

Sowing the Future - Harvesting Diversity

No patents for the seed industry! Seeds must remain humanity's common heritage!

Crop diversity is the fruit of thousand's of years of human activity throughout the world. It is a common good and belongs to everyone. Ensuring access to this diversity is fundamental for our daily bread and to achieving food sovereignty. In many regions of the world farmers continue to produce, exchange and sell their own seeds.

The European Union has decided to change its seed legislation by 2011. The seed industry wants to secure intellectual property rights and the patenting of its crop varieties. It also seeks stronger control or even the prohibition of all non-registered varieties created by generations of farmers and gardeners.

Ten companies, among them Bayer, Monsanto, Syngenta und Limagrain, already control 67% of the world seed market. They want to conquer the rest of the market and thereby impose their registered varieties on the rest of the world, varieties which generally only thrive with the help of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and irrigation. However, it is not these genetically homogenous industrial seed varieties which will be able to feed the world in the future. We should put our trust in the diverse, regional varieties which are capable of adapting to climate change.

The negotiations on the new European seed legislation are taking place behind closed doors, among representatives of the seed industry and EU bureaucrats. In such circumstances we can hardly expect a positive outcome. In order to influence the new seed laws we must raise public awareness for our goals.

We demand:

- the right to produce our seeds from our own harvests, to re-sow and to give them to others;
- the promotion of regional crop variety by supporting the men and women who keep and select organic varieties;
- the prohibition of genetic technologies in agriculture;
- the prohibition of patents on plants;
- a new law for the introduction of new seed varieties which excludes GMOs and varieties that require intensive chemical use;
- an end to high energy inputs in agriculture which are the result of monocultures, long transport routes as well as industrial crops that require chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Name	Address and email	Signature	Further info ? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Please ask for more petitions and send the signatures by 31st of December 2010 to the following address: Jürgen Holzapfel, European Civic Forum, Stubbendorf 68, 17159 Dargun, Germany. email: info@seed-sovereignty.org
More information: <http://www.seed-sovereignty.org/>

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