, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA-DAVIS; DANYELLE FORTE, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA-DAVIS; JAMES WEEKS, CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY-POMONA; LAURA ROSER, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA-DAVIS; LUIS SALAZAR, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA-DAVIS; TRAVIS PARKER, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA-DAVIS; WILL HAZZARD, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA-DAVIS

### **Lessons for the Organic Seed Movement from International Perspectives**

*Live Spanish and French Interpretation*

The use and perpetuation of agrobiodiversity is a supposed explicit goal in organic farming systems under the USDA's National Organic Program. Market forces often create a tension between production/commodity traits and non-commodity traits, including cultural meaning/importance. In this panel, we will bring together four researchers with extensive experience working internationally with growers, who for various reasons, have the perpetuation and utilization of crop genetic diversity as part of their livelihood and economic strategies, and are navigating the tensions between engaging in market orientation and preserving traditional varieties and/or maintaining dynamic crop evolution in their fields. These researchers will reflect upon lessons that the organic seed movement in North America can learn from seed systems that they have studied outside of the North American context – providing inspiration and fresh ideas that attendees can consider for their own farms, for seed conservation projects, and for commercial seed production.

PRESENTERS: ABENA OFFEH-GYIMAH, LIVING THE ANCESTRAL WAY; DANIEL TOBIN, THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT; MARIANNA FENZI, SWISS FEDERAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY LAUSANNE; JAY BOST, GOFARM HAWAII; MAURICIO BELLON, ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

### **Bees As Seeds: The Importance of Place, Power, & Purpose in Seed Production and Pollination Conservation**

Over the river and through the woods, seeds' stories are passed down from one generation onto the next. Many of these genetic stories are part of a cyclical choreography between flowers and pollinators. Just as importantly as nurturing naturally resilient and adaptive seeds, so it is for nurturing naturally resilient pollinators. The Bees as Seeds Experience is a story within a story, reflecting our fascination of plant seeds with those of bees, whose own stories manifest season after season and which are also passed down from one generation onto the next. The passage of time coupled with landscape and elemental influences help to sculpt these stories for both plant seeds and pollinators. This presentation will share an overview of the diversity of pollinators with a focus on the often exploited poster child of pollinators, the small but mighty honey bee. Also included in this presentation is an introduction to the Institute of American Indian Arts' ancestral seed projects and pollinator programs in recognition of the importance of place, power (responsibility), and purpose as forms of reciprocity nurturing stories for our descendants who also serve as future ancestors. For within itself, every seed has a story, formed over millennia- with the power to nurture and adapt; and the magnificence to create life, food, and medicine for the world.

PRESENTERS: MELANIE KIRBY, INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN INDIAN ARTS EXTENSION; TERESA QUINTANA, INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN INDIAN ARTS EXTENSION; PAUL QUINTANA, INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN INDIAN ARTS EXTENSION

## Wednesday, February 9 | Concurrent Sessions G

12:00 – 1:30P HST / 2:00 – 3:30P PST / 3:00 – 4:30P MST / 4:00 – 5:30P CST / 5:00 – 6:30P EST

### **A Seed Policy Roadmap for the Pacific Northwest**

We will discuss results from the Student Collaborative Organic Plant Breeding Education (SCOPE) project, a participatory, student-led breeding program at University of California – Davis for zinnias, tomatoes, beans, peppers, and wheat in California. Luis Salazar, Will Hazzard, Danyelle Forte will share the goals of their projects (tomatoes, zinnias, and wheat, respectively), results from the 2021 field season, and protocols and results from experiments to assess the quality of breeding lines, such as zinnia vase life

tests, wheat baking tests, and tomato taste tests. Laura Roser and/or Antonia Palkovic will discuss the upcoming release of 3 pepper varieties from the project, and how farmers and seed companies can collaborate with our projects. The pepper varieties that will be released include a yellow sunscald-resistant bell pepper, a jalapeño with a larger cavity for stuffing for jalapeño poppers, and a large, spicy jalapeño for stuffing and frying.

PRESENTERS: AMY WONG, OREGON ORGANIC COALITION; KIKI HUBBARD, ORGANIC SEED ALLIANCE; MELISSA SPEAR, TILTH ALLIANCE; LAURA LEWIS WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY FOOD SYSTEMS

## **Assessing the Resilience of the Organic Seed System: A Network Perspective**

The organic seed system involves a complex network of organic seed stakeholders, yet we have a limited understanding of the system's 'resilience.' This research asks: 1) How do seed stakeholders define a resilient seed system? and 2) How does the organic seed network reflect these definitions? To answer these questions stakeholders were surveyed for the 2021 State of Organic Seed report. In their definitions of a resilient seed system stakeholders emphasize regional cooperation for managing genetic diversity, access to information, and efficient supply chains. These definitions match scholarly theory: resilient networks should balance cooperation for maintaining diversity across multiple hubs, with centralized coordination for efficient resource flows. Preliminary analysis of organic seed network mapping suggests that cooperation is strong, especially for information sharing. However, centralized coordination is low, especially for supply chains, signaling potential inefficiencies. This presentation will open discussion about strategies for improving resilience of the organic seed network.

PRESENTERS: LIZA WOOD, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA - DAVIS

## **Running a Small Online Seed Company: From Growing to Managing Inventory to Packing to Shipping**

Dan Brisebois of Ferme Coopérative Tourne-Sol in Les Cèdres, Quebec and Reiley Ney of Snake River Seed Cooperative in Boise, Idaho will give an inside look into how their small seed companies operate. The two will discuss similarities and differences between their business models and operations. The session will include presentations on growing and crop assignments, inventory management, online store management, and order fulfillment. They'll discuss the challenges they have faced in running a small seed company and give real-life examples of solutions to those issues. Bring your questions about how to run a small online seed company for an interactive Q&A that will also include the session's moderator, Nathan Kleinman from Experimental Farm Network in New Jersey.

PRESENTERS: DANIEL BRISEBOIS, FERME COOPÉRATIVE TOURNE-SOL; REILEY NEY, SNAKE RIVER SEED COOP

## **Thursday, February 10 | Main Stage**

7:00 – 8:45A HST / 9:00 – 10:45A PST / 10:00 – 11:45A MST / 11:00A – 12:45P CST / 12:00 – 1:45P EST

### **Seed Production for Market Growers**

As demand for organic seed continues to outpace supply, many market vegetable and flower growers are increasingly interested in growing seed for their own use, seed contracts, or retail sales. This panel explores best practices and creative ideas for integrating seed crops into market vegetable farms, or running parallel seed and vegetable operations.

PRESENTERS: NATHANIEL TALBOT, DEEP HARVEST FARM; ANNIE JESPERSON, DEEP HARVEST FARM; CRYSTAL STEWART-COURTENS, CORNELL UNIVERSITY; ERIC KAMPE, ANN ARBOR SEED COMPANY; ADRIANNA MORENO, EMPOWERED FLOWERS; NATHANIEL THOMPSON, REMEMBRANCE FARM

## **Thursday, February 10 | Concurrent Sessions H**

10:00 – 11:30A HST / 12:00 – 1:30 PST / 1:00 – 2:30 MST / 2:00 – 3:30 CST / 3:00 – 4:30 EST

### **Systems Based Research Networks**

Based on our network efforts exploring constraints on seed quality in the organic seed sector using corn (maize) as a focal point, we note many valuable outcomes that organic systems promise to deliver can be associated with traits used for selection. Development of these traits may help organic agriculture retain and expand its credibility which is increasingly challenged due to fraud. High costs and significant structural and technical challenges associated with hybrid organic maize seed production limit investment into this sector. The panel discussion will ask: can the organic sector successfully operationalize its core values-based principles including ecological integrity, health, fairness, and care through participatory research and breeding networks? Can and should organic certification move beyond GMOs as a proxy for purity? By asking folks to answer compelling questions we can begin to refine our ideas about how to best design and deploy seed-soil-societal-systems (S4) research.

PRESENTERS: BENJAMIN SCHRAGER, UTSUNOMIYA UNIVERSITY; CARMEN UGARTE, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN; EDITH LAMMERTS VAN BUEREN, WAGEN-

INGEN UNIVERSITY; MARTIN BOHN, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS – URBANA-CHAMPAIGN; MICHELLE WANDER, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS – URBANA-CHAMPAIGN; SARA NAWAZ, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA; SUSANNA KLASSEN, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## Thursday, February 10 | Concurrent Sessions H

10:00 – 11:30A HST / 12:00 – 1:30 PST / 1:00 – 2:30 MST / 2:00 – 3:30 CST / 3:00 – 4:30 EST

### Learnings From Participatory Grower Networks

*Live Spanish Interpretation*

For farms to find resiliency, both well adapted crop varieties and a strong community are essential. Participatory plant breeding and variety trialing networks aim to build capacity for on-farm variety development while also building human connections. This roundtable aims to generate conversation among farmers and researchers who want to share lessons learned, successes, and places for growth. Discussion will center around questions like: 1) What mix of virtual and in-person interaction does your network have? How has this changed with the pandemic?, 2) How have grower-to-grower connections from your network affected your plant breeding or variety trial experiences?, 3) What makes a technological tool (app, communication platform, etc.) helpful, neutral, or detrimental to your network’s communication?, 4) What kinds of knowledge do you feel are valued in participatory breeding or trialing networks? What kinds of knowledge get lost?, 5) Has being in a participatory breeding or trialing network changed your relationship with seed?, 6) Tell a success story., 7) Tell a learning story, or a story of an unfinished effort., 8) How would you respond to the statement, “Being part of a grower network is of equal or greater value than the materials that come out of it”?, 9) How does scale impact participatory breeding and trialing networks? How do you decide the geographical and logistical limits of a network?

PRESENTERS: JULIE DAWSON, SEED TO KITCHEN COLLABORATIVE, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN – MADISON; HELEN JENSEN, BAUTA FAMILY INITIATIVE ON CANADIAN SEED SECURITY; IAIN STOROSKO, CARLETON UNIVERSITY; CHRIS KEEVE, UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY; SOLVEIG HANSON, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA – CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

## Thursday, February 10 | Concurrent Sessions H

10:00 – 11:30A HST / 12:00 – 1:30 PST / 1:00 – 2:30 MST / 2:00 – 3:30 CST / 3:00 – 4:30 EST

### Understanding Seed IPR (Intellectual Property Rights)

This session will introduce participants to the various intellectual property rights (IPR) tools and strategies used in seed systems, beginning with a quick overview of these strategies and their history of use. Participants will also learn about different resources and projects that have been developed as part of OSA’s Seed Patent Watch project, including an “IPR Toolkit for Seed Growers and Breeders.” Participants will get a sneak peak of this resource and have a chance to weigh in on the project before it is finalized to ensure that it serves a diversity of seed communities once published. Participants will also learn what a utility patent is, how they can be identified in the U.S. Patent and Trademark System, and how they can be challenged. Finally, a patent librarian from UMass has been invited to give an overview of what patent librarians stationed across the country do as part of their job and what they can provide in the way of services to seed communities.

PAULINA JENNEY, UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA; WILL GALLAGHER, UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND; PAULINA BORREGO, MASS AGGIE SEED LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST; DANIELA SOLERI, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA – SANTA BARBARA; KIKI HUBBARD, ORGANIC SEED ALLIANCE

### Impacts of Agricultural Education through Participatory Seed Trials within Community-Based Food Systems at The Evergreen State College

This roundtable features stories of agricultural education, specifically National Organic Vegetable Improvement Collaborative (NOVIC) field trials, Culinary Breeding Network (CBN), and Seed to Kitchen Collaborative activities, and students’ seeding of community-based food systems at The Evergreen State College. The student whose capstone project demonstrates the agricultural education it was designed to study, will ask: “How often do we consider what food truly means to us? How has the relationship between food and humans shaped the evolution of multiple species and the earth itself?”. In what ways has the lack of agricultural education resulted in a world “where the vast majority of people can no longer recognize the products they consume in relation to the constituents of which they are made?” Authors’ voices will echo through student panelists, including those of America’s enslaved agriculturists to whom Leah Penniman dedicates *Farming While Black*: “our ancestral grandmothers ... braided seeds in their hair before being forced to board transatlantic slave ships,

believing against the odds in a future of sovereignty on land.” It is seeds that provide students a future to believe in against the odds. From NOVIC vegetable trials to CBN’s virtual farm tours to seeding Evergreen’s shellfish garden to seeding local economies with community-based agricultural cooperatives, this roundtable of students’ stories of liberatory agricultural education are offered as “letters from young farmers” to the professional organic seed growers’ community.

ADAM SMITH, THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE; AMELIA PRESSMAN, THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE; BEN BOURQUE, THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE; CALEB POPPE, THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE; CARLI FOX, THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE; CASEY CHERTOK, THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE; EMILY DUNN-WILDER, THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE; HENRY GERIO, THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE; MARTHA ROSEMEYER, THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE; SARAH DYER, THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE; SARAH WILLIAMS, THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE; SUSAN HOLCROFT, THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE; ZOE DEWITT, THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE

## Friday, February 11 | Concurrent Sessions I

7:00 – 8:45A HST / 9:00 – 10:45A PST / 10:00 – 11:45A MST / 11:00A – 12:45P CST / 12:00 – 1:45P EST

### **From Seeds to Territories: A Transatlantic Conversation**

*Live Spanish and English Interpretation*

Building resilient territorial seed systems involves a multitude of actors, including breeders, seed companies, and farmers. Local governments, non-profit organizations, and regional networks also play a critical role to support participatory on-farm research. One of the underlying goals of participatory research is to promote the work of early adopters to other farmers, and to increase the circulation of germplasm with interesting potential into farmers’ hands. On-farm research is critical for the organic seed sector. However, once a farmer-bred cultivar is selected, regional networks can struggle with coordinating new supply chains to bring more organic, diverse seed onto the plates of consumers. While this roundtable is dedicated to highlighting the work on the ground, regional networks will discuss challenges, whether they are institutional, financial, or market lock-ins, and their overall capacity to organize and leverage collective action across a territory. What funding options are available for the initial phase of on-farm participatory seed research and market development? Once this is completed, how are regional networks able to supply farmers with high quality seed? How are these farms, in turn, accessing a wider consumer base? What can we learn from these experiences to increase the reach of diverse territorial seed systems in Europe and North America? This roundtable has a transatlantic scope, and will bring experiences from Belgium, Italy, France, Spain, and Quebec.

PRESENTERS: MARIA CARRASCOSA, LA RED DE CIUDADES POR LA AGROECOLOGÍA / RED DE SEMILLAS; RICCARDO BOCCI, RETE SEMI RURALI; CORENTIN HECQUET, RÉSEAU POUR LES SEMENCES PAYSANNES ET CITOYENNES; HUGO MARTORELL, SEEDCHANGE | SÈME L’AVENIR; MARIE-CLAUDE COMEAU, RADICLE FARM

### **Global Seed Justice: What Open-Source Offers**

The Global Coalition of Open-Source Seed Initiatives (gossi.net) is an international network that envisions a world in which agricultural seeds are free to be used, saved, shared, and bred by anyone. Our members are developing or promoting open-source strategies to protect seeds as commons. Members of the network will present different aspects and cases from their work. The panel will be introduced and facilitated by Dr. Shalini Bhutani, a policy analyst from India. The following contributions for the panel are envisaged: 1) Open source and Farmers’ Rights – the case of Kenya, 2) Seeds as commons and participatory plant breeding in the Philippines, 3) Linking stakeholder capabilities to strengthen seeds as commons in Argentina, 4) Enabling Biodiversity by financing open- source plant breeding in Europe.

PRESENTERS: SHALINI BHUTANI, GLOBAL COALITION OF OPEN-SOURCE SEED INITIATIVES; DANIEL WANJAMA, SEED SAVERS NETWORK; GEORIE PITONG, MASIPAG; JOHANNES KOTSCHI, AGRECOL; PATRICK VAN ZWANENBERG, UNIVERSITY OF BUENOS AIRES

### **Seed Growers Speak Out About Climate Change**

Across the U.S. and globe, seed growers are getting hit hard by unpredictable and more severe weather events and environmental conditions due to climate change. This roundtable discussion will include several seed growers based in the U.S. who have important stories to share about the severe impacts they’ve experienced on account of changing climates. The roundtable discussion will also include a policy expert who will share opportunities for seed communities to take action to influence climate change policy.

PRESENTERS: SORREN, OPEN CIRCLE SEEDS; MAUD POWELL, WOLF GULCH FARM / OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY; CATHY DAY, NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE COALITION; KARL SUTTON, FRESH ROOTS FARM

## Friday, February 11 | Concurrent Sessions I

7:00 – 8:45A HST / 9:00 – 10:45A PST / 10:00 – 11:45A MST / 11:00A – 12:45P CST / 12:00 – 1:45P EST

### Towards an Equitable Seed System: Resource Access and Barriers Across the Northeast Seed System

Alternative seed systems to the highly consolidated seed industry are an important source for organic, culturally meaningful, and/or open-pollinated planting material. Alternative seed systems are comprised of both formal (i.e., organic seed companies, university plant breeders, etc.) and informal (i.e., farmer- and community-managed) sectors. However, concern exists that the benefits of alternative seed systems are not equally accessible to all individuals, especially marginalized populations. This research aims to characterize who participates in alternative seed systems and the opportunities and challenges they confront. We focus on the Northeastern U.S., where racially and ethnically diverse residents are highly involved in seed activities. Relying on qualitative data from the 2021 Northeast Organic Seed Growers Conference and data from a follow-up survey, we 1) identify the resources and barriers that exist, 2) evaluate how these resources and barriers are distributed across diverse seed workers, and 3) determine if and how their seed-related interests and values are oriented towards equity and justice. Preliminary findings indicate that those who primarily operate in the formal seed sector have more access to essential resources for seed work than those primarily engaged in the informal sector. Our results also indicate that people of color, who predominantly engage the informal sector, confront particular challenges accessing resources to pursue seed work aligned with their values and goals. While inequities persist across the Northeastern seed system, interest also exists in addressing these issues, with a potential focus on resource redistribution, seed rematriation, and action-oriented research collaborations with marginalized seed workers.

PRESENTERS: MEGNOT MULUGETA, UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT



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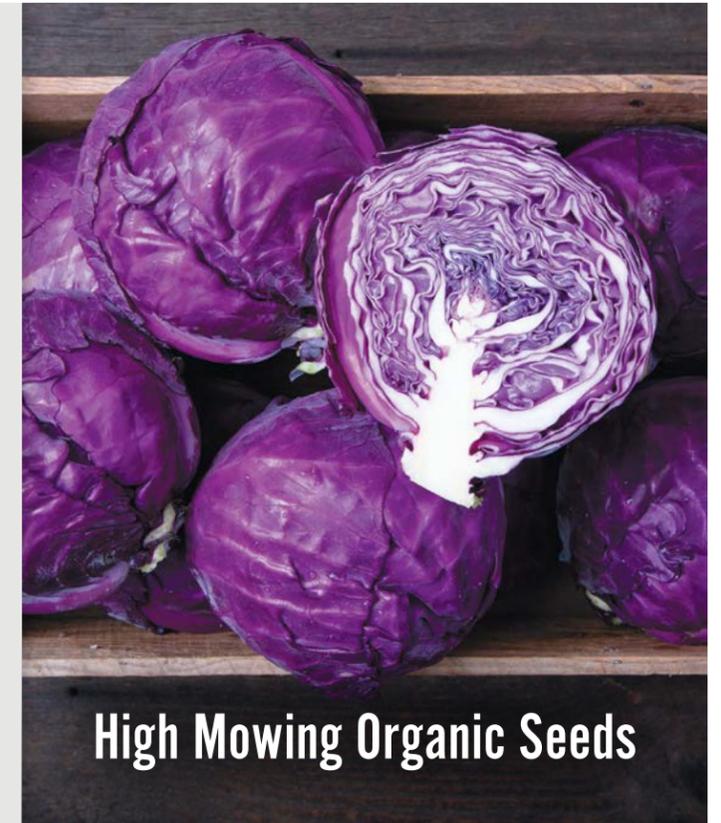
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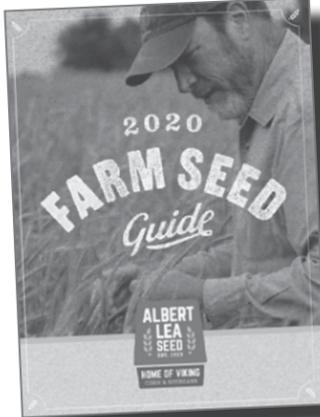
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## Virtual Research Poster Session

Friday, February 4

9:00 – 9:45A HST / 11:00 – 11:45A PST / 12:00 – 12:45P MST / 1:00 – 1:45P CST / 2:00 – 2:45P EST

Tuesday, February 8

12:00 – 12:45P HST / 2:00 – 2:45P PST / 3:00 – 3:45P MST / 4:00 – 4:45P CST / 5:00 – 5:45P EST

Virtual Research Poster presentation recordings will be available at the start of the conference and participants are invited to watch them at their leisure. We'll have two live Q&A Virtual Research Poster sessions with the presenters during the conference (listed above).

### **Breeding Vegetable Maize for Organic Production: Quality Selection Methodology**

Sweet maize dominates the fresh-eating maize market in the United States. However, many other fresh-eating maize types exist with various flavors, textures, and culinary properties. Due to high sugars and low seed weight, modern sweet maize varieties often have poor germination, early vigor, weed competitiveness, and ultimately yield, when grown organically without seed treatments. There is a need for varieties bred specifically for organic or low-input farming systems and an opportunity to breed novel 'vegetable maize', which contributes to genetic and culinary diversity within the U.S. landscape. We crossed sweet and grain maize to generate 'vegetable maize'. Sweet maize contributes tenderness and some sweetness in the fresh eating stage, while grain maize contributes robust texture due to higher quantities of starch in the kernel. The increase in starch alters the eating quality as well as improves germination and vigor when compared to sweet maize. The experimental vegetable maize in our program, however, lack fresh-eating harvest windows that are long enough for ears to be picked and marketed before there is a decline in quality. This research will determine if the harvest window of two vegetable maize populations can be significantly widened via a recurrent selection scheme over four cycles (2020 – 2023). The scheme measures quality attributes of the kernel with two tools that we hypothesize when selected upon will slow sugar to starch conversion and therefore extend the fresh harvest window. Taste tests of the four cycles will determine if the window is widened and if changes are desirable.

LEXIE WILSON, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN – MADISON

### **Development of Tomato Varieties Adapted for Organic Systems in the Upper Midwest, with Improved Flavor and Disease Resistance**

Most of the tomato varieties currently used in organic farming were bred for conventional farming, often characterized by high-input use. These varieties do not perform as well in low-input organic systems, generating the need to breed varieties that are adapted organic management systems. This project focused on improving flavor, disease resistance, and yield, all identified as key traits for organic tomato farmers in the Upper Midwest. Four founding parents were identified as promising germplasm from organic variety trials. Following a diallel crossing scheme, we obtained F1's from the 6 possible crosses, and these were advanced to the F5 and F6 generations. The breeding lines were evaluated in open field and high tunnel organic farming systems in the university research station. Flavor was evaluated through public tastings. In parallel, the advanced lines were trialed by farmers and tested by chefs and consumers to analyze their marketable and culinary potential. We found that yield (kg/plant) was significantly higher in the high tunnel than the open field management system for all varieties. We found 4 breeding lines with outstanding flavor and acceptable overall yields. The heritability of the yield was high (0.82) and the genetic variance was also high, which shows opportunity to increase the yield on the best tasting varieties. A significant positive correlation was found between overall flavor and °Brix (0.78), and citric acid (CA) (0.71), indicating that both measurements can be good predictors of overall flavor likeliness. The correlated response of °Brix and CA when selecting for yield was -8% and -9% respectively, indicating that improving yields and flavor at the same time can be challenging on future selections. The current breeding lines show promise, further selection and on-farm trials are needed to evaluate their potential as releasable varieties.

ÁMBAR CARVALLO, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN – MADISON

### **Indigo Tomato Trial on The Evergreen State College Organic Farm**

During the 2021 growing season, a randomized complete block design was conducted to evaluate four experimental varieties of organic tomato seeds (*Solanum lycopersicum*) bred from Indigo x 'Ananas Noire' crosses. The goal was to combine the tasty, multihued fruit of Ananas Noire with the Indigo (high anthocyanin) trait to create an even more colorful, healthy, and tasty slicer type tomato. 'Lucid Gem' and 'Ananas Noire' were included in the trial as check varieties. Three replications included eight plants of each variety per block (n=144). Data were collected on Early Blight of Tomato, catfacing, and blossom end rot as well as plant vigor, yield, taste, and marketability of the individual fruit. The experimental Variety 2 (P321-13-3B-1-1-1) performed the best. This variety had the lowest catfacing, the lowest number of fruits with blossom end rot, the highest average number of pre-harvest fruit per plant, and the highest average number of mar-

marketable fruits per plant. In tasting trials, Variety 2 did not differ significantly from most of the other varieties on ratings of sweetness, flavor, or overall likableness. Varieties 2 and 4 (P321-7-1-1-1) had significantly higher ratings on appearance, but only compared to 'Ananas Noire.' Overall, 'Ananas Noire' was the poorest performing variety in the trial. Although it was rated as one of the sweetest and most flavorful varieties, it also exhibited significantly more blossom end rot and had the lowest average number of marketable fruits despite having the heaviest average fruit weight per plant.

ADAM M. SMITH, THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE; MARTHA ROSEMEYER, THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE

## Organic Potato Seed Certification to Change the World

Double certification of potatoes—Organic grown and State Crop Improvement disease free certified seed potatoes could help change the environment for soil health to belly health. A comparison of finished seed quality will show organically produced seed potatoes are better for the entire potato chain.

JEFF BRAGG, SUPERFOOD CONSULTING

## Techniques for Regenerating Old Seeds

Food sovereignty is both the right of peoples to healthy food produced sustainably, and to define their own food production systems. As the food sovereignty movement continues to evolve, more Indigenous people are searching for the seeds Native ancestors used to grow traditional crops. Sometimes gardeners have viable seeds of traditional varieties in abundance, and sometimes the only seeds still in existence have not been grown out for a long time and are now very old. Others have been collected decades ago and stored in museums for display. Age eventually leads to the death of seeds, and some of the old seeds will never germinate. However, sometimes old seeds are still alive, but very weak, too weak to germinate on their own. Here we review the literature about the various ways in which gardeners and scientists have helped or may help to grow healthy plants from old, weak seeds that are still alive. Some of the methods are not traditional, each person or group involved will have to make choices among the methods based on the likelihood of success, cultural norms, and other considerations. If successful, regenerated plants can become the basis for new stocks of healthy, vigorous seeds with which relationships can be rebuilt to help meet current and future food sovereignty goals.

FRANK KUTKA, COLLEGE OF MENOMINEE NATION

## Weighing the Risks and Benefits of Flowering Early in the Woody Perennial *Prunus Pumila* (Rosaceae)

As global weather patterns become increasingly unpredictable, some plants will respond by advancing their phenology. For woody perennials in temperate regions, many of which flower near the time of the last frost, advancing their phenology could subject them to floral freezing and reduce or eliminate their reproductive capacity for a growing season. Yet there may be advantages to flowering early that outstrip the potential risks, especially if their pollinators also adjust their phenology to warming conditions. We examined the effects of floral freezing on pollinator attraction and reproductive success for *Prunus pumila*, a wild relative of several economically and ecologically important temperate woody species. We exposed these plants to a simulated light freeze, hard freeze, or a near-freezing control temperature while their flowers were in four different developmental stages (first white buds, balloon buds, open flowers, and fertilized flowers). Visual and cellular damage was assessed in floral tissue, and the extent of whole plant damage was estimated. Plants with flowers in the earlier stages were then observed over the course of flowering for pollinator visitation, and all plants were monitored for signs of successful fertilization, mature fruit production, and seed germination.

DANIELLE LAKE DIVER AND DR. JESSICA SAVAGE, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA - DULUTH



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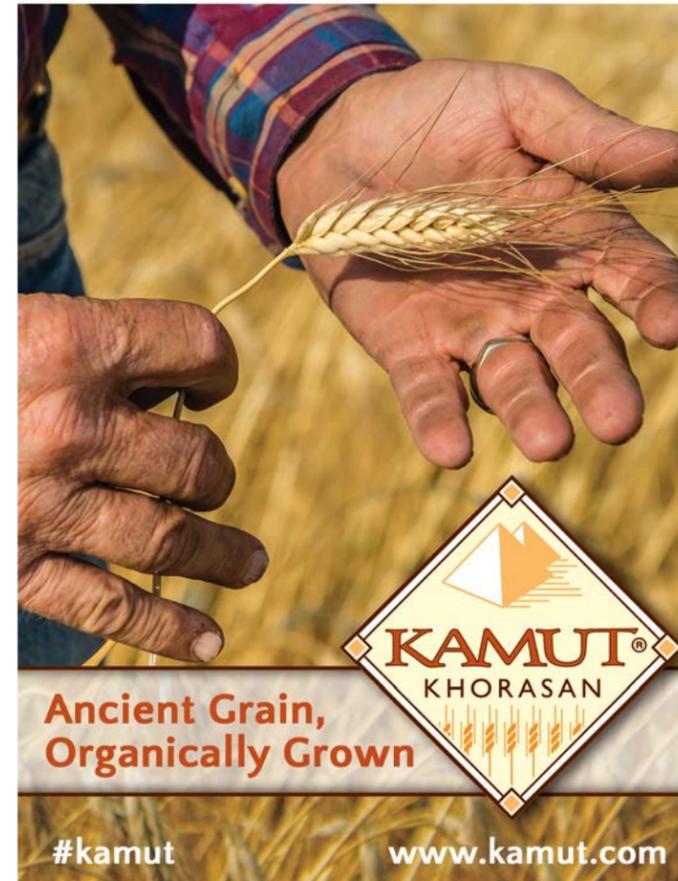


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## **Lighting Talks**

**Sunday, February 6**

9:00 – 9:45A HST / 11:00 – 11:45A PST / 12:00 – 12:45P MST / 1:00 – 1:45P CST / 2:00 – 2:45P EST

**Thursday, February 10**

12:00 – 12:45P HST / 2:00 – 2:45P PST / 3:00 – 3:45P MST / 4:00 – 4:45P CST / 5:00 – 5:45P EST

Lightning Talk recordings will be available at the start of the conference and participants are invited to watch them at their leisure. We'll have two live Q&A Lightning Talk sessions with the presenters during the conference (listed above).

### **An Overview of Quebec's Grain and Vegetable Trial and Breeding Projects**

Successive governments in Quebec have made gradual investments in organic farming over the past decade. Seeds and adapted varieties are also increasingly on the radar. In this presentation, you will learn about variety trials and breeding needs in the Quebec local and organic agricultural sector. This talk will feature a diversity of priority crops, farms, and research projects, as well as highlight recent protocols, results, and reports. The goal of this Lightning Talk is to share information with existing and potential partners in the breeding and organic seed community in the U.S. and internationally. This talk is presented by Hugo Martorell, Quebec Regional Coordinator at the Bauta Initiative on Canadian Seed Security, who provides extension services to farms since 2017. Hugo is involved in a number of projects with grain (incl. corn, quinoa, Tartary buckwheat, oats, sunflower, spring and winter wheat) and vegetable crops (incl. carrots, cabbages, onion, spinach, tropical eggplants, garlic, peppers, bok choy), that he is excited to talk about. Hugo hopes to connect with others in the conference and learn more from those who share an interest in these crops. Hugo speaks French, Spanish and English.

HUGO MARTORELL, SEEDCHANGE | SÈME L'AVENIR

### **Breeding for Resiliency and Bio-diversity: Potential of PPB to Re-establish Commercial Seed Supply for Heritage Beans in Central America**

Setting of seed trials in Nicaragua with NGO utilizing methods established in the advantages of Participatory Plant Breeding. We will be growing out four different varieties of dried beans in 3 different farming communities with different weather, soil, and growing methods.

SHELLEY SPRUIT, AGAINST THE GRAIN FARMS

## Challenging Problematic Utility Patents

The patent system, though intended to foster research and innovation, actively promotes the appropriation of seed – including organic seed – and other culturally important resources for private gain. Vast disparities in patent application grant rates among examiners, unsound policy resting on shaky judicial guidance, and the high costs of obtaining and challenging patents all point to a broken system that favors the interests of industry giants above traditional seed stewards and the health and welfare of communities and environments. There are several avenues for challenging utility patents that may serve as effective advocacy tools. My Lightning Talk will briefly overview the state of utility patents in U.S. agriculture and discuss various strategies for challenging utility patents that are unethical, not new, and/or obvious. In particular, I will discuss pre-issuance submissions, post-grant review, inter partes review, ex parte review, and other forms of advocacy outside of the Patent Office. I will explain the legal requirements for filing these challenges and mention some successful and ongoing watchdog efforts. I will conclude by asking the audience to think about what kinds of changes at the legislative or regulatory level might best protect seeds from falling into the wrong hands.

WILL GALLAGHER, UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

## Community Seed Network: An Online Platform for Seed Saving, Sharing, and Networking

The Community Seed Network (CSN) is an online platform that connects and supports community seed initiatives by providing resources, information, and a platform for networking. Under the leadership of Seed Savers Exchange and SeedChange, the initiative includes seed libraries, community seed projects, seed swaps, and all “seedy” individuals and community groups. The CSN’s mission is to support community-led seed stewardship by offering a platform to connect people to projects, projects to each other, and everyone to seed. Through great conversations and sharing of resources, we hope to make this work visible locally, regionally, and internationally, empowering community seed leaders as trailblazers and movement builders. Join this lightning talk to learn about the CSN website and resources, including downloadable seed saving and sharing resources, organizational resources, and a networking map to add yourself to the seed saving community and connect to individuals, mentors, projects, and like-minded organizations.

JEANINE SCHEFFERT, SEED SAVERS EXCHANGE

## Creating Seed Sovereignty in Your Community to Build Resilience and Community Unity

Learn the steps to build unity and resilience in your community by seed saving. Honor the cultural legacy of your area through the seed movement.

APRIL JONES, PINEHURST FARMERS MARKET

## From Idea to Impact: Developing and Commercializing Naturally Nutritious Staple Crops

A description of the process to establish a nutrition-sensitive breeding program utilizing open-access public genetic materials and how to link more nutritious crops to consumer demand to sustainably scale and improve public health and immune systems through food systems. The talk will touch upon the importance of participatory varietal selection, public germplasm, extending ownership of the breeding and commercialization of agricultural tech and extension services to systemically marginalized rural communities around the world.

BENJAMIN UCHITELLE-PIERCE, CONSULTATIVE GROUP FOR INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH (CGIAR) HARVESTPLUS

## Kasveista – Developing Open Source Seeds for Vertical Farming

In this Lightning Talk I will share the work performed at Kasveista to set a seed business for open-source seeds for vertical farming. During the talk the background of the idea will be presented. Then I will present the idea of a profitable business model that can create profit while respecting seed sovereignty and biodiversity. Finally I want to talk about the methods we use and the challenges of breeding for a particular sector as the controlled environment agriculture. In addition, our experience of producing seeds in controlled environment will be shared.

ROSARIO IACONO, KASVEISTA UG (HAFTUNGSBESCHRÄNKT)

## **Marketability of Indigenous C. melo Cucumbers**

Pictures and descriptions of indigenous immature melons grown as cucumbers to explore both their historical significance as well as their potential for marketability as a gourmet vegetable.

JAY TRACY, CUCUMBER SHOP

## **Mass Aggie Seed Library: An Outreach and Engagement Project**

Seed libraries have been cropping up in public libraries all over the country, and now the trend is germinating on college campuses as well. They offer outreach and engagement with the community, educate patrons about seed saving, and provide volunteer opportunities. Learn how the Mass Aggie Seed Library came to be using an adaptive and low-key approach. We used what we had, in an imperfect space, and yet we thrived. How-to, logistics, and best practices will be discussed along with how we adapted to deliver materials during the pandemic. This new service has also allowed us to connect with and showcase other related services and spaces on campus.

PAULINA BORREGO, MASS AGGIE SEED LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST

## **MN SEED Project Native Plant Community Science Project**

In 2021, our group focused on collecting and sharing seeds from Native Forbs and Grasses. We created a community of seed savers by providing learning opportunities to teach people how to identify native plants, use iNaturalist, collect and process seeds and finally how to grow plants from those seeds. We created online resources and in-person hands-on events to collect and process seeds. Finally we made seeds available at events and hosted an online seed swap.

COURTNEY TCHIDA, MINNESOTA STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY; DAWN LAMM, COMO COMMUNITY SEED LIBRARY; STEPHANIE HANKERSON

## **Native Seeds/SEARCH Partner Farmer Program: Seeking Seed Growers**

Native Seeds/SEARCH is currently seeking experienced Southwest-based growers to help increase the availability of seed varieties we steward through our Partner Farmer Program. This video will overview the process, seeds types available, and program options to include the Bulk Seed Exchange and Contract Agreement.

ANDREA CARTER, NATIVE SEEDS/SEARCH

## **Perspectives on Intellectual Property Rights in Organic Seed Work**

Over the past century, increasing consolidation of power in the seed industry has challenged small-scale seed growers. This consolidation is fueled in part by various legislative attempts to apply intellectual property law to seeds, resulting in an array of overlapping and confusing policies that are difficult to navigate on both a financial and an ethical level. Individual responses to this system comprise a diverse range of perspectives and strategies. This lightning talk presents research on seed growers' perspectives on intellectual property rights (IPR), with a particular focus on social alternatives to formal IPR. Many respondents pointed at mutual understanding, respect, reputation, and small community as a safeguard against unethical behavior. This information will be used to build a resource, in collaboration with the Organic Seed Alliance, that increases literacy on IP and points to best practices for people who work within the organic seed system.

PAULINA JENNEY, UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

## **Seed Saving and Climate Change: Observations and Mitigation Implementation**

This Lightning Talk will discuss the implications of climate change for seed saving, seed production, and gardening, potential mitigation strategies.

ANDREA BERRY, MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY SNAP-ED

## **Seeds to the People**

"Seeds to the People" is an existing program through Cultivate Oregon (a project of Earth Island Institute) that supports the urgent need for mailing free seeds to low-income and underserved audiences across Oregon. The free seeds are sourced from donations from the national Coop Garden Movement efforts, and boxes of seeds that have been reclaimed from corporate store dumpsters due to expiration dates. Cultivate Oregon has partnered with members of the Southern Oregon Seed Growers Association to provide a selection of locally grown seeds to the donated seeds we offer through this program. Some of the donated seeds will also be available through local seed swaps, a mobile food pantry, and the Medford Library's "Seed Library" once the facilities open again. Our goal with the "Seeds to the People" program is to ensure that all people, regardless of their income, have access to seeds in order to grow food, help their families, and save seeds that are adapted to their geographic region of Oregon. We hope to share about our "Seeds to the People" program as a way to stimulate people's thinking about how to help low income, and underserved communities access local seeds, while also

supporting local seed growers. More information about “Seeds to the People” can be found here: [https://www.cultivateoregon.org/seeds\\_to\\_the\\_people](https://www.cultivateoregon.org/seeds_to_the_people)

RHIANNA SIMES, CULTIVATE OREGON

## **The 4 Sisters: Companion Planting in the 21st Century**

Indigenous agriculture has been going on in the Four Corners region for millennia. The San Juan River Valley has seen the collapse and resurgence of farming and gardening many times over the course of history. The planters and growers of the region face many impediments to sustainable and resilient food systems. Yet, the people retain a rich and deep connection to this sacred way of life. The people persisted through tried and true methods of agriculture in an area with variable precipitation, arid soil conditions, and unforgiving weather. Through the bonds they maintained with soil, plants and water, they were able to survive and thrive. Harmony and balance is needed by growers everywhere now more than ever, for our agricultural way of life to survive. The methods they perfected and passed on are still relevant today. Companion planting has been practiced worldwide by growers to maintain soil balance, preserve water and control pests. Throughout North and South America, the 3 sister planting method is known. Without this method, corn planting would not have proliferated the world. Growing in the Four Corners provided new challenges and obstacles to overcome. Adaptation and ingenuity were key attributes of the inhabitants of the region. These tried and true practices as well as modern ones will be needed, to preserve this way of life. This presentation will cover this, as well as current efforts to enhance and preserve the rich agricultural way of life for the next millennia.

BRANDON FRANCIS, NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY

## **West African Okra**

Chris Smith has been exploring the genus *Abelmoschus* as part of his deeper research into Okra (*Abelmoschus esculentus*). West African Okra (*Abelmoschus caillei*) is a relatively unknown species of okra that is endemic to West Africa. The pods of West African Okra and Okra are similar in appearance and use, and the few West African Okra varieties that exist in the U.S. have been consistently misclassified in seed catalogs as Okra. This Lightning Talk offers a brief botanical overview and a look at some existing varieties in the U.S. This species displays a longer season, higher disease resistance, and higher drought tolerance. It offers a lot of potential as an additional crop in the U.S., both from an agronomic and a cultural standpoint. The hope is that this talk can offer some exposure for West African Okra, inspire some additional research, and perhaps unearth some other varieties hiding under the guise of plain old Okra!

CHRIS SMITH, THE UTOPIAN SEED PROJECT

## **Farm Tours and Demonstrations**

**Thursday, February 10**

6:00 – 6:45A HST / 8:00 – 8:45A PST / 9:00 – 9:45A MST / 10:00A – 10:45P CST / 11:00 – 11:45P EST

Meet your virtual farm tour hosts and demonstration presenters for a Q&A.

### **Seeding the Future with a Heartland’s Demonstration Farm**

The demonstration and tour of Meadowlark Hearth will include a look at our biennial seed growing efforts and a general farm tour with the Corymb family’s offerings in Nebraska. This special farm tour will focus on biennial seed growing in zone 4, in other words, climates where one cannot leave the said vegetable in the ground through the winter without special protection and what we have learned.

BETH AND NATHAN CORYMB, MEADOWLARK HEARTH

### **Soil, Seed, and Sustainability: A Farm Tour of Irish Seed Savers**

Soil at Irish Seed Savers is considered a precious resource, its value extending far beyond its ability to yield healthy crops. Soil is the foundation of sustainable food systems; a habitat to support biodiversity; a key contributor to carbon sequestration, a regulator of water in the landscape and a key factor in nutrient recycling. Soil health has been defined as the continued capacity of soil to function as a vital living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals, and humans. Using our 20-acre organic farm to illustrate key aspects of our work in relation to soil, Head Gardener Tristan Lienhard will discuss our holistic approach to soil health and its role in seed growing. His talk will cover the nutrient cycle, soil biodiversity and the soil microbiome. He will discuss preparation of the soil for seed crops, green manures and other methods for enhancing soil structure and health. Walking the land, Tristan will highlight the positive effect our holistic approach has on the seed we grow, the land and its inhabitants.

TRISTAN LIENHARD, IRISH SEED SAVERS

### **Tourne-Sol Seed Warehouse Tour**

Join us for a tour of Tourne-Sol’s seed warehouse! You’ll get a chance to see our seed storage, pull room for wholesale rack program, pull room for our online store, fulfillment areas, seed packing, and seed germination.

DANIEL BRISEBOIS, FERME COOPÉRATIVE TOURNE-SOL

## Native Art Showcasing the Beauty of Heritage Beans as a Means to Bring Awareness to Importance of Biodiversity in the Seed Supply

We will be working with four different Indigenous farm groups in the highlands, flat lands, and drylands of Nicaragua. We will be setting up side by side trials to track and record quality, quantity of seed, as well as resilience given different climate, soil, and management challenges. We will be working with local artists and video film makers to showcase the work we are doing on the different farms. We will be partnering with seeds of diversity Canada to continue the work they are doing in participatory plant breeding. Come learn more about this powerful project!

SHELLEY SPRUIT, AGAINST THE GRAIN FARMS

## Sharing Seeds and Seed Saving with the Community

I will share about Cultivating Connections Montana's three-part seed saving series that we presented to the community this past season. I'll share the story of how we engaged people, showed them where to start, taught them about the magic of seeds, gave them a chance to collect and clean seeds to grow at home, and created spaces for the community to connect using seeds as the catalyst for knowledge sharing. Homestead Organics Farm in Hamilton, Montana, is the 'Farm-Classroom' for the nonprofit, Cultivating Connections Montana. These seed workshops were presented as part of CCMT's 'Building A Stronger Bitterroot' event series. I'll also share the story and hand-outs we made.

LAURA GARBER, CULTIVATING CONNECTIONS MONTANA

A pioneer of seed source transparency, Turtle Tree Seed grows, breeds and sells 100% Biodynamic, organic, heirloom, open-pollinated vegetable, herb, flower and farm seeds. We are committed to stewarding the highest quality seeds for home, market, CSA and commercial growers, and contributing to the health of the Earth. Our mission includes helping people to learn about seed saving and to become seed stewards. Our home is Camphill Village, where people with developmental differences live with dignity, equality and purpose, caring for each other and the Earth. Interested in joining us for a gap year or semester? [volunteer@camphillvillage.org](mailto:volunteer@camphillvillage.org) [www.camphillvillage.org/volunteer](http://www.camphillvillage.org/volunteer)

Native Seeds/SEARCH

**Interested in growing and saving organic seeds?**

check out these programs:

- Community Seed Grant
- Native American Seed Request
- Partner Farmer Program

[nativeseeds.org/programs](http://nativeseeds.org/programs)

[conservation@nativeseeds.org](mailto:conservation@nativeseeds.org) 520-622-0830 x115 @nativeseedssearch

**DO GOOD IN YOUR GARDEN!**

**Join SSE's Community Science Programs**

The Seed Savers Exchange ADAPT and RENEW programs offer exciting opportunities to evaluate or regenerate unique varieties. You can help determine the varieties SSE introduces in future catalogs and help ensure the survival of rare varieties by joining one or both programs!

To find out more, please visit [seedsavers.org/community-science](http://seedsavers.org/community-science).

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## Presenter Biographies

### Edwin Baffour, Food Sovereignty Ghana

A pan Africanist born in Ghana and traveled extensively around the world. Edwin Kwaku Andoh Baffour has a background in Public Relations and brand communications. He was a pioneering member of the Vegetarian Association of Ghana and served as the Public Relations Officer for over a decade. Since 2014 he has volunteered as the Communications Director of Food Sovereignty Ghana, a civil society organization advocating for farmers rights and also against the inclusion of Genetically Modified Organisms in Ghana's agriculture. With several languages in his command, Edwin is able to think in a multi-cultural dimension, bringing a special touch to his work. He has ably steered the affairs of many special events as the Master of Ceremony and has also participated in radio and TV programs for almost two decades. In his spare time he enjoys music and documentary making.

### Mauricio Bellon, Arizona State University

Mauricio is a research professor at the Swette Center for Sustainable Food Systems at Arizona State University. He is a human ecologist focusing on sustainable agricultural and food systems around the world. His research has focused on the reasons, incentives and dynamics of crop diversity managed by farmers in their agricultural systems—both at the inter-specific and intra-specific levels—under different circumstances. He is interested in the links of crop diversity with crop evolution, human diets, seed systems, livelihoods, climate change, and agricultural technology. He is member of the Mexican Academy of Sciences and an Affiliate, Gund Institute for the Environment, University of Vermont, as well as member of the Scientific Steering Committee of the Global Research Project EvOLVES, embedded in Future Earth.

### Andrea Berry, Montana State University SNAP-Ed

I'm a SNAP-Ed Instructor in Big Horn County, MT working on food security issues which include gardening, seed saving and establishing a seed library. I'm a Master Gardener and Master Naturalist concerned about the intersection between food production and climate change.

### Shalini Bhutani, Global Coalition of Open Source Seed Initiatives (GOSSI)

Shalini (she/her) is a legal researcher and policy analyst working in the Asia region and on the India-Africa axis. Her research around seed focuses on how intellectual property rights and 'free trade' rules impact the inherent freedoms of smallholder farmers and the real seedkeepers on the ground. She has been associated with several seed networks in India. She truly believes that the ethic of sharing that the original seed custodians of the planet live by even today is truly relevant for the planetary problems beyond tomorrow. She is committed to amplifying the voices and experiences of the wisdom cultures around seed in the 'Global South' that hold the promise for agro biodiversity for our common futures. She is currently also on the Steering Committee of GOSSI – the Global Coalition of Open Source Seed Initiatives: <https://www.opensourceseeds.org/en/gossi>

### Martin Bohn, University of Illinois - Urbana-Champaign

Martin Bohn's maize breeding program focuses on developing improved maize germplasm that contributes to an economically efficient and sustainable maize production under restricted and "organic" growing conditions. He develops and employs innovative high-throughput phenotyping tools, quantitative genetic theory, and deep genomic information to study the genetic basis of biotic and abiotic stress responses, root development, and grain processing in maize.

### Paulina Borrego, Mass Aggie Seed Library, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Paulina Borrego is co-founder and wrangler of the Mass Aggie Seed Library, the University of Massachusetts Amherst Patent and Trademark Resource Center Librarian, and librarian to several science departments. She comes to librarianship as her third career after being a chemist then high school chemistry teacher for almost twenty years. She loves learning and teaching everything seeds, patents, and trademarks. To learn more about her professional interests visit her library page: [https://works.bepress.com/paulina\\_borrego/](https://works.bepress.com/paulina_borrego/)

### **Ron Boyd, Rancho la Villita Farm**

My wife and I run a 100 acres farm and ranch on the Rio Grande in northern New Mexico, with a focus on nourishment, education, creativity and hospitality. Primary crops these days are seed crops on contract, bread grains for local bakeries. 350 trees in the orchard mostly obscure varieties of stone and pome fruits + 30 head pasture raised cow calf operation . Farm school children are here to help on Wednesday's during the growing season. We give thanks for abundant water and blue skies!

### **Heron Breen, independent seed worker within commercial & community seed, seed saving, plant breeding, and retail/home garden seed business**

Heron Breen lives in the rural Central Maine town of Saint Albans. Lessons and advice from wise farmers and gardeners in the greater community have built a practice of seed work in fields thru out the Seabasticook & Kennebec River watersheds (Wabanaki Lands). While farming seed and breeding with plants independently for 17 years, Heron has an ongoing 20+ year career in the retail seed trade. He also delivers farmer seed education programs for the Northeast region seed non-profit Freed Seed Federation.

### **Daniel Brisebois, Ferme coopérative Tourne-Sol**

Dan Brisebois is co-author of Crop Planning for Organic Vegetable Growers and blogs about seed at [goingtoseed.net](http://goingtoseed.net). He loves solid farm planning and great management. He is also a spreadsheet maniac. Dan is also one of the farmers at Tourne-Sol co-operative farm. Tourne-Sol produces certified organic seeds and vegetables for their online seed store and 500 weekly veggie baskets.

### **Shelley Buffalo, Meskwaki Seedkeeper and Americorps VISTA for Sustainable Iowa Land Trust**

Shelley is an enrolled member of the Meskwaki tribe and lives on the Meskwaki Settlement with her two sons. The Meskwaki are unique in that their land based community is a settlement, not a reservation. Established in 1857 with the purchase of 80 acres near Tama, Iowa, the Meskwaki Settlement has grown to over 8,400 acres. Shelley joined Seed Savers Exchange for

the 2021 growing season as a Seasonal Seed Steward. She now works for Sustainable Iowa Land Trust (SILT) through the Americorps VISTA program. Her service assignment with SILT is to build capacity in farmer outreach in order to increase land access for socially disadvantaged farmers. Shelley served her community recently in coordinator roles at Red Earth Gardens and with Meskwaki Food Sovereignty Initiative. She continues to advocate for food sovereignty and local foods through her personal consultancy, networks and partnerships. She is an advocate for land back, indigenous food ways, food justice, and rematriation.

### **Jacob Butler, Native Seeds/SEARCH**

Jacob butler is Akimel O'odham and a member of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. Jacob currently is the Community Gardens Coordinator for the SRP-MIC Cultural Resources Department he has worked in the Cultural Resources Department for nearly 20yrs and was the former Cultural Resources Specialist. Jacob is the current Chair of the Non-profit Organization Native Seed Search and also on the board of Directors for the Friends of Pueblo Grande Museum. Jacob is also an artist working multiple artforms.

### **Luis Campos, Rice University**

Luis A. Campos is a historian of science at Rice University whose scholarship brings together archival discoveries with contemporary fieldwork at the intersection of biology and society. He has written widely on the history of genetics and is the author of Radium and the Secret of Life (2015), and co-editor of Making Mutations: Objects, Practices, Contexts (2010) and Nature Remade: Engineering Life, Envisioning Worlds (2021).

### **Maria Carrascosa, la Red de Ciudades por la Agroecología / Red de semillas**

Agronomic Engineer with Masters Degree in Organic Agriculture. For 20 years, she has focused her professional activity on the development of initiatives and actions in the framework of agroecology, cultivated biodiversity and food policies, in Spain but also in other countries as Brazil. In this sense, it must be highlighted her work as manager in a cooperative of organic farmers in the south of Spain for 6 years, director of the Seed network of Andalucía for 11

years and, since 2005, as coordinator of the Red de Semillas "Resembrando e Intercambiando" (Spanish seed network). Now, she is developing her career in Fundación Entretantos where she coordinates different projects working on the promotion and research of agroecological transition of local food systems.

### **Andrea Carter, Native Seeds/SEARCH**

As the Outreach Agronomist at Native Seeds/SEARCH, Andrea provides seed saving and agronomic consultation to collaborating farmers and community gardens. She received her doctorate in Plant Science from the University of Arizona where she specialized in arid land agriculture and the physiology of drought tolerance in small grains. Coming from a multi-ethnic background that includes African American, Tunisian, and Native American ancestry as a member of the Powhatan Renape Nation, she believes elevating traditional agriculture and land use practices will be key to addressing agronomic challenges of the present and future.

### **Michael Carter, Jr., Carter Brother Seeds & Carter Farms**

Michael Carter Jr. is an 11th generation farmer in the United States and is the 5th generation to farm on Carter Farms, his family's century farm in Orange County, Virginia where he gives workshops on how to grow and market ethnic vegetables. With Virginia State University, he works in the capacity of the Small Farm Resource Center Coordinator for the Small Farm Outreach Program. He sits on the board of directors of the Virginia Association of Biological Farmers (VABF), Virginia Food Systems Council, Virginia Agrarian Trust and Virginia Foodshed Capital respectively. He serves as a fellow for the Center for Food Systems and Community Transformation. Michael was recognized as a 2020 Audubon Naturalist Society Taking Nature Black Regional Environmental Champion, and the 2020 VSU Small Farm Outreach Agent of the year. He acquired an agricultural economics degree from North Carolina A&T State University and has worked in Ghana, Kenya and Israel as an agronomist and organic agricultural consultant. He presently consults with numerous governments, organizations, and individuals throughout the region and nation on food access, food security/insecurity, market outreach, social and economic

parity/equity/evaluation programs, racial understanding, immersion, history, and cultural training, among other areas. As a cliometrician, curriculum developer, and program coordinator for his educational, cultural, and vocational platforms, Hen Asem (Our Story) and Africulture, he teaches and expounds on the contributions of Africans and African Americans to agriculture worldwide and trains students, educators, and professionals in African cultural understanding, empathy, and implicit bias recognition. He happily assists his sons in running their respective businesses, Carter Brothers and Sunnyside Entertainment, when not homeschooling his three youngest sons.

### **Ámbar Carvallo, University of Wisconsin - Madison**

Ambar Carvallo holds an Agroecology MS, and is currently part of the Plant Breeding and Plant Genetics PhD at UW-Madison. She has international experience in conventional and organic production, and is now focused on developing improved tomato varieties that are adapted to organic agricultural systems in the Upper Midwest. She is also collaborating with other universities to understand the genetic basis for Botrytis and Late blight resistance in tomato.

### **David Catzel, FarmFolk CityFolk**

David has farmed and grown seed for about 20 years and is currently the manager of FarmFolk CityFolk's BC Seed Security Program and the British Columbian representative for the Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security. He is happiest when collaborating with other beings, seeds, and microorganisms.

### **Casey Chertok, The Evergreen State College**

I am Casey Chertok, currently attending The Evergreen State College and I am enrolled in the program titled, Taste: What We Hunger For.

### **Marie-Claude Comeau, Radicle Farm**

MARIE-CLAUDE COMEAU is the owner of La Radicule, a seed company that specialises in growing organic seeds on contract for companies in the Northeast. She has 7 years of experience growing commercial seed lots. The 13-acre farm is located in Manseau, Québec. Crops are grown with the precious help of 2 Belgian mares, Queen and Daisy. Marie-Claude

is passionate about scaling up seed production in her region. When she has time, she's also into non farm-related things like playing hockey or Scrabble, mending clothes, baking something sweet, or watercolour painting.

### **Nathan Corymb, Meadowlark Hearth**

Nathan Corymb grew up on Indiana farm, later farming on homestead with horses, and trained in seed growing at Sativa Biodynamic Seed company, Switzerland. Beth and Nathan met while training in Biodynamic ag Kimberton Hills. They began Turtle Tree Biodynamic seed company at Camphill Village USA, an intentional community, Copake NY, managing it for 12 years prior to returning to western Nebraska family farm, growing vegetable seed in a dry climate, founding Meadowlark Hearth Biodynamic seed initiative and the educational organization Living Environment Foundation 501c3. They host Labor Day weekend seed festivals annually at the farm on where all are invited to learn through harvesting and cleaning. Beth trained in piano performance, learned about planetary scales from Camphill colleague, singing them during Biodynamic prep stirring. In 2022, Corymb's invite applications for collegueship at Meadowlark Hearth intending to pass on MH seed infrastructure to capable hands for the future. meadowlarkhearth@gmail.com

### **Julie Dawson, University of Wisconsin-Madison**

Julie Dawson is an Associate Professor in the Department of Horticulture at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Research interests include the use of genetic resources in plant breeding for organic systems and methods for participatory selection and variety development. Dawson is also the state extension specialist for urban and regional food systems and does applied research for growers serving local food markets. She leads a project called the Seed to Kitchen Collaborative with other plant breeders to test varieties with local farmers and chefs, focused on flavor for local food systems.

### **Cathy Day, Open Circle Seeds**

Cathy has worked on agriculture and climate change for most of the last 20 years. Before joining NSAC, she taught in the Environmental Science and Studies and Sustainable Food

Systems programs at Stetson University, where she also led implementation of the Sustainable Farming Fund. She holds a PhD and MS in Geography from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she researched how Nigerian and New Mexican farmers respond to multiple stressors, including climate change. Raised in Montana, her background includes time as a farm apprentice in Alaska, as an agricultural extension agent with the Peace Corps in Niger, and as an agricultural educator in New York, New Mexico, and Florida. She earned her B.A. in Environmental Studies and French at the University of Kansas. She studied in the CALS Crop and Soil Science program as a master's student at Cornell University before earning a M.A.T. and a Biology Teaching Certificate.

### **Melissa DeSa, Working Food**

Melissa is a non-profit leader, seed steward, artist, educator, and ecologist living in Gainesville, Florida. She oversees the programmatic efforts at Working Food with a focus on seed research, saving, and sharing that is interwoven with other collaborative community efforts that support differently abled adults, youth, farmers, and the general public. She has 10 years of experience in non-profit start up and management, community organizing, food systems, seed stewardship, gardening, farming, education, outreach, and youth programming. She manages a local seed collection with over 900 accessions and growing.

### **Zoe Dewitt, The Evergreen State College**

Zoe DeWitt spent her high school years watching and supporting the growth of her family's small farm, Barnswallow Meadows, located in Kingston, WA. Now, she is a sophomore at the Evergreen State College pursuing her interests in agriculture, food studies, and herbal medicine.

### **Sarah Dyer, The Evergreen State College**

Sarah Dyer is a senior at The Evergreen State College pursuing studies in agriculture, ecology, food systems, and genetics.

### **Melony Edwards, Organic Seed Alliance**

Melony Edwards is a first-generation farmer who is on the journey of reclaiming her farming heritage. Along the way, Edwards landed on a 20 acre mixed vegetable farm in rural West-

ern Washington where she immersed herself in small-scale agricultural practices. Now, she serves as a board member for the National Young Farmers Coalition, a national advocacy network fighting for the future of Agriculture. Currently working with the Organic Seed Alliance, one of Edwards' many goals is to foster a larger community of farmers stewarding open-pollinated seeds. She has a particular interest in culturally significant seeds among the African diaspora and wants to adapt varieties that will thrive in the PNW cooler climate. Additionally, Edwards advocates for policy reform on national organic platforms. Her farming adventures continue as she pursues her own farm vision in launching Ebony By Nature, a textile art farm, and extending her knowledge in seed growing and saving.

### **Nicolas Enjalbert, Seed Linked**

Nicolas Enjalbert (PhD), CEO and Co-Founder of SeedLinked, an emerging open innovation platform that connect growers and seed innovators/Stewarts to redefine the "Who" and "How" to characterize, breed, and find seed, together. Originated from France, Nicolas brings a broad vision and passion of the current and emerging seed systems pushing the status quo to build a more decentralize, diverse, connected, and resilient seed industry. He finds his creativity and recharges on his mountain bike, rock climbing and fly fishing with his son. He currently live in Madison WI, USA.

### **Linda Fenstermaker, Osborne Seed**

Linda Fenstermaker is the West Coast Sales Representative at Osborne Quality Seeds for the past 4 years. She has a passion for organic seed and supporting organic farmers. Before her time at Osborne, she was an organic farmer for 5 years in Western Washington.

### **Marianna Fenzi, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne**

Postdoctoral researcher, Laboratory for the History of Science and Technology, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne. Applying methodologies coming from multiple disciplines (ethnography, sociology, history), I analyze different approaches to the use and conservation of crop diversity, giving particular attention to on-farm conservation, evolutionary plant

breeding, and farmers' seed systems. The overall goal of my projects is to combine some principles of these different practices to contribute to rethinking sustainable and fair food systems.

### **Clint Freund, Cultivating The Commons**

Clint began his journey in seedwork in the Upper Midwest. This landbase is inspiration and home where him and his business, Cultivating The Commons, continue to deepen and enrich that seedwork with that culture.

### **Will Gallagher, University of Maryland**

Will is a third-year law student at the University of Maryland studying the intersections of environmental and intellectual property law. He currently serves on the Executive Board of the Maryland Law Review, UMD Food Law Society, and UMD Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild. He enjoys kayaking, mountain biking, and playing guitar.

### **Laura Garber, Cultivating Connections Montana**

Its all about the food for Laura Garber. She started her farm, Homestead Organics Farm, right out of college- with a baby on one hip and a lot of excitement to involve local community. 23 years later, Laura's farm, located in Hamilton, Montana, has grown into a community gathering place and is the educational 'Farm-Classroom' for Cultivating Connections Montana (CCMT). CCMT is the non-profit Laura started to house the educational programs she and her husband/farming partner Henry have developed over the past decade. Growing, sharing, and teaching about cooking, farming, seeds, and community- using food as the common tie- is what excites Laura.

### **Walter Goldstein, Mandaamin Institute**

Walter Goldstein studied biodynamics in Europe from 1976 to 1980 in Switzerland, England, and Sweden. He received his MSc and PhD in Agronomy at Washington State University in the USA, studying alternative farming systems for the Palouse region. Thereafter, he served as Research Director at Michael Fields Agricultural Institute in Wisconsin for 25 years. In 2011 he founded the Mandaamin Institute (www.mandaamin.org) with friends. Mandaamin Institute is a non-profit organization

devoted to improving cereals. He has selected and bred corn for organic farmers since 1989. He presently breeds and tests corn and wheat in Wisconsin on his farm and with colleagues and other organic farmers. His focus is on plant partnerships with endophytes that convey nutritional density, nitrogen efficiency and nitrogen fixation abilities. He looks forward to sharing his perspective on plant and microbe driven emergent evolution, and ways to help select better fit cultivars for a changing world.

### **Katie Gourley, La Merenda Farm**

Katie is a sometimes farmer, sometimes whole grain baker, sometimes writer, sometimes zine maker, always seed and bean nerd of Sicilian and Irish ancestry living on unceded Cowlitz & Clackamas land. As one half of La Merenda Farm, Katie runs a dry bean CSA with her partner, David, as they work together to weave webs of connection via the humble, quietly-revolutionary dry bean.

### **K Greene, Hudson Valley Seed Company**

K.Greene is founder of the first seed library in a public library in the country. Along with K's partner, Doug Muller, the project was grown into the Hudson Valley Seed Co., a national seed company and regional seed farm devoted to ethically producing organic seed and celebrating seeds through art. For the last several years, K has been engaged in non-commercial community seed partnerships including supporting indigenous seed rematriation, mentoring farmers starting a Jewish seed exchange, and working with Shumei Natural Agriculture farmers on seed production. More recently, K has been engaging with plants, botanists, and queer farmers through conversations and inquiry into non-binary botany.

### **Marielle Hampton, University of Hawaii**

Marielle Hampton is an extension agent for inter-generational and youth development programs with the University of Hawai'i's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). With an M.S. degree in nutrition from Tufts University's Agriculture, Food, and Environment program, Marielle has worked in food systems on Hawai'i Island since 2012. Her experience includes projects in research, education, and agriculture with The Kohala Center, Hamakua Harvest, and Hamakua Agricultural Cooperative.

### **Solveig Hanson, University of British Columbia - Centre for Sustainable Food Systems**

Solveig Hanson received her Ph.D. in Horticulture-Plant Breeding Plant Genetics with a Ph.D. minor in Life Science Communication from the University of Wisconsin - Madison in December 2020. As part of her doctoral work with Dr. Irwin Goldman, she led a participatory beet breeding project in which farmer, chef, and consumer input was used to develop novel, flavor-identified beet cultivars for Wisconsin organic production. In her current role, she supports the Canadian Organic Vegetable Improvement Project (CANOVI) by leading its participatory carrot breeding project and co-facilitating decentralized Canada-wide vegetable variety trials in partnership with the Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security.

### **Will Hazzard, University of California - Davis**

Will is a second year master's student with Dr. Tom Gradziel in the peach and almond breeding program, and was previously a research assistant in the breeding program. His research focuses on epigenetic inheritance of genetic diseases in almonds and variation in DNA methylation in different tissues in almond. Before coming to Davis, Will was a legislative aide to Senator Maria Cantwell of Washington state, with an emphasis on agricultural policy.

### **Kitt Healy, Organic Seed Alliance**

Kitt Healy is Midwest Research and Education Associate for Organic Seed Alliance. She is also an organizational change facilitator and group process designer dedicated to restoring care for land and people as central values of the food system. She lives in Madison, WI where she grows and irresponsible amount of winter squash for a small urban lot.

### **Corentin Hecquet, Réseau pour les semences paysannes et citoyennes**

I am coordinator of the cross-border network for farmers' and citizens' seeds (Belgium, Luxembourg and northern France). I am also a scientific collaborator at the University of Liege (SEED team). I work on ecological justice. My work consists in putting together people from different universes (producers, researchers, companies, citizens ..) to promote the use of

population varieties for a local and sustainable food. For that I support the development of two channels (from seeds to bread / from seeds to canned food). These channels are anchored in the territories.

### **Ernesto Hernández López, Chapman University School of Law**

Ernesto Hernández-López is a Professor of Law at the Fowler School of Law at Chapman University in California. His most recent op-eds on GMO corn bans include "Why Seed Companies Fear Mexico" Inter Press Service and "The Death of Neoliberal Corn" Latino Rebels. His work on GMO corn in México has focused on history, colonialism, and environmental politics. He has also written on agriculture and the US Constitution, specific to animal welfare and farming history. Ernesto's most recent blog post "Films that resist" examines race, gender, class, and resistance in Global South films. He earned a JD from the George Washington University, a MA in Latin American Studies from Georgetown University, and BA with a double major in Latin American Studies and History from the University of Texas at Austin. He's a native speaker and writer of English and Spanish, fluent in Portuguese, and proficient in French.

### **Lee-Ann Hill, Rocky Mountain Seed Alliance**

Lee-Ann Hill directed the Heritage Grain Trials program at Rocky Mountain Seed Alliance from 2016 through 2021. She has a background in conservation, and holds a MA in Cultural Ecology from Prescott College where she studied traditional land management with a focus on sustainable food systems and seeds. After volunteering and learning on farms in Northern New Mexico and Costa Rica, she returned to her homeland of Colorado and started Laughing Wolf Farm where she further explores seed adaptation and other food system passions. Her farm is located on the Colorado Plateau on traditional lands of the Ute, Diné, and ancestral Pueblo people and is nourished by weather and waters from the La Plata Mountains.

### **Kiki Hubbard, Organic Seed Alliance**

Kiki Hubbard is the director of advocacy and communications for Organic Seed Alliance. Kiki's work on seed policy spans 20 years in the areas of antitrust, biotechnology, consolidation,

intellectual property, and organic regulation. Working on an organic farm piqued her interest in sustainable agriculture and environmental justice while an undergraduate in Wisconsin. She went on to work on related law and policy issues in Washington, DC, before completing a master's degree at the University of Montana in Environmental Studies. At OSA, Kiki leads efforts to promote policies and actions that advance decentralized, diverse, and democratic seed systems. She manages OSA's State of Organic Seed project as well as federal policy initiatives targeting Congress and federal agencies, including the National Organic Program. Kiki lives in Montana with her husband, son, dog, and generous garden, and loves birding, running, hiking, skiing, writing poetry, and being a student of our natural systems.

### **Rosario Iacono, Kasveista UG (haftungsbeschränkt)**

Rosario Iacono is an agronomist with experience as molecular biologist and a PhD in biological sciences. His expertise is at the intersection of biology and data analysis. Throughout his academic career he became aware about the importance of free access to genetic resources. He reached the conclusion that the open-source seed licence as implemented by the Open Source Seeds Initiative in the US and the Open Source Association in Europe could provide protection from centralized control of genetic resources. In 2021, he founded Kasveista, a startup based in Germany that aims to produce seeds and seedlings of open-source varieties specifically selected for the controlled environment agriculture (CEA). The yields from CEA is limited in its quality as well as quantity by the lack of varieties specifically selected for this specific environment. The varieties from Kasveista will allow to increase the productivity of vertical farms while democratizing the access of people to food.

### **Paulina Jenney, University of Montana**

Paulina Jenney is a master's candidate in the Environmental Studies program at the University of Montana. Her work centers on climate-adapted seeds and intellectual property rights for alternative plant breeders and seed stewards. Born and raised in the desert southwest, Paulina earned her bachelor's degree in

environmental studies and creative writing from the University of Arizona before traveling the world to learn about organic and small-scale farming techniques. She has worked for the Institute of the Environment, Conservation International – Perú and, most recently, taught English and environmental stewardship as a Fulbright grantee in northern Spain. She writes about what she learns at Terrain.org.

### **April Jones, Pinehurst Farmers Market**

April Jones is the founder of the Pinehurst Farmers Market located in downtown Columbia, S.C., in the Pinehurst neighborhood. April advocates for her community as part of the food justice and food sovereignty movement. She is passionate about community, gardens, and farmer markets. She is a writer, public speaker, blogger, recipe developer, book reviewer and more. She contributes content to her blog Frolicking Americana, Columbia Living Magazine and to national magazines, Mother Earth, Country Lore, The Natural Farmer, Grit, Ark Republic, and Ecoparent Magazine, Growers and Co., Farmers Market Coalition writer, Emerging Leader in food and agriculture nominee, Farmers Market Coalition writer, Sustainable Partner with Duke University Nicholas School of Environment Connect with April at Pinehurst Community Action on Facebook and at Pinehurst Farmers Market on Facebook. <https://m.facebook.com/pinehurstfarmersmarket/> <https://m.facebook.com/pinehurstcommunityaction/> <https://www.linkedin.com/mwlite/in/april-jones-040705b>

### **Sheryl Joy, Native Seeds/SEARCH**

Sheryl has been on staff with Native Seeds/SEARCH since 2012 and has taken on a variety of roles in that time, including her current role as Acting Seed Bank Manager. She has been a community garden organizer and an avid organic gardener in crazy-different climates: Minnesota and Arizona.

### **Christian Keeve, University of Kentucky**

Christian Keeve is a PhD student in Geography at the University of Kentucky. A seed saver and chaotic gardener, they're fascinated by the everyday more-than-human sorts of relations and cooperative practices behind seed conservation and plant breeding. Their research concerns

in situ agrobiodiversity conservation, or the things that people do (or don't do) with seeds, and the things that seeds may (or may not) do on their own. Currently, they are trying to think through the socioecological knowledge politics, archival practices, and cooperative geographies of seed work through Black, queer, and liberatory ecologies

### **Erica Kempter, Nature & Nurture Seeds**

Erica Kempter has been farming and gardening for nearly 30 years. She is an educator, food justice advocate, seed steward and plant breeder. She is co-owner, of Nature & Nurture Seeds, a farm-based seed company in Ann Arbor, Michigan that provides quality, resilient, and adapted seeds for diverse farms and gardens in the Midwest and beyond.

### **Melanie Kirby, Institute of American Indian Arts**

Melanie Kirby began keeping bees 25 years ago working with Indigenous communities in Paraguay as a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer. The bees inspired her to connect her own Indigenous and Mestiza heritage to the interconnected dynamics of agroecology, cultural diversity, scientific inquiry, and artistic expression. In 2005 she established Zia Queenbees Farm & Field Institute in the southern Rocky Mountains of northern New Mexico in 2005 which focuses on nurturing regionally-adapted bees, collaborative bee breeding projects, pollination services, exquisite hive products, and consilience research. She serves on several regional and national beekeeping organization boards and participates in local and regional farming associations. Melanie is a tribal member of Tortugas Pueblo originally from southern New Mexico. She is a Fulbright Fellow and National Geographic Explorer. Melanie also serves as the Extension Educator at the Institute of American Indian Arts. She can be reached at [melanie.kirby@iaia.edu](mailto:melanie.kirby@iaia.edu). Follow on Instagram @iaialandgrantprograms @ziaqueenbees @nectarnomad

### **Susanna Klassen, University of British Columbia**

Susanna is a PhD candidate at the Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability at the University of British Columbia, and studies the social dimensions of food system transformation. Her PhD research focuses on the contributions of organic agriculture to food system

sustainability with a focus on justice, equity and diversification. She is also a former farmworker, an articling agrologist with the BC Institute of Agrologists, and current Vice Chair at Food Secure Canada. She lives on the traditional territory of the Tla'amin Nation on the Sunshine Coast of BC.

### **Karl Kunze, Cornell University**

Karl Kunze is from Wyoming, NY located in rural western New York. While not growing up on an active farm, Karl became interested in agriculture and plant sciences by experiences of growing up in an agricultural community and through his experience with his parents retail greenhouse experience and gardening. To pursue his interests in Plant Sciences, Karl attended Cornell University for a bachelors of Science in Plant Sciences. While there, Karl found a keen interest in plant breeding and genetics due to its interdisciplinary nature of using basic science research combined with research out in the field. While at Cornell, Karl became a summer intern for the Cornell Small Grains Breeding Program and eventually continued with the program into graduate school for a PhD in studying both organic multi-use naked barley and winter malting barley breeding. Karl hopes that through his barley research, that we can locally develop barley varieties that grow well in the New York State environment and more broadly help develop local farming economies through the development of new crop varieties.

### **Frank Kutka, College of Menominee Nation**

Frank Kutka works at the College of Menominee Nation where he facilitates the development of a Sustainable Agriculture degree program and the college's agricultural research program. He is also an independent plant breeder who works with maize, beans, squash, cowpeas, sorghum, onions, and rye. Frank studied Field Biology at UW-Whitewater, he studied Animal Ecology at Iowa State, and he studied Plant Breeding at Cornell. Frank has been a consultant on garden projects with tribal colleges in North Dakota and Montana, he helped coordinate the Farm Breeding Club for the Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society, helped coordinate the USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program in the Dakotas, and was the assistant director for

NDSU's Dickinson Research Extension Center. Frank manages the Corn Culture FaceBook blog, and he and his family live on a small farm in eastern Wisconsin.

### **Danielle Lake Diver, University of Minnesota - Duluth**

Danielle Lake Diver is a master's candidate in Dr. Jessica Savage's lab at the University of Minnesota Duluth, where she has been researching floral freezing tolerance of woody perennials and its impact on pollinator attraction and reproductive success. She is an avid seed saver, insect enthusiast, herbal medicine grower, and mother. Danielle runs Magic Summer Minifarm, a seed farm for drought-tolerant native perennial wildflowers and medicinal plants. Upon graduation, Danielle plans to investigate the dye properties of noxious weeds and get more involved with insect conservation and ecological restoration.

### **Dawn Lamm, Como Community Seed Library**

Dawn Lamm, life long gardener and MN Seed member, founded the Como Community Seed Library, in 2015. CCSL is a mobile seed library serving the Como Community of Saint Paul MN and it's surrounding community.

### **Craig LeHoullier, PhD, Seed Savers Exchange advisor, author, and amateur breeder**

I've been gardening for over 40 years, but remain as excited about it as with our very first garden. My 'real' career as scientist prepared me well for all of the evaluating, seed saving and amateur tomato breeding that spans my gardening years. Joining the SSE in 1986 was life-changing and pointed me toward the realm of OP varieties. I've been lucky as well, having been sent so many family treasures, such as Cherokee Purple (as an unnamed variety in 1990). Writing Epic Tomatoes and Growing Vegetables in Strawbales (Storey Publishing) was a joy. Co-leading the Dwarf Tomato Breeding Project since 2005 has been magical. I've thought a lot about seeds - history, names, responsibilities - and look forward to contributing to this conference.

### **Mike Levine, Nature & Nurture Seeds**

Mike Levine's obsession with foraging black

raspberries as a child (and later as an adult) has led him down many roads in natural world. He has worked in the gardening, farming and ecological restoration fields since 1992. After graduating from the School of Natural Resources and Environment at the University of Michigan, his first job was to work for the Natural Area Preservation Division of Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation doing ecological restoration in city parks. The next season, he co-directed Project Grow Community Gardens and worked at several Ann Arbor area organic farms. Interested in sustainability, he studied the Fundamentals of Permaculture, a course in sustainable living at The Farm in Summertown, TN, where he first glimpsed shiitake mushrooms being grown at Mushroompeople by Frank Michael. In 1999, Mike worked at and managed Saguro Plant Nursery (a rare and unusual plant nursery in the Ann Arbor area). After extensive travels and a return to Michigan, Mike met Erica. In 2001, he and Erica founded Nature and Nurture, LLC, and have co-owned and managed it ever since. Nature and Nurture Seeds is just one of many ventures that Nature and Nurture, LLC is involved with. It also provides organic landscape maintenance, installation, consulting, design, and other related tasks. Mike currently runs a fruit nursery and orchard with many interesting and edible plants and used to teach Easy Organic Fruit Growing, a part of the Organic Gardener Certificate Program at Washtenaw Community College. Additionally, Mike has been studying taxonomy and field identification of mushrooms since 1996 in the Ann Arbor area and is an Approved Mushroom Identification Expert in the State of Michigan. In 2011, he studied Gourmet and Medicinal Mushroom Cultivation with Paul Stamets at Fungi Perfecti in Olympia, Washington, and he has been growing and selling shiitake mushrooms since 2001. He soon plans to build his own mycology lab on the Nature and Nurture Farm.

**Tyler Levine, Hawaii Seed Growers Network**  
Seventeen-year-old Tyler was born and raised on the Hawaiian islands and is on a mission to create everlasting positive change, sharing the ancient wisdom of life and earth stewardship through seeds of knowledge. With her movement-based organization Seeds of Honua and participation in various initiatives that promote

earth restoration, she plants those seeds within the hearts and minds of intergenerational communities across the globe. “We are all keiki o ka aina (children of the land) and it is our kuleana (responsibility) to malama honua (care for our island earth)” ~ Tyler Levine

#### **Tristan Lienhard, Irish Seed Savers**

Originally from France, Tristan Lienhard began working in horticulture in 2002 with a 2-year Biodynamic apprenticeship in the UK. The first year was on a 300 acre mixed farm in the South of England, and the second, in Scotland, in a 2.5 acre walled garden, growing medicinal herbs for processing. In 2006, after working in organic market gardening in South West England, Tristan moved to the west of Ireland where he completed the Royal Horticultural Society’s certificate in horticulture and founded Wandering Gardens, a garden design and landscaping company. After 13 years of running Wandering Gardens, Tristan took up his current position as Head Gardener in the Irish Seed Savers Association, where his primary focus lies in implementing regenerative soil care principles, as the foundation for growing healthy, quality seed.

#### **Emily Lockard, Colorado State University**

Emily Lockard is the agriculture livestock extension agent for Colorado State University Extension in Montezuma County and she is an instructor at Pueblo Community College – Southwest where she has taught animal science and ag business. She previously worked as a research associate at the Southwestern Colorado Research Center and as an agriculture extension agent in Pueblo, Colorado and Bozeman, Montana. She grew up in San Diego where she rode horses, swam in the ocean and participated in 4-H. It was visiting her grandparents farm in Viola, Idaho as child that inspired her love of livestock and agriculture. She followed that passion to attend Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo for a B.S. in animal science and then studied livestock grazing behavior for her M.S. in range science at Utah State University. In her spare time she enjoys ceramics, gardening and paddling rivers in a packraft or canoe.

#### **Kristen Loria, Cornell University**

Kristen is a researcher and farmer from Ithaca, NY. She earned an M.S. in Plant Breeding from

Cornell in 2021, focusing on on-farm variety trialing and improvement of heirloom dry bean varieties for the Northeast US. Kristen currently works for the Sustainable Cropping Systems Lab at Cornell University where she supports various research on organic no-till systems, cover crop breeding and farmer outreach. In her spare time, Kristen grows heirloom and other specialty dry beans and markets them via a multi-farmer Winter Bean Club in the Ithaca area.

#### **Hugo Martorell, SeedChange | Sème l’avenir**

Hugo Martorell is the Quebec Regional Coordinator for the Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security, a program of SeedChange, formerly USC Canada. As the regional coordinator, Hugo works with farmers networks and cooperatives to trial, adapt and improve vegetable and grain varieties to organic and ecological conditions and Quebec’s short growing season. His focus is on connecting seed growers with farmers and breeders and to introduce new varieties on local markets, as well as creating education content in French and facilitating new projects across farms. This is the third time Hugo is participating to the OSA Conference (2018, 2020).

#### **Chris Massman, University of Wisconsin-Madison**

Chris Massman is a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin, Madison studying plant breeding and plant genetics. He completed his undergraduate work at Iowa State University studying agronomy and genetics. His current work focuses on multi-use organic naked barley. This research includes characterizing the genetic control of traits important to barley production as well as investigating new tools for selection and breeding.

#### **Michael Mazourek, Cornell University**

Michael Mazourek is the Calvin Knoyes Keeney Associate Professor of Vegetable Breeding at Cornell University. Michael is a breeder of peas, beans, squash, cucumbers and peppers and has released numerous cultivars and breeding materials that are shared by small, regional seed companies and incorporated into breeding program of the world’s largest seed companies. Michael’s specialty is biochemical genetics in vegetables; he explores the diverse phyto-

chemistry that plants use to repel pests and herbivores, reward and nourish pollinators and seed dispersers and cope with environmental stresses, with a goal of harnessing to maximize nutrition and sustainability. Michael shares the craft of plant breeding with students at Cornell, through grower conferences and field days. Michael is a pro-bono co-founder of Row 7 Seeds to advance a goal of helping public and freelance plant breeders share their creations with a public that seeks choice and diversity in their food.

#### **Hawthorn McCracken, Rooted**

Hawthorn McCracken is a self-taught herbalist and community educator. Their day job is in farm-to-school programming, and they enjoy making art and foraging in their spare time. They are passionate about native plants, food sovereignty, mutual aid, building community, and continually learning how to be in good relationship with this land as a settler.

#### **Rebecca McGee, United States Department of Agriculture**

Dr. Rebecca McGee is a Research Geneticist with the Grain Legume Genetics and Physiology Research Unit of the USDA ARS at Pullman, Washington. She is a pulse crop plant breeder and works primarily with spring-sown peas and lentils and autumn-sown peas, lentils, and chickpeas. Prior to joining ARS in 2009, she was a Principal Scientist at General Mills and led the vegetable legume breeding programs. She received her Ph.D. in plant breeding and genetics from Oregon State University.

#### **Laurie McKenzie, Organic Seed Alliance**

Laurie McKenzie is the Research and Education Associate for the Pacific Northwest region and a vegetable breeder with Organic Seed Alliance (OSA). She manages the OSA research farm in Chimacum, WA where she leads and supervises breeding projects, vegetable variety trials, and seed production on a variety of crops. At OSA Laurie has authored and co-authored several publications and taught many classes and workshops on seed production and plant breeding. In her breeding career Laurie focuses on breeding for organic production systems utilizing participatory and collaborative strategies. She is currently working on several collaborative breed-

ing projects involving cabbage, kale, purple sprouting broccoli, carrots, and Swiss Chard. In her spare time Laurie enjoys creating her budding homestead, playing with her son and farm animals, and growing flowers in the garden.

#### **Brigid Meints, Oregon State University**

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

#### **Steffen Mirsky, Seed Savers Exchange**

Steffen Mirsky is the Evaluation and Trials Manager at Seed Savers Exchange in Decorah, IA. Since he joined the team in 2011, he has helped document thousands of varieties of fruits and vegetables from the Seed Savers Exchange collection. He also coordinates the Community Science Program, where participants from around North America trial varieties from the collection to help guide decisions on new introductions to the catalog. A graduate of the University of Washington, Steffen got his feet wet in agriculture through the WWOOF program and has a passion for the natural world and sustainable food systems.

#### **Megnot Mulugeta, University of Vermont**

Megnot Mulugeta (pronounced: meenyote mooloogeta) is a master's student at the University of Vermont, studying Food Systems. She has spent the last year and a half studying seed systems and organic agriculture in the Northeast, which has also inspired her to try her hand at seed saving. She has a bachelor's degree in Sociology and Africana Studies from Barnard College and has spent a few of her summers in the last 6 years supporting community and urban farm work.

#### **Jim Myers, Oregon State University**

Jim breeds vegetables at Oregon State University for the Pacific Northwest. He works on a number of crops including green beans, broccoli, snap peas, tomatoes, peppers and winter and summer squash. His main interests are breeding for disease resistance, human nutrition and sustainability but breeding in organic production systems.

#### **Sara Nawaz, University of Oxford, University of British Columbia**

I am a Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Oxford and the University of British Columbia. I study the social, ethical and governance dilemmas that arise with the development of new environmental and climate technologies, aiming to inform more responsible research and innovation around these. My current work examines ocean-based forms of carbon dioxide removal, and my PhD research focused on gene editing and synthetic biology in agriculture. I draw upon a mix of quantitative and qualitative approaches, ranging from surveys to ethnographic methods. I hold a PhD in Resources, Environment and Sustainability from the University of British Columbia.

#### **Reiley Ney, Snake River Seed Coop**

Reiley's first seed memory is separating red clover seeds from chaff on a plate as a very young child in her grandparents' kitchen in Southwest Idaho. Her seed farmer Grandpa had no idea seeds would become her passion twenty years later! As a young adult in 2015, she completed the seed farming internship program at Earthly Delights Farm in Boise. Reiley farmed flowers and seed crops under the name Flowers with Rye from 2017 - 2020. She started working at Snake River Seed Co-op in 2016 as a seed packer and over the years has had every job title within the business. She is now the co-manager and a co-owner of Snake River Seed Cooperative and saves seeds in her home garden. Her main duties currently are seed production, inventory, and finance manager. Reiley loves working with seeds and spreadsheets. She is a self-proclaimed seed data fanatic!

#### **Abena Offeh-Gyimah, Living The Ancestral Way**

Abena Offeh-Gyimah is a writer, a researcher, a food consultant, and an advocate for an indigenous food sovereignty system. She's worked at

Black Creek Community Farm as a coordinator for the youth farming program, with Building Roots as an urban gardener coordinator, with North York Community House as a Strong Neighborhood Coordinator, and currently project co-lead with the Jane Finch Community Research Partnership. Her food business, Adda Blooms, seeks to work with small scale farmers to bring ancestral foods worldwide. Her blog, <https://abenaoffehgyimah.com/>, seeks to explore the intersections between food, culture, and equity. Abena's passionate about preserving indigenous plants, seeds, and seeks to work in collaboration with small scale African farmers to grow and preserve ancestral foods.

#### **Mehmet Öztan, Turkish seed saver/keeper, farmer, co-owner of Two Seeds in a Pod Heirloom Seed Company, and part-time service faculty at West Virginia University**

Mehmet Öztan is a Turkish seed keeper/grower, farmer, co-owner of Two Seeds in a Pod Heirloom Seed Company, and a public scholar who focuses on restoration and preservation of the seeds of Türkiye on his six-acre farm located in Reedsville, West Virginia. The farm is a learning space and a gateway to exploring more than fifty food crops for their cultural significance, culinary uses, climate adaptability and significance related to food justice and food security as well as a space in which Öztan builds relations with plants and their original stewards. In addition, Öztan continuously studies and writes about racism, discrimination, patriarchy, favoritism, and extractive labor practices in American seed industry. He holds a Ph.D. in civil engineering from Michigan State University and is currently a part-time Service Assistant Professor in Eberly College of Arts & Sciences at West Virginia University.

#### **Antonia Palkovic, University of California-Davis**

Antonia worked on several organic farms in upstate New York before coming to California to study agriculture. She also farmed vegetables organically in Washington state and Minnesota before returning to California where she currently works as a field-based plant breeder at UC Davis. Her current breeding projects involve garbanzo, Lima, and common dry beans as well as mentoring graduate and undergraduate

students in fresh market vegetable and flower breeding for the organic sector.

#### **Hayley Park, Oregon State University**

Hayley Park is the founder and farmer at the Underground Seed Company, as well as a graduate student in the Vegetable Breeding Lab at Oregon State University. Her love of fresh air and sunshine led her into the agrarian life, where she became enamored with the process of growing seedlings into food and then back into seed again. Hayley aspires to bring humor, practicality, and a scientific eye to the broader organic seed and vegetable industries, while never losing touch with the humble joy of having dirt melded into her hands.

#### **Natalia Pinzón, Farmer Campus**

Natalia is the co-founder of Farmer Campus where she offers consulting in distance learning pedagogy and evaluation in agriculture. As a Colombian immigrant working in three continents, Natalia has seen the diversity of ways that farmers and peasants are impacted by and respond to globalization and climate change. She thus is specializing in agroecology as a means to reduce global climate risk in her Ph.D. research at UC Davis. As a biologist and science education specialist, Natalia has created three web-based learning communities, 30 online curriculum modules, and led six online certificate programs, supporting over 1,500 multicultural farmers. Natalia never turns down cocoa or a good backpacking trip.

#### **Georie Pitong Masipag, Masipag**

As an agriculturist and a community development worker for 38 years, I've been working with small farmers in the Philippines. Currently the Visayas Regional Coordinator of MASIPAG (Farmer-Scientist Partnership for Development), a farmer-led network of farmers organizations, non-government organizations and scientists working towards the sustainable use and management of biodiversity through farmers' control of genetic and biological resources, agricultural production and associated knowledge. I believe that small Filipino farmers must reclaim control of their seeds and technology, that seed, together with land and technology, is one of the important common resource that a farmer must have. I strongly believe that seed

is life and farmers' rights to freely save and share their seeds as commons should be respected and exercise this rights unhampered. I am grossly involved in campaigning for organic agriculture and farmers' rights, and educating consumers of the irreversible impacts of genetic engineering in agriculture and food.

### **Caleb Poppe, The Evergreen State College**

My name is Caleb Poppe and I am an Evergreen State College student and a diversified vegetable farmer (among other things). Through my education and my work, I have made it my goal to bring my local community a diverse array of nutrient dense vegetables grown through various regenerative techniques, approaching agriculture that empowers the soil, people, and ecosystems we have come to rely upon.

### **Maud Powell, Wolf Gulch Farm / Oregon State University**

Maud Powell has worked for the OSU Extension Small Farms program in Jackson County since 2006. She and her husband own and operate Wolf Gulch Farm, a certified organic seed and produce farm in the Siskiyou mountains. She serves as president of the Rogue Valley Food System Network, and the Oregon coordinator of the Western SARE Professional Development program.

### **Amelia Pressman, The Evergreen State College**

Amelia Pressman is in her third year at The Evergreen State College. During her time at Evergreen she has focused on culinary anthropology and food studies. Her work ranges from examining Jewish foodways in late nineteenth century Eastern Europe to the relationship between food and romance. She is very excited to be taking part in this conference and eagerly awaits learning from her fellow presenters.

### **Kathia Ramirez, El Comité del Apoyo por los Trabajadores Agrícolas / Farmworker Support Committee (CATA)**

Kathia Ramirez born and raised in Aztlan land, Los Angeles CA, but very proud of her Zapotec Indigenous Roots from Oaxaca Mexico, has been part of the CATA team for 7 years. Starting as an organizer and now as the Food Justice Coordinator. In her role, Kathia works closely with community members who are interested

in bettering our current food system, manages community gardens in each state where CATA works (NJ, PA, MD), leads our new Youth Internship Program, and represents CATA and its members in Alliances at the national level working in solidarity with social movements at the global level to advance Food Sovereignty and Agroecology as an alternative to our Food System. Prior to working at CATA, she was pursuing her Bachelor's in Spanish and Latino Studies at Mount Holyoke College in Western MA. She has served as one of the USFSA- US Food Sovereignty Alliance Northeast Region Co-Coordinator since 2017.

### **Beth Rasgorshek, Canyon Bouty Farm**

Beth is in her 22nd year of growing organic vegetable, herb and flower seeds. She is grateful to be from a seed farming family and community in Southwestern Idaho. These farmers inspire and motivate her to work with seed. Focused on contract seed production for a handful of organic seed companies, she values her relationships with those companies.

### **Martha Rosemeyer, The Evergreen State College**

Martha Rosemeyer has taught Ecological Agriculture and Food Systems programs at the Evergreen State College in Olympia WA for the last 20 years. During this time, she has supported students conducting field trials of vegetables for disease resistance including Northern Organic Vegetable Improvement Collaborative daughter trials on the Evergreen campus organic farm.

### **Laura Roser, University of California - Davis**

Laura Roser is a co-coordinator for the Student Collaborative Organic Plant breeding Education (SCOPE) program at the University of California, Davis, is a student-led collaborative of faculty and student plant breeders working with local organic growers on improving crop varieties for organic farming systems in California. She manages the internship program and the zinnia, tomato, pepper, and wheat breeding programs in SCOPE. She graduated from the University of California, Davis in 2019 with a B.S. in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems.

### **Beth Rota, Quality Certification Services (QCS)**

Beth's work in organic certification aims to uphold the integrity of the organic seal and bring lasting value to organic producers and consumers. Beth pursues consistency and collaboration in organic certification through her leadership on the Accredited Certifiers Association Board of Directors. Beth holds an M.S. in Environmental Studies from the University of Montana and B.A. in International and Environmental Politics from Juniata College. She is based in wild and wonderful West Virginia where she enjoys spending free time in her garden and kitchen and exploring the outdoors with family and friends.

### **Ana Ruiz Díaz, Independent Advisor, Demanda Colectiva Maíz**

Ana Ruiz Diaz has a PhD on Physical Anthropology, is an independent advisor on organic farming. Cofounder of the Vision Council Guardians of the Earth (1991-2017) a network of natural therapists, artist and ecology teachers. She works on the class action lawsuit that banned permits to sow transgenic corn in Mexico since September of 2013, and is member of the Union of Scientist Committed with Society.

### **Chris Salem, Grain Trialist**

Luis Salazar is a PhD candidate at UC Davis investigating the genetics of salinity tolerance in lettuce. Luis is also the project lead for the tomato breeding program with the Student Collaborative Organic Plant Breeding Education Project (SCOPE).

### **Christine Salem, Rio Grande Grain**

After a career in print and digital media. Christine became a Master Gardener in 2010 and produces and hosts a weekly radio show and podcast on gardening. In 2018 she co-founded Rio Grande Grain, a small grassroots organization dedicated to restoring heritage grains to northern New Mexico. That same year she co-founded the Santa Fe Seed Library. Her passions are native plants, growing and baking with heritage grains, food security, and seed sovereignty.

### **Justin Sardo, A Growing Culture**

Justin Sardo is a member of A Growing Culture. A Growing Culture is a non-profit working to catalyze action in the food sovereignty move-

ment through storytelling. Through stories and deep grassroots partnerships, their approach draws focus and resources to the peasant and Indigenous communities whose food sovereignty struggles hold the key to a biodiverse and dignified future for all.

### **Jeanine Scheffert, Seed Savers Exchange Education and Engagement Manager**

Jeanine Scheffert, Education & Engagement Manager at Seed Savers Exchange, oversees the organization's education and engagement department. Jeanine comes to this work with a background in gardening, education, painting and printmaking, and a passion for facilitating connection, engagement, and empowerment. She is responsible for SSE's education and engagement programs and brings a wealth of education experience from over 20 years of work in the field.

### **Benjamin Schragar, Utsunomiya University**

Benjamin Schragar is an Assistant Professor in Utsunomiya University's School of Agriculture. He became interested in crop breeding while researching about corn in Iowa as an undergraduate. His MA researched expanded on this theme by analyzing the seed corn industry in Hawaii. With a PhD in human geography, other themes in his research include chicken, Japan, local food, and biosecurity.

### **Margaret Scoles, International Association of Organic Inspectors**

Executive Director of the International Organic Inspectors Association, based in Montana. BS. Agriculture (Agronomy Major) from U of AZ. Worked my way through college in barley breeding research program. Organic inspector for 33 years and trainer of organic inspectors for 30 years. Have a small cow/calf operation with husband Bob. Avid organic gardener.

### **Rhianna Simes, Cultivate Oregon**

Rhianna Simes, M.S.Ed., grew up on her family's 100 acre farm and vineyard in central Texas. Rhianna recently retired from 10 years as an instructor at the Oregon State University Extension Service, where she developed several programs, and also coordinated the Master Gardener program. She has a Master's of Science in Education and Botany from Southern

Oregon University. Rhianna lives with her husband and two young children outside Talent, OR where they operate their own 1 acre, educational mini-farm called Verdant Phoenix (specializing in organic plant starts, perennial food, healthy soil and natural farming). Rhianna serves on the board for the Southern Oregon Seed Growers Association, she is currently the Chair for the Rogue Valley Food System Network Council, and she is the co-director for Cultivate Oregon- and Seeds to the People! Rhianna is a plant nerd who is passionate about local food, seed sovereignty, and building community!

**Kyla Smith, Pennsylvania Certified Organic**  
Kyla Smith is the Certification Director at PCO, a USDA accredited certification agency that certifies over 1700 operations in the US. She has worked in the organic industry for 19 years in various roles from conducting organic inspections and file review to policy work. In her current role, Kyla ensures that PCO's mission, programs and services are consistently presented with transparency and integrity to relevant stakeholders in adherence with PCO's strategic plan, as well as oversees the certification, inspection and material teams. Kyla also serves as the certifier representative on the National Organic Standards Board. She received her master's degree in Transformative Leadership and Social Change from the Maryland University of Integrative Health.

**Chris Smith, The Utopian Seed Project**  
Chris Smith is a seed saver and permaculturist who loves to write. He is executive director of the Utopian Seed Project, a crop-trialing non-profit working to celebrate food and farming. His book, *The Whole Okra*, won a James Beard Foundation Award in 2020 and he is the co-host of *The Okra Pod Cast*. More info at [blueandyellowmakes.com](http://blueandyellowmakes.com) and [utopianseed.org](http://utopianseed.org)

**Daniela Soleri, University of California - Santa Barbara**  
I am an ethnoecologist with a research focus on local and western scientific knowledge systems in small scale agriculture and gardens for collaborative problem solving based on epistemic justice. This includes quantifying farmer practices, documenting risk assessment and cultural identity related to seeds, investigating semi-formal seed networks, and community science.

**Iain Storosko, Carleton University**  
Iain is currently completing his Master of Geography at Carleton University in Ottawa, ON. Focusing his thesis in areas of agricultural geography and agricultural development, he comes from a background in environmental science and a passion for seeds, food security, and food sovereignty. His current research focuses on farmer-led participatory breeding programs for wheat and oats across Canada, with. This research was carried out in collaboration with the organization SeedChange to review their Participatory Plant Breeding (PPB) program, and with funding provided by the Organic Farming Research Foundation. Outside of school, he enjoys hiking and biking, play music, and practicing new languages.

**Sara Straate, Seed Savers Exchange Seed Historian**  
As seed historian, Sara Straate, has overseen historical research for the seed bank collection at Seed Savers Exchange since 2011. This program enhances collection documentation by gathering donor accounts and oral histories of seed stewardship, foodways, and garden practices. The information creates a historical and cultural portrait of each variety, which are published on the Exchange, helping the wider Exchange community engage with the seed bank collection. Sara has a love of history and an undergraduate degree in horticulture from Iowa State University.

**Nathaniel Talbot, Deep Harvest Farm**  
Annie Jespersen and Nathaniel Talbot run Deep Harvest Farm, a certified-organic seed, vegetable, and flower farm on Washington State's Whidbey Island. They grow over 120 varieties of Certified Organic, Open-Pollinated, & Non-GMO seed while providing fresh vegetables to our community from June to December.

**Courtney Tchida, Minnesota State Horticultural Society**  
Courtney Tchida is the Community Programs Director for the Minnesota State Horticultural Society, where she helps support community, school and public garden spaces. Courtney has over 20 years of experience working and teaching in horticulture and food-systems. Co-creating the MN Seed Project to teach others how to

save seeds from natives and create more habitat for pollinators was a focus of 2021.

**Daniel Tobin, The University of Vermont**  
Daniel Tobin is a rural sociologist whose research focuses on how small- and medium-scale farmers respond to external influences like market forces, policy mechanisms, and environmental changes. Particular interests include sociology of agriculture, development sociology, political economy of agricultural development, crop diversity conservation, and seed systems. Tobin currently has projects in Peru, Mexico, Vermont, and Uganda.

**Jay Tracy, Cucumber Shop**  
Jay is a backyard gardener with a mission to discover, preserve and provide access to incredible indigenous Cucumber-melons (*C. melo* picked immature as cucumbers) through Cucumber Shop.

**Dr. Antonio Turrent Fernández, Mexico National Institute for Forestry, Agriculture and Livestock Research**  
Antonio Turrent Fernández is an Agronomic Engineer by Chapingo University (1959) has a Master in Agronomic Sciences by the Post Graduate School (COLPOS1962) and a PhD on Edaphology by Iowa State University (1968). For decades was researcher on INIFAP and professor at Colpos; part of the executive staff on INIFAP. His studies and publications have focus on small scale agriculture, in corn's potential to achieve self-sufficiency in Mexico, as well as in the protection from science of corn's diversity and wild relatives. He is part of the class action that has banned permits to sow GM corn in Mexico since 2013. He founded and presided the Union of Scientists Committed with Society.

**Benjamin Uchitelle-Pierce, Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) HarvestPlus**  
Benjamin is honored to be part of this growing and vibrant OSA community. Benjamin is interested to use seeds to build a more nutritious, resilient and equitable food system. Benjamin works with HarvestPlus and the CGIAR and is focused on crop development and commercialization of nutritious staple crops, with the goal of reducing micronutrient malnutrition in his community and around the world.

**Carmen Ugarte, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign**  
Benjamin is honored to be part of this growing and vibrant OSA community. Benjamin is interested to use seeds to build a more nutritious, resilient and equitable food system. Benjamin works with HarvestPlus and the CGIAR and is focused on crop development and commercialization of nutritious staple crops, with the goal of reducing micronutrient malnutrition in his community and around the world.

**Patrick van Zwanenberg, University of Buenos Aires**  
I am an interdisciplinary researcher working on issues about sustainable futures and the politics of science and innovation, currently based in Argentina. For the last five years or so I have been part of a group of researchers, public sector plant breeders, farmer-breeders and others who have set up an open source, collaborative seed breeding initiative called Bioleft.

**Ira Wallace, Southern Exposure Seed Exchange, Ujamaa Cooperative Farming Alliance**  
Ira Wallace is an organic grower, author, speaker, visionary and worker/owner of the cooperative Southern Exposure Seed Exchange where she coordinates outreach, education, and new seed grower contracts. Southern Exposure helps people keep control of their food supply thru seed saving and sustainable gardening. Ira serves on the boards of the Organic Seed Alliance, and the Virginia Association for Biological Farming. Ira is a cofounder of the Heritage Harvest Festival at Monticello [www.HeritageHarvestFestival.com](http://www.HeritageHarvestFestival.com). She was named a 2019 Great American Gardener by the American Horticultural Society. She is author of the Timber Press Guide to Vegetable Gardening in the Southeast. Her new state specific book series including, *Grow Great Vegetables in Virginia*, are available online and at booksellers everywhere. Ira is currently working on creating an African Diasporic Seed Collection. A legacy project for the 70 yr-old seed saver, organic farmer and heirloom seed pioneer who is inspired by the work of Leah Penniman and the folks at Soul Fire Farm. This will be a collection that honors and tells the stories of seeds that have been historically grown by and represent a part of the story

of food and farming for black and brown people across the African Diaspora.

### **Daniel Wanjama, Seed Savers Network**

Daniel Wanjama founder and coordinator of Seed Savers Network in Kenya. For the last 20 years, I have been working with small scale farmers through various interventions aimed at food and nutritional security. Since 2009 when Seed Savers Network was founded, I have been working at the grassroots to address challenges related to seed access in Kenya.

### **Emily Wilder, Salinity Seafood & More**

Emily Wilder is an alumni of The Evergreen State College, where she used the on-campus shellfish farm to teach thousands of community members about climate change and the joy of delicious fresh seafood. She continues to advise The Evergreen State College as they integrate aquaculture more deeply into the college's organic farming and marine biology curricula and give students the chance to shape a growing industry. Look to these waters for research into seaweed cultivation and permaculture-style aquaculture! After pursuing a Masters in Business & Marketing at Bentley University, Emily launched an online grocery store, Salinity Seafood & More, to make responsibly-sourced Pacific Northwest foods more accessible to folks around the USA. When she's not knitting and reading romance novels, you can find Emily walking the beaches of her native Whidbey Island.

### **Sarah Williams, The Evergreen State College**

I'm a faculty member at The Evergreen State College where there's a 1,000-acres of forest, farm, and shellfish garden with which I teach interdisciplinary, team-taught, year-long programs in the Food and Ag Path of Study. I'm also a 4th generation Minnesota farmer's daughter whose PhD in feminist theory might be linked to MN's Southern School of Agriculture transforming in a federal penitentiary for women.

### **Lexie Wilson, University of Wisconsin - Madison**

Lexie Wilson is pursuing a Plant Breeding & Plant Genetics PhD at University of Wisconsin - Madison in the Sweet Maize Breeding and Genetics program with Dr. Bill Tracy. Her

research focuses on breeding sweet maize for organic farming systems, specifically on trialing methods to select for extended fresh harvest window in grain x sweet maize crosses (vegetable maize). She holds a B.A. in Visual Art and a minor in Art History from University of Chicago. She was inspired to learn the craft of plant breeding after working on, then later establishing, a diversified vegetable farm.

### **Amy Wong, Oregon Organic Coalition**

Amy Wong is a Portland-based attorney who is currently serving as the Board Chair of the Oregon Organic Coalition. Amy served as the Policy Director for Friends of Family Farmers, a non-profit organization working to promote and protect socially responsible agriculture in Oregon. Amy also was the Chief of Staff to Oregon State Senator Jeff Golden, and advocated on behalf of a coalition of nonprofit organizations seeking legislative and agency protection for Oregon's vegetable specialty seed industry. In another life, Amy worked as a travel and food writer, which took her all over the globe. Amy also is an Advisory Board Member of Cultivate Oregon and sits on the Board of the Karuna Foundation.

### **Liza Wood, University of California - Davis**

Liza is a PhD candidate at University of California Davis's Center for Environmental Policy and Behavior, earning her degree in Ecology. Her research broadly focuses on how policy and governance can support food system transitions for more sustainable outcomes. Her current work looks at how the relationships in the seed system support or hinder social-ecological resilience: Are seed systems organizing in a way that can support an ecologically sound and socially empowering food system? Her research experience comes from her previous studies in Sustainability Science and Policy (MSc), Organic Farming (MSc), and Biology and Political Science (BA). Outside of her work, Liza enjoys hiking around Northern California, sci-fi, and taking care of her sourdough starter.

### **Alexandra Zamecnik, Native Seeds/SEARCH**

Alexandra Zamecnik (Executive Director) joined NS/S in February 2021. She has more than 15 years of leadership and management experience working on international projects with

extensive experience in Mexico and Central America. Through her experiences with the U.S. Forest Service, Chemonics International and Rainforest Alliance, she brings in-depth knowledge of forestry, biodiversity conservation, and climate change. She has successfully formed partnerships with multilateral organizations, federal and state governments, NGOs, local communities, and academia. Most recently, she worked as a facilitator with Tucson based Southwest Decision Resources. She has a B.A. in International Relations from Boston University and an M.A. focused in International Environment and Resource Policy from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. Her passion for conservation was borne out of growing up between two cultures with a mother from Argentina and a father from Boston. Since she was a child, she has returned to Cordoba, Argentina and has witnessed how land-use, ownership, and cultural practices are easily lost if they are not conserved.

### **Jared Zystro, Organic Seed Alliance**

Jared Zystro is Organic Seed Alliance's research and education assistant director. He has an M.S. and Ph.D. 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 has worked in the organic seed industry for over 15 years, managing seed production at two farms and conducting research and education projects with OSA. He 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. He lives in the coastal town of Arcata, CA, with his wife and son.

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Contact [devonb@botanicalinterests.com](mailto:devonb@botanicalinterests.com) or [lesiam@botanicalinterests.com](mailto:lesiam@botanicalinterests.com) for more information.

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