Sow your resistance

International Meeting on Peasants' Seeds

From 4th to 9th November 2019, Occitania, France

Provisional Program
International Meeting on Peasants' Seeds

Since its creation in 2003, the members of the Réseau Semences Paysannes (RSP) have regularly organized international meetings bringing together practitioners, farmers, gardeners and seed artisans from all over the world. These international meetings are an important levers to recover the knowledge and know-how associated with seeds that are too often lost in industrialized countries. They have made it possible to build links, alliances and projects between practitioners of cultivated biodiversity in the different regions of the world engaged in peasant, ecological and solidarity-based agriculture. At the beginning of November 2019, several RSP collectives in Occitania propose to co-organize the International Meetings "Sème ta résistance", planned in three stages:

- **Visits to the Peasant Seed Houses, Occitania - November 4th, 5th and 6th**
  The first phase involves visits to farms and collective facilities to exchange practices among peers (reserved for international guests)

- **Main meeting in Mèze – November 7th and 8th**
  The second phase involves the main gathering in Mèze: a large open room will host the exchanges and workshops of 300 national and international practitioners on the banks of the Thau pond.

- **Public day in Mèze - November 9th**
  The third phase is a one day public forum open to the general public to show and share the diversity of cultivated plants and stimulate debate on the challenges around peasant’ seeds in our food systems.

November 4th, 5th and 6th: visits to the Peasant Seed Houses in Occitania

During 3 days, four different visits are proposed to international guests around concrete initiatives to maintain biodiversity cultivated in farms and gardens. Each visit is organized by local collectives that are member of the Peasant Seeds Network. Please pre-register, as soon as possible using the online registration form as there are limited spaces available.

1st VISIT - PÉTANIELLE (Tarn)

Keywords: cereals, bread, artisanal mill, commons.
The Pétabnile association offers farm visits focused on peasant seeds of cereals (wheat, spelt, einkorn...). On the agenda: exchanges around mills and peasant bakeries, bread-making workshop on the farm and in a traditional bakery (100% organic sourdough), exchanges around an original way of organizing peasant seeds connecting gardeners and peasants, visit of a craftsman making small millstones of the Astrier type. An evening of cultural exchanges will be organized.

2nd VISIT - CHEMIN CUEILLANT (Minervois)

Keywords: Mediterranean fruit trees and vines, breeding, construction of equipment
Chemin Cuillan proposes a meeting around orchards centred on Mediterranean fruit species (olive, almond...) and vines. This will be the olive harvest period. Among the themes that can be addressed in the farms of Chemin Cuillan, we will find livestock breeding, gardening, peasant approaches for breeding, and the construction of agricultural equipment. An evening of cultural exchanges will be organized.

3rd VISIT - RÉNOVA (Ariège)

Keywords: fruit and chestnuts, polyculture mountain breeding, animal traction, territorial economy
The Rénova association offers exchanges around the promotion of the territory’s diversified rural and agricultural activities. On the agenda: orchards and chestnut groves, discovery during the chestnut harvest period of the work of enhancing the value of the country’s fruit varieties through a collective processing workshop with the production of apple juice and chestnut cream, farms in mixed farming and livestock, market gardening using animal traction, horticultrural seed production... Animation in partnership with the Centre to promote agriculture and the rural environment of Haute-Garonne. An evening of cultural exchanges will be organized.

4th VISIT - SEMEURS DU LODVEOIS LARZAC (Lodevois Larzac)

Keywords: local garden varieties, old and rare fruit trees, Cause mountain breeds
The Semeurs du Lodevois Larzac group proposes a meeting focused on vegetable, meadow and fruit species. The program: visit of market gardening based on peasant varieties, visit of an orchard of old and rare varieties of fruit trees (olive trees, persimmon, pawpaw...), visit of a Larzac farm (sheep breeding, processing, selection of fodder species adapted to drought), visit of producer shops. An evening of cultural exchanges will be organized.

On Thursday, November 7th - Main meeting in Mèze

From Wednesday afternoon, welcome of participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09h00</td>
<td>Introductory plenary session</td>
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<tr>
<td>10h00</td>
<td>Welcoming speech and organizer’s presentation</td>
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<td>11h00</td>
<td>Participants presentation by delegation</td>
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<tr>
<td>12h00</td>
<td>Restitution of the four visits that took place in the Peasant Seed Houses the previous days.</td>
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<td>13h00</td>
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<td>14h00</td>
<td>Associative forum</td>
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<td>15h00</td>
<td>EC Let’s Liberate Diversity workshop</td>
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<td>16h00</td>
<td>Visit of an oyster farm</td>
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<td>17h00</td>
<td>Plenary Peasant Seeds in the world</td>
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<td>18h00</td>
<td>Exchange and preservation of seeds are an inalienable characteristic of peasant societies. According to political, economic and cultural contexts, the independent seed systems of nowadays evolve and adapt themselves, to renew a biodiversity which is drastically eroded (for example systems involving peasants, gardeners and consumers).</td>
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<tr>
<td>21h00</td>
<td>Cultural evening</td>
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On Friday, November 8th - Main meeting in Mèze: workshops program

For logistical reasons, pre-registration is required (see registration form): 1 workshop in the morning; 1 workshop in the afternoon.

### Thematic workshops A/

A1/ ITGPGRFA and Peasant’s rights
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and Peasant’s rights is one of the bodies involved in global seed governance. Exchange on current events and issues. Contribution to the Declaration of the Peasants’ Rights adopted at the end of 2018 by the UN. Testimonies and analyses from different actors (farmers, NGOs).

A2/ Agricultural common goods
Peasant seeds, farmlands, tools and equipment... and associated know-how: discussion on agricultural common goods and political perspectives.

A3/ Collaborative breeding
This breeding method makes it possible to adapt peasant varieties as precisely as possible to the size of the farm and the agro-system. Presentation of various French and international initiatives.

### Practical workshops P/

P1/ Bread-Making
Phase 1: Kneading, 1st fermentation
Comparison of different flours of soft wheat, durum wheat, other cereals.

P2/ Couscous making
Around the traditional know-how from Maghreb, a comparison of couscous based on different cereal species/varieties (barley, millet, durum wheat and poulard).

### A4/ Syntropic agriculture
Presentation of synthetic agriculture, defined as a set of principles and techniques that integrate the natural regeneration dynamics of the forest within food production.

A5/ Adaptation of vegetable varieties
Exchange on peasant breeding in order to adapt the vegetables species. Concrete testimonies in West Africa, Maghreb and France.

### A6/ Definition and design of innovative seed systems
This workshop will present the results of the EU project DIVERSFOOD on seed systems and will open the discussion with participants on the boundaries between so-called informal and formal seed systems based on concrete case studies.

### A7/ ‘Farmers’ autonomy and technology.
Exchanges on peasant autonomy, especially on technologies that enslave the peasant world. Crossed views on the struggles (against GMOs for example), and on peasant strategies for the re-appropriation of tools and seeds.

### A8/ Holistic view of being
Exchanges around the global approach of plants and farms: living soil, micro-organisms, biological diversity...

### A9/ Peasant trees
Crossed views on the revitalization of our fruit heritage. Selection, propagation methods, adaptation of rootstocks, pollination. What are the alternatives for a nourishing arboriculture?

### A10/ Seeds and climate.
Sharing of seeds and experiences of adaptation to global warming among farmers in the Mediterranean basin.

### Afternoon

P1/ Bread-making (2)
Phase 2: shaping, 2nd fermentation, baking in mobile bakery(s).

P5/ Pasta making
Test with different types: durum wheat/pouhard, other species.

A11/ ITGPGRFA and Peasant’s rights

A12/ Agricultural common goods

A13/ Collaborative breeding

A14/ Syntropic agriculture

A15/ Adaptation of vegetable varieties

A16/ Definition and design of innovative seed systems

A17/ ‘Farmers’ autonomy and technology.

A18/ Holistic view of being

A19/ Peasant trees

A20/ Seeds and climate

Conclusive plenary session
Public Day on Saturday, November 9th

In partnership with the Permanent Centre for Environmental Initiatives (CPIE) of the Thau basin, the last day of November 9th will be entirely open to the public around the associative forum: exhibition of cultivated diversity, seed and plant exchange, practical workshops (baking, cooking, seed sorting...), children's area, round tables and workshops, concert, food and drink service. This day will close the meetings. Program under construction (final version for early October!)

10h00
Round table "climate change and peasant agro-ecology": peasant testimonies.

11h00
Where we learn about current challenges, especially those related to climate change. Where farmers talk about another relationship with the living of the order of companionship with animals and plants. Where this relationship is one of the prerequisites for trying to cope with climate and ecological upheavals.

12h00

13h00

14h00
Round table conference in partnership with the Eco-dialogue festival (to be confirmed)

15h00

16h00
Round table "Technology critique. Crossed views on the influence of techno-sciences in agriculture" (to be confirmed)

17h00

18h00

21h00

Conference Area

Associtative Forum

Worshops

Introduction to bread-making workshops (mobile bakery)

- Workshop "Discover seed worlds"
- Workshop "produce its owns organic seeds"
- Workshop "what is cooperative selection? example of the tomato"
- Workshop "learn to graft"

Juice making workshop (mobile press)

Farmer's seeds swap: bring your seeds!

Association forum

Exhibition of the cultivated diversity.

Association stands and events: fruit, wheat, corn, maize villages, seed artisans, internationals and partners.

Kids' area

Peasant market

Bar

Food and drink service

Concert
Practical Informations

Venue and access

The visits to Peasant Seed Houses will take place in 4 territories of Occitania: Ariège, Lodevois-Larzac, Minervois and Tarn. Further information will be provided to the interested participants.

For international guests who are not present during the visits to Peasant Seed Houses, shuttles will be organised from the train stations and airports in the area (Montpellier, Sète) on Wednesday 6 (late afternoon, early evening) and from Mèze on Saturday 9 and Sunday 10.

The main meetings will be in Mèze at The Taurus lodge and restaurant:
Rue de la Méditerranée
34140 Mèze
www.le-taurus.fr
A more precise roadmap will be issued at a later date.

Accommodation

The various Peasant Seed Houses will host the international participants during the farm stays, including for meals. During the 3 days of meetings in Mèze, meals will be taken on site and accommodation will be provided. If you do not wish to have accommodation organised for you, please state this in the online or PDF registration form. Spaces are limited!
Fee

The subscription is mandatory, please, register you filling up on line or PDF registration form. Deadline: 1st of October.

ON LINE REGISTRATION FORM

Registration fees (only for the central meeting from 7th to 9th) ........................................ 15€/day

Accommodation and food

Full board .................................................................................................................. 50€/day
Half board (lunch and dinner) ..................................................................................... 30€/day
Lunch ......................................................................................................................... 15€/day

Contacts

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With the support of: