

The European seed law is being renegotiated for the first time in decades.

"Many regionally typical fruit and vegetable species and varieties that were cultivated for centuries in monastery or farm gardens have now disappeared - mostly completely unnoticed. According to estimates, 75% of cultivated plant varieties have become extinct worldwide since 1900. 90% of all known tomato varieties are no longer traded, many of them no longer exist at all. Planting and propagating old fruit and vegetable varieties is therefore an important contribution to preserving the genetic diversity of our cultivated plants. Varieties typical of the region not only enrich the menu, but - because they are adapted to their location - are often also more robust, more resistant and therefore easier and safer to grow" (Position paper "[Measures for the ecological upgrading of allotment gardens](#)", Bundesverband Deutscher Gartenfreunde e.V.).

The European Seed Law is being renegotiated for the first time in decades. It is important to us that crop diversity is preserved and promoted. The negotiation processes are currently underway, and political participation is now possible and necessary. In January 2022, for example, the public consultation will take place: "[Have your say](#)" (europa.eu; Commission's citizen participation portal).

The 15th Symposium on Crop and Livestock Diversity from 12-14 November 2021 with participants from various diversity stakeholders from the German-speaking countries highlighted the importance of this reform. The four options are still vaguely formulated in a study commissioned by the EU Commission, but it is already clear that cultural diversity is being given a hearing, but its safeguarding and promotion are by no means firmly anchored. It is therefore necessary to get involved politically.

The BDG and the Federation Internationale Jardins Familiaux will continue to campaign for the preservation and promotion of crop diversity.

Link to the mentioned study: [prm_leg_future_prm-study_sum_en.pdf](#) (europa.eu)

or more detailed: [pdf](#) (europa.eu)