

## SAVE OUR SEEDS



Foto: Ursula Schulz-Dornburg

**SOS**  
save our seeds

„Save Our Seeds“ (SOS) is a European initiative in favor of the purity of seeds against genetically modified organisms (GMO). The initiative was created in 2002 by the Foundation on Future Farming and since then advocates no tolerance for contamination of seeds by GMOs.

From this initiative hundreds of organizations and some thousand citizens of the EU have become affiliated with Save Our Seeds' many activities. The projects combine the genetic engineering controversy and sustainable land and food sovereignty with an international perspective.

SOS organizes the yearly GMO Free Regions conference, leads the Bantam Mais action and is co-publisher of the Informationsdienst Gentechnik (GE Info Service). SOS was involved in the creation of the Weltagrarbericht (World Agriculture Report) and has shared its findings all over Germany. Together with many other organizations, SOS is responsible for the campaign „Meine Landwirtschaft – Unsere Wahl“ (My Agriculture, Our Choice), engaged with the realignment of European agricultural policy after 2013.

With its campaigns and initiatives, SOS networks with different organizations, companies, politicians, scientists, farmers, and interested citizens; and wishes to lead a productive debate towards sustainable change.

[www.saveourseeds.org](http://www.saveourseeds.org)

## FOUNDATION ON FUTURE FARMING

**GLS** *Treuhand*  
Zukunftsstiftung  
Landwirtschaft

Save Our Seeds is the Berlin office of the Foundation on Future Farming, an initiative of the charitable GLS Treuhand (trust) e.V. in Bochum. GLS primarily promotes the cultivation of new plant types and animal races for organic agriculture. They work together with a number of breeders that develop their own varieties that are ideally adapted to growing without pesticides or mineral fertilizer and promise better taste and higher vitality.

In addition, the Foundation on Future Farming promotes economic and social innovations for farmers, professorships for agriculture and food research as well as farms for students and kids. The foundation supports the establishment of new farms and the further provisions on the farm including new concepts of land owning agreements.

In all of these domains the foundation strives to entrench and cultivate organic and biodynamic ideas as the model of agriculture. „Wir machen der Erde den Hof“ is the motto of the Foundation on Future Farming, whose funds do not come from one large endowment capital but rather many small and medium individual contributions from people who take these goals to heart.

[www.zs-l.de](http://www.zs-l.de)

## SOS KEEPS SEEDS CLEAN



GMO contamination in corn. 0.1% contamination in corn means 100 GMO-plants per hectare.

The global diversity of cereals, fruits, and vegetables has developed over centuries and these crops have grown to adapt to their environment. A cultural heritage of countless generations has worked to respect and preserve this diversity.

Seed companies, however, require limits on the „accidental or technically unavoidable“ contamination of conventional seeds with GMOs. Since control of this risk technology is impossible, farmers and consumers are deprived of their freedom of choice. Farmers no longer know whether they are sowing and reproducing GM seeds. The insidious contamination of seeds destroys the foundation for GM-free agriculture and nutrition.

Over 300,000 people and more than 300 organizations with over 25 million members from all EU member states plus companies and institutions have supported the Save Our Seeds petition for a seed purity law. With success, the no tolerance policy still remains in effect, and has since been advocated for by more governments.

[www.saveourseeds.org](http://www.saveourseeds.org)

## ACTION BANTAM-MAIS

**Bantam!**

An uprising is happening in Germany: In defense against the cultivation of GM maize on the ground and with intentions to set an example for the free exchange of non-GM seeds, gardeners, farmers, and balcony botanists are growing the traditional variety Golden Bantam. Meanwhile, not only Bantam maize is blooming, but a colorful variety of non hybrid maize seeds are reproducing on Germany's arable land, balconies and in gardens.

To the delight of the Bantam growers, GM farming was forbidden in Germany in 2009. However, the GM movement is unstoppable. In 2010, the GM-free flax variety „Blue Wonder“ was introduced. Since 2011, three more open pollinating seed varieties can be shared with other growers to add to the biodiversity that is threatened also in garden areas by hybrids and monocultures.

[www.bantam-mais.de](http://www.bantam-mais.de)



## ONLY WITH YOUR SUPPORT

Our activities are exclusively financed through large and small donations. We are proud to be independent of state authority and commercial interests, and thank everyone that can help make our work possible through financial contributions.

We are especially thankful to our large community of friends. With regular small and large donations they make it possible for us to reach our goals.

**Participate!**  
**Support us with your donation:**

**Account** | Zukunftsstiftung Landwirtschaft

**IBAN** | DE23 4306 0967 0030 0054 14

GLS Gemeinschaftsbank Bochum

**BIC** | GENODEM1GLS

**Keyword** | Save Our Seeds Donation

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## GMO-FREE REGIONS IN EUROPE



292 regions, departments, and districts, 4713 communities, and 10,000 farmers in all of Europe have defined their territories as GM technology free. First and foremost this means the regions do everything legally possible to prevent the cultivation of GMOs

in their regions and territories. It also facilitates GM-free shopping, the avoidance of genetically modified feed within their region, and the guarantee that with the designation of origin it is guaranteed that local products are produced without genetic engineering.

Once a year, farmers, politicians, companies, representatives of civil society, scientists, and GMO activists are invited by Save Our Seeds to exchange experiences, to debate on common strategies and to jointly wave their flag of self determination against GMO.

[www.gmo-free-regions.org](http://www.gmo-free-regions.org)

## GENETIC ENGINEERING INFO SERVICE



The Informationsdienst Gentechnik (Genetic Engineering Info Service), working with Save Our Seeds on behalf of the „Round Table on Genetic Engineering“ daily releases the latest developments in the field of agro-biotechnology. The service compiles messages, files and background information, has produced flyers and postcards and, more recently, created teacher and student pages on the subject of genetic engineering.



There is an appointment calendar that informs about events in the regions. A promotions page reports on initiatives and activities related to the agro-biotechnology. A 14-day newsletter keeps all who deal critically with genetic engineering in agriculture and food, up to date. The information service has become a common platform for the GE-free movement in Germany. Two contributors will gladly answer questions on the theme of genetic engineering by phone or email.

[www.keine-gentechnik.de](http://www.keine-gentechnik.de)

## WORLD AGRICULTURE REPORT



„Business as usual is not an option“ was the message from the most comprehensive analysis of the history and future of global agriculture. Over 500 scientists from 86 countries researched in 2008 on behalf of the UN and the World Bank and gathered their conclusions in a World Agriculture Report. Save Our Seeds has worked since 2003 in the Board of the World Agriculture Report and summarized the results of the 2000-page work in a booklet and on the Internet for the public.

In many speeches on the subject Save Our Seeds advocates for thought, discussion, and action for a just, climate-resistant, versatile farming, and encourages organic agriculture.

Even if the German federal government is not one of the 58 signatory countries, many of the insights of the world agricultural report on the country's opposition. The industrial agricultural models of the last century are not fit to overcome hunger and malnutrition, climate change, resource scarcity, biodiversity loss and pollution. Nor is this model enough to ensure global sustainability and equity. All over the world is emerging a change - we will accomplish it together in time?

[www.weltagrarbericht.de](http://www.weltagrarbericht.de)

## „MY AGRICULTURE - OUR CHOICE“

„Meine Landwirtschaft – Unserer Wahl“ (My Agriculture, Our Choice) is an initiative of farmer, environment, consumer, development, and animal protection organizations. Together the organizations want to bring agricultural reform and social responsibility to the forefront of EU discussions. This reform decides the fate of millions of farmers in Europe and developing countries. Also, it is perhaps the most important environmental, climate, and animal protection law, which the EU could pass in the coming years on health, global justice and hunger.

Therefore all taxpayers should get involved and ask themselves: What agricultural practices do we want to support with our money in the future and how can we prevent excesses of monocultures and factory farming? Should our cultural landscape become oil fields for fuel and energy? Should „grow or neglect,“ remain the dogma of our agricultural policy? Will rural traditional agriculture continue to be defined by the buzz word “Bio” at the hands of the agricultural, feedstock and biotechnology industries?

These issues are too important to us to neglect the industrial agricultural lobby.

[www.meine-landwirtschaft.de](http://www.meine-landwirtschaft.de)

