

Programme for the

Nordic Seminar on the Cultural Heritage of Plant Genetic Resources

Organisers: The Danish Plant Directorate, NordGen, The Danish Agricultural Museum, Danish Seed Savers Association
The Seminar is supported by the Nordic Council of Ministers

"Plants that tell stories:

How Nordic plant genetic resources transmit our cultural heritage and contribute to our culinary future"

17th-18th November 2008
Hillerød, Denmark

Monday, 17th November

10:00-12:00 Registration
12:00-13:00 Lunch

13:00 **Welcome speech:** Lars Landbo, Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture & Fisheries
Greeting from the Nordic Council of Ministers: Mads Randbøl Wolff, Senior Adviser to the Council

13:15-14:15 **Setting the stage** (discussion and short breaks included)

The role of Angelika (Kvan) in Iceland's cultural & nutritional history
Áslaug Helgadóttir, Agricultural University of Iceland
Laufey Steingrímsdóttir, Agricultural University of Iceland

The ethnobotany of rye cultivation in Finland and its influence abroad
Hannu Ahokas, MTT (Agrifood Research Finland)

14:15-15:45 **The value of old & local varieties in the Scandinavian food industry**

Nordic ingredients and the consumer: the market today and tomorrow
Jens Odgaard Olsson, chefkonsulent, Meyer Consulting, Denmark

The successful branding of the Bjäre Peninsula (from potatoes to vodka and beyond)
A representative from Bjäre Hembygd, Sweden

Branding of historical varieties:

The case of Plantearven, the trademark of the Norwegian Genetic Resource Centre
Åsmund Asdal, Norsk Genressurscenter

Branding and marketing in Switzerland: ProSpecieRara, a seal of approval for genetic resources, established by a unique partnership between the NGO and Coop
Philipp Holzherr, Project leader, garden and field crops, ProSpecieRara

15:45-16:30 **Break for coffee, talk and looking over posters & exhibits**

16:30-17:30 **Finding and conserving our cultural heritage**

Iceland's historic potatoes
Eva Porvaldsdóttir, Director, Reykjavík's Botanical Garden

Saving and demonstrating the Finnish herbal heritage
Bertalan Galambosi, MTT (Agrifood Research Finland)

Valuable gene pools of medieval relict plants in DK – *in situ* preservation through utilization?
Bernt Løjtnant, consulting biologist

18:45- **Dinner**

After dinner talk: Potetens kulturhistorie i Norge
Ingvar Hage, Bioforsk Øst, Norway

NB: This short talk will be given in Norwegian Bokmål. We will provide language aids for all wishing them in the form of a glass of potato vodka and an English summary!

Tuesday, 18th November

07:30-08.30 Breakfast

08:30-10:50 **Finding and conserving our cultural heritage** (continued)

The role of gene banks
Morten Rasmussen, NordGen

A Nordic pre-breeding initiative: how utilization of Nordic varieties in future plant breeding can contribute to conservation

Roland von Bothmer, Faculty of Landscape Planning, Horticulture & Agricultural Science, SLU

Telling the stories of grandma's perennials - the role of museums
Mari Marstein, Gamle Hvam Museum, Norway

The Swedish national programme for PGR
Jens Weibull, the Swedish Biodiversity Centre

The role of Nordic NGOs:

1) An overview of Nordic NGOs working with plant cultural and genetic resources

Frøsamlerne, Denmark

2) The Finnish experience

Riku Cajander, Maatiainen ry (Det lantliga kulturarvet), Finland

10:40-11:00 **Break**

11:00-12:00 **Improving the accessibility of historic plants and cultural information**

Introduction
Helle Ravn, Langelands Museum

NordGen: From accessions database to Wikipedia?
Johan Bäckman, IT Manager, NordGen

On-farm conservation of cereal landraces in Finland: From family heritage to promoting their cultural value among the public

Maarit Heinonen, MTT (Agrifood Research Finland)

12:00-13:00 **Lunch**

13:15-14:00 **Improving the accessibility of historic plants and cultural information**

Dead seeds can also reveal cultural history: What research tells us about old landraces
Jenny Hagenblad, Uppsala University

What archaeobotanical finds tell us about the history of Nordic crops and cultivation
Peter Hambro Mikkelsen, Moesgaard Museum

Telling the stories of household varieties: Peas and "De odlade til husbehov"
Lena Nygårds, the Swedish Programme for Diversity of Cultivated Plants (POM)

14:00-15:00 **Summary and Conclusions: Where do we go from here? What have we learned?**

Chair: Morten Rasmussen, NordGen

15:00 The seminar adjourns