



OpenSourceSeeds is a newly founded service provider, and supports all those who want to make seeds a common good. The first open-source varieties are already available. For instance, the cocktail-tomato Sunviva has already conquered the seedling market.

- We advise plant breeders, seed producers and all those interested in seeds associated with the OS-Seed-License.
- We provide new developments in cultivar-breeding, populations and lines with the Open-Source License, and have them legally protected.
- We answer to questions about the seed license.
- We inform about available OS-licensed varieties and much more.
- We promote non-profit plant breeding.

OpenSourceSeeds offers its services free of charge, and is dependent on donations.
Please support our initiative.



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OpenSourceSeeds is run by AGRECOL e.V., a recognized non-profit association. With a donation of 200,00 € or more, we will gladly issue a donation receipt; for this we need your address.



Open
Source
Seeds



**Agriculture needs
plant diversity**

Against Privatisation and Monopolisation

Until the 20th century, seeds were a commons and belonged to all. Everywhere around the world, farmers would work together to create, preserve and further breed our crops. Today, seeds are increasingly privatised by enforcing plant variety protection or patents. Three major chemical corporations account for nearly 60% of the world's commercial seed market. They therefore also decide what ends up on our plate. Sustainable agriculture must overcome this one-sidedness, and such dependencies. This requires independent, organic plant breeders to have free access to seeds and varieties for breeding purposes.

Diversity is necessary

Every field is different. A rich harvest is only possible if the plant is well suited to the soil and climate. To achieve this, it is not sufficient to grow only a few crops, and to disseminate a few varieties extensively. We need a rich selection of crops with many different varieties for the diverse site conditions. Only then will it be possible for agriculture to adapt to climate change, to abandon the high use of chemicals and ultimately achieve food security for an expected 11 billion people.



Independent plant breeders are needed

Only if seeds are freed from patents and plant variety protection can many independent breeders begin to take action and produce the much-needed diversity of ecologically-adapted and high-performing varieties. This is where the Open-Source Seed License comes into play. It allows for seeds and their further development to be protected from privatisation, and legally secured as a commons. As a result, non-profit plant breeding can be strengthened, and be established as a second pillar along side the private seed sector.

What Open-Source has to do with seeds

We know the Open-Source principle from the software sector: Open-Source-Software may be used, passed on and changed by everyone free of charge, and Creative-Commons Licenses, which we also know from Wikipedia, ensure that it remains so. Plants also contain a great deal of information in their genes about their properties such as appearance, growth and yield. Plant breeding means working with this information, and developing varieties that yield well and that are flavourful. This work should not be left to a few companies. The more people that participate in plant breeding, the more diverse our agriculture can become. Their participation is only possible through free seeds.

The rules of the Open-Source Seed License

- Everyone may use the seed freely – i.e. to cultivate, propagate, further develop, and breed it. Furthermore, the seed and its further developments may be passed on within the framework of existing legislation.
- However, nobody is allowed to privatise the seed and its further developments. Patent- and variety-protection are therefore prohibited.
- Each recipient assigns the same rights and obligations to future users of the seed, and to its advancements.

Further information can be found at www.opensourceseeds.org