

# 4<sup>th</sup> Organic Seed Growers Conference

## Proceedings



January 11 – 12, 2006  
Troutdale, Oregon

Organized by:





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Organic Seed Growers Conference  
**Organized and Sponsored by:**  
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Oregon State University  
Washington State University CSANR  
**Planning Committee:**  
Matthew Dillon, OSA      Micaela Colley, OSA  
Alex Stone, OSU      Carol Miles, WSU  
Joel Reiten, Bejo Seeds      Woody Deryckx, OSA board

**Cover Photos:** Courtesy of Phil Simon (USDA ARS), Lindsey DuToit (WSU), and Matthew Dillon (OSA)

## Agenda - Wednesday, January 11

- 8:00 Registration and continental breakfast in Blackberry Hall
- 8:45 - 9:15 *Seed Quality* **Micaela Colley**, Organic Seed Alliance
- 9:15 - 10:30 *Beyond Conservation: Creating Something New from Heirlooms, the Story of Painted Mountain Corn* **Dave Christensen**, Seed We Need
- 10:30 - 11:00 Break
- 11:00 - 12:00 *Organic Seed Partnership: Breeding for and in Organically Managed Systems*  
**Dr. George Moriarty**, Cornell University
- 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch in Blackberry Hall
- 1:00 - 1:40 *A Comparison of the Nutrient and Phytochemical Content of Organic and Conventional Tomatoes and Peppers* **Dr. Alyson Mitchell**, U.C. Davis
- 1:40 - 2:20 *Breeding Carrots for Improved Nutritional Value* **Dr. Phil Simon**, USDA-ARS
- 2:20 - 3:00 *Effect of High- and Low-Input Organic and Conventional Production Systems on Dry Bean Nutrients* **Dr. Shree Singh**, University of Idaho
- 3:00 - 3:15 Break
- 3:15 - 3:55 *Seed Economics 101* **Tom Stearns**, High Mowing Seeds
- 3:55 - 4:35 *The Value of Organic Seed Production on a Diverse Organic Farm* **Fred Brossy**, Bryant Ranch
- The Value of Seed Crops Beyond Contracts* **Nash Huber**, Nash's Organic Produce
- 4:35 - 5:15 *Seed Economics: A Commercial Perspective* **Joel Reiten**, Bejo Seeds
- 5:30 - 7:00 **Seed Suppliers Social** in Blackberry Hall *and* **Seed Swap** in Barley Room
- 7:00 Dinner in Blackberry Hall

## Organic Seed Grower's Conf. - Thursday, January 12

7:30 - 8:30 Breakfast in Blackberry Hall

8:30 - 9:45 *Seed-Borne Diseases: An Overview* **Dr. Lindsey du Toit**, Washington State University

9:45 - 10:00 Break

10:00 - 11:00 *Managing Black Rot of Crucifers from Seed to Seed* **Dr. Ken Johnson**, Oregon State University, **Robin Ludy**, Oregon Department of Agriculture, and **Dr. Jodi Lew-Smith**, High Mowing Seeds

11:00 - 12:00 Seed Cleaning Under the Big Top

12:00 - 1:00 Lunch in Blackberry Hall

1:00 - 2:00 *Whole System Seed Growing: Diversified Approach to Successful Seed Growing* **Don Tipping**, Seven Seeds Farm

2:00 - 2:45 *Environmental Challenges of Raising Organic Vegetable Seed West of the Cascades* **Dr. John Navazio**, Organic Seed Alliance

2:45 - 3:30 *Mitigating Weather-Related Risk to Specialty Seed Crops* **Frank Morton**, Wild Garden Seeds

3:30 - 3:45 Break

3:45 - 4:30 *A Database to Smooth the Use of Organic Seed by Organic Growers: What Do You Think It Should Be Like?* **Dave DeCou**, Organic Materials Review Institute

4:30 - 5:00 *Looking Ahead - Concerns, Collaborations and Momentum* **Matthew Dillon**, Organic Seed Alliance

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Matthew Dillon, *Organic Seed Alliance*

## ORGANIC SEED ALLIANCE

### **MISSION:**

Organic Seed Alliance, a nonprofit public charity, supports the ethical development and stewardship of the genetic resources of agricultural seed. We accomplish our goals through collaborative education and research programs with organic farmers and other seed professionals.

### **VISION:**

Seed is both our common cultural heritage and a living natural resource fundamental to the future sustainability of food production. Proper stewardship of our genetic resources necessitates not only its conservation, but careful management in a manner which allows seed to continually evolve with challenges of the environment, cultural practices of sustainable agriculture and the need to feed people. Through advocacy, collaborative education and research we work to restore and develop seed varieties for current needs while safeguarding invaluable genetic resources for future generations.

### **EDUCATION GOALS and SERVICES:**

- Building a professional education system serving: farmers, extension agents, university professionals, regional seed companies, and plant breeders via our WSARE Farmer Education Project.
- Currently offer workshops on “Seed Production for Organic Agriculture” and “Fundamentals of Plant Improvement” and a variety of Seed Saving workshops for gardeners.
- Sharing information with the public & policy makers on seed issues via our web site, newsletter, and published papers and our Seed Growers Conference.

### **RESEARCH GOALS and SERVICES:**

- Work to identify superior genetics for organic agriculture by placing germplasm under challenging conditions and evaluating for desirable traits.
- Provide professional support on breeding projects to farmers and seed companies.
- Supporting on-farm research to improve seed production practices including appropriate technology for seed production, harvest, cleaning and conditioning.

### **WORLD SEED FUND:**

WSF provides charitable distribution of organic, open-pollinated seeds and seed-saving knowledge. Among the people we serve are prison gardens, refugee gardens, sustainable agricultural development projects, educational gardens, and low-income urban gardens. Seed farmers trained in our educational programs become the producers of WSF seed.

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**ORGANIC SEED ALLIANCE**

P.O. Box 772

Port Townsend, WA 98368

Phone: (360) 385-7192

Fax: (360) 385-7455

Email: [info@seedalliance.org](mailto:info@seedalliance.org)

Web: [www.seedalliance.org](http://www.seedalliance.org)