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SOWING THE FUTURE!



Annual Report 2010

*Sowing together for a
GMO-free agriculture.*

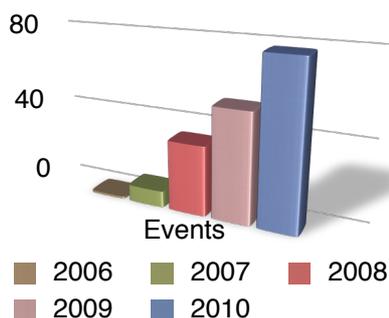
*To sow: a noble and solemn
gesture.*

*We sow all together on a
farm in the region. Each sower
receives a handful of semen and
we sow manually. The sowing
grows, and in one year's time we
can bake bread from it. A solemn
and emotional experience.*



When Ueli Hurter and Peter Kunz initiated the first event of *Sowing the future!* in 2006, they would never have imagined that five years later the event would take place in more than 10 countries around the globe, with more than 7500 participants sowing future on more than 70 fields.

In 2010, 78 *Sowing the future!* took place in ten countries: Switzerland, Germany, Austria, France, Luxembourg, Norway, England, Slovakia, USA and South Korea. For the very first time, Austria, France, Norway, Slovakia and South Korea were participating, each of them with one *Sowing the future!* event.



In the first year of *Sowing the future!* we were sowing one field only; numbers of fields increased quickly, however, to 8 in 2007, 34 in 2008, 53 in 2009 and finally 78 in 2010!

New contacts

We are constantly expanding our network throughout the world and were able to organise sowings in „new“ countries for next year. We are happy to announce that with Ecor (www.ecor.it) we have found a partner in **Italy**, who will coordinate and organise the first events in Italy next autumn. Furthermore: the first event in **Sweden** will have place already in spring 2011.



Partnerships

As for Germany, (almost) all events were coordinated by Demeter and Bioland. In Austria and Luxembourg, the local Demeter organisations took care of the events. We would like to thank our partners warmly for their support. Without their help, *Sowing the future!* wouldn't have passed as smoothly as it did.

Sowing together for an GMO-free agriculture!

Many politicians support *Sowing the future!* Some of the events in Europe were accompanied and/or introduced by local politicians. E.g. in Luxembourg, the Minister for Sustainable Development **Marco Schank** was present at the sowing and spoke to the

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participants. In Switzerland, National Councillor **Marlies Bänziger** sowed future at the event of Feldbach, located right next to lake Zurich. In the German village of Frankenhardt-Honhardt, State Secretary **Friedlinde Gurr-Hirsch** held a speech and helped with the sowing: an event with more than 100 participants - due to bad weather conditions in Jeans and rubber boots!

Furthermore, people engaged in the cultural sector were part of it: **Coline Serreau** i.e., the famous filmmaker from France, was part of the well attended event (more than 300 people) in Montézillon. Her new film *Solutions locals pour un desordre global* was shown at this occasion

Sowers on the farms

The sower's message is clear: keep our agriculture GMO-free! The event attracts young and old people equally. Some of the farms included the sowing in church service, others made it part of their harvest festival. The rather wet weather in central Europe was not preventing people from sowing the fields as planned. Only one event in Germany had to be cancelled due to poor weather conditions.

Sowing the future! An event appreciated by younger and older people



Communication

Sowing the future! has become a popular and fast expanding event not only in Switzerland and its neighbouring countries, but also in countries far abroad. Thus, our homepage had to be essentially and fundamentally reconstructed. The new entry to our homepage (home) is now always in English. A short welcome message invites the visitor to select the country of his/her choice and subsequently the desired language. Besides the official language of the country, English can always be chosen. For Switzerland and Luxembourg, the site is available in 4 and 3 different languages, respectively. All other sites are in two languages (local and English), except for the USA and England (English only).

In 2010 we have sent out two rounds of newsletters. The first in June, after the first round of spring sowings and as a sort of teaser for the events taking place in autumn. The second in the beginning of October - amidst the ongoing events. The newsletters were sent out to about 700 e-mail recipients and its purpose was to inform the reader about the ongoing **Sowing the future!** events and to provide information and tips regarding the organisation of sowing events.

Organisation

We aim to maintain a slim organisational structure. Much of the work is currently done by the initiators Ueli Hurter and Peter Kunz in their spare time. For their support Christoph Cordes (L'Aubier) has taken responsibility for the graphic arts design and Michel Bossart (GZPK) takes care of the entire administration.



Financials

The original budget calculated expenditures of CHF 126'000; actual costs, however, could be kept much lower: CHF 92'384.84. The revenues amount to CHF 95'239.50 - we therefore realised a little benefit of CHF 2854.66, which will be transferred to the new bill. We spent CHF 38'010.83 (income 21'922.85) in material,

CHF 9180.89 in communication and CHF 45181.12 in personnel expenditures. Our donators were:

- Salvia Foundation: CHF 20'000
- STIMME: CHF 10'000 (Stiftung zur Pflege von Mensch, Mitwelt und Erde)
- L'Aubier: CHF 10'000
- Coop Schweiz: CHF 7000
- Remei AG: CHF 6000
- GZPK: CHF 6000 (Getreidezüchtung Peter Kunz)
- SAG: € 4000 (Software AG)
- Private donors: CHF 2900
- Baer AG: CHF 2000
- ZS-L: € 1500 (Zukunftsstiftung Landwirtschaft)
- bd Verein: CHF 1200
- Events: CHF 581

We thank all the donors for their support!



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Logos

New countries, new logos: Local acceptance is important for **Sowing the future!** Therefore the logo is immediately adjusted to new languages. In 2010 we have created new logos for Finland, Sweden/Norway and for South Korea.



Material

In the beginning year of 2007, we could draw on a generous donation of T-shirts and hence had to produce only minor quantities of T-shirts in the „new“ languages. The printing of T-shirts (130) and embroidering of caps (6000) was done in the Czech Republic, the banners (81) were produced in Switzerland. Also for the first time we have produced 5000 paper bags that could alternatively to the caps be used at the sowings - however, for this year's events they have arrived too late.

Give us today our daily bread - GMO-free by Maya Graf, National Councillor Grüne BL, co-bio-farmer and President SAG

„Our farming will remain GMO-free, lucky us. In spring 2010 the Swiss parliament has decided to prolong the respective moratorium for another three years until 2013. We have now to make use of this time period and propose solutions for a GMO-free Swiss agriculture. A GMO-free production calls for GMO-free seeds. It is therefore vital to support a strong domestic production of seeds and to esteem its value accordingly. Thus, plant breeders like Peter Kunz hold a valuable and very important exemplary function. I would like to thank them for that.

However, dedication of individuals is not enough: in the future the federation must consider it one of its missions to develop and assure an ecological and GMO-free production of seeds. It could very well be possible to include our request for financial support in the enhancements of the direct payment system which is short before consultation. Next year in parliament I will speak up for this. This important bill will put our direct payment system upside down, but it is much too weak concerning the funding of organic farming.

We must convince the legislative body that only a ecological agriculture is really fit for the future. At one hand because consumers increasingly ask for healthy and naturally produced food and on the other hand because there is simply no other choice but to produce our daily bread *together* with nature, considering the global change in the climate and the diminishing natural resources.“



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Critical „escort“ of the GMO experimental releases in Pully near Lausanne

Around 250 people set a sign on 20 March 2010 against the GMO experimental release that was done six days prior and in a distance of 300m only: they did so in the context of a **Sowing the future!** event. Very close to the well guarded GMO trial, the sowers were avouching an ecological, multifunctional and regional agriculture. The successful happening was supported culturally by the chansonnier François Vé and the troubadour Michel Bühler. The conservative city municipal councillor Martial Lambert and Philippe Roch (former president of the Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape SAEFL) gave a political note to the event.

Sowing the future! on your farm?

Many people are sowing a grainfield together and are thereby planting sprouts for the future: this simple idea stands at the beginning. Help us to spread this idea around the world! You can do so by organising a **Sowing the future!** event on your farm or in your region.

Ueli Hurter, Peter Kunz and all others who have already organised such an event are more than happy to give you advice. You can also contact us at office@avenirsem.ch or at +41 55 264 17 89.



Support Sowing the future!

Caps, banners, T-shirts, bags... it's not only the production

of the material that involves costs but also the shipping. With your donation you help us to cover our expenses.

CHF: PC 20-5335-3 (Fondation L'Aubier, notation: **Sowing the future!**)

€: GLS Bank Bochum, account: DE47 4306 0967 4013 3967 00, BLZ 430 609 67 (Getreidezüchtung Peter Kunz, notation: **Sowing the future!**)



Outlook 2011

Sowing the future! shall go on in 2011. We aim at about 100 sowing events in 12 - 15 countries.

In Switzerland - where the moratorium against GMO-agriculture is still valid - the initiative is also meant to support the political background work as described by Maya Graf in her article above. We look forward to further expand the already extensive network for biodynamic and biological plant breeding and the respective financial support.

Since in Germany the GMO question is very prevailing, there is a great potential for **Sowing the future!** We look forward to new participating farms and a greater political perception!

Sowing the future! is already taking place. We are looking forward to even more farms and partners to support us. In some of the new countries, valuable contacts have already been established.

The organisation of **Sowing the future!** and the staff behind will remain the same. We insist on a slim and efficient administration in order to divert as much of the financial resources as possible to the sowing events themselves.

A sincere thank-you for your support!

Ueli Hurter

Peter Kunz



2010 - The participating farms



Switzerland

- 20.03.10 - Kritische Begleitung des GVO-Freisetzungsversuchs, Pully VD
- 11.09.10 - Gut Rheinau, Rheinau ZH
- 19.09.10 - Schwalbenhof, Hauptikon ZH
- 25.09.10 - L'Aubier, Montézillon NE
- 25.09.10 - Hof Coms, Urmein GR
- 26.09.10 - Ferme du Martalet, Démoret VD
- 26.06.10 - Neuhof, Reinach BL
- 02.10.10 - Berghof, Kaisten AG
- 10.10.10 - Bio-Hof Häfelfinger, Diegten BL
- 16.10.10 - Ferme des Verpillères, Vandœvres GE
- 16.10.10 - La Colombera, S. Antonino TI
- 16.10.10 - Rütihof, Bünzen AG
- 16.10.10 - Oberholz, Rubigen BE
- 16.10.10 - Meyer, Birmenstorf AG
- 16.10.10 - Foire de Romainmôtier VD
- 17.10.10 - Landecy, La Croix-de-Rozon GE
- 17.10.10 - Foire de Romainmôtier VD
- 17.10.10 - Bolderhof, Hemishofen SH
- 23.10.10 - Herterenhof, Wettingen AG
- 24.10.10 - Quellenhof, Madiswil BE
- 30.10.10 - Hof Wagenburg, Aathal-Seegräben ZH
- 31.10.10 - Getreidezüchtung Peter Kunz, Oberhuswiesen, Feldbach ZH
- 10.11.10 - Florian Bressler, Arogno TI



Austria

- 18.09.10 - Wegwartehof, Göpfritz NÖ

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Germany

- 13.03.10 - Dottenfelder Hof, 61118 Bad Vilbel
- 17.04.10 - Biolandhof Mohr, 24327 Rathlau
- 21.08.10 - Gut Wulfsdorf, 22926 Ahrensburg
- 18.09.10 - Arpshof, 21279 Dierstorf
- 18.09.10 - Kattendorfer Hofer, 24568 Kattendorf
- 18.09.10 - Bioland Hof Klein, 97877 Wertheim-Sachsenhausen
- 18.09.10 - Hof Apfeltraum, 15374 Müncheberg
- 19.09.10 - Hofgemeinschaft Gummersort, 27798 Hude
- 24.09.10 - Blümlhof, 84508 Burgkirchen
- 25.09.10 - Hof Bünte, 49179 Venne
- 25.09.10 - Hof Ankersolt, 24986 Rüde
- 25.09.10 - Hofgemeinschaft Wörme, 21256 Handeloh
- 26.09.10 - Bioland Gärtnerhof, 72820 Sonnenbühl-Genkingen
- 26.09.10 - Hof Mäck, 89567 Bergenweiler
- 26.09.10 - Aussenhauserhof, 82335 Berg-Far-chach
- 26.09.10 - Schanzenhof, 46519 Alpen-Veen
- 26.09.10 - Talhof, 89522 Heidenheim
- 02.10.10 - Hof Mahlitzsch, 01683 Nossen
- 02.10.10 - Pappelhof, 61203 Reichelsheim
- 02.10.10 - Gärtnerei Willmann, 74379 Ingersheim
- 02.10.10 - Schausters Heidehof, 32469 Peter-shagen-Eldagsen
- 02.10.10 - Bioland-Hof Weith, 89129 Langenau-Göttingen
- 02.10.10 - Birkenhof, 57234 Wilnsdorf-Wilgersdorf
- 02.10.10 - Hof Hollergraben, 23744 Schönewalde
- 02.10.10 - Domäne Fredeburg GbR, 23909 Fredeburg
- 03.10.10 - Wälder GbR, 78112 St. Georgen
- 03.10.10 - Hof Stedebach, 35096 Weimar/Lahn-Stedebach
- 03.10.10 - Hof Regoldshausen, 88662 Überlingen
- 03.10.10 - Hofgut Oberfeld, 64287 Darmstadt
- 03.10.10 - Kollweider Hof, 52538 Gangelt-Breberen
- 03.10.10 - Erlenhof, 78333 Wahlwies-Stockach

- 03.10.10 - Hof Dinkelberg, 79650 Schopfheim
- 07.10.10 - Hof Hörsten, 23715 Bosau
- 08.10.10 - Bio-Hof Gut Hohenroden, 73457 Essingen
- 09.10.10 - Lichthof, 88633 Heiligenberg
- 09.10.10 - ErdmannHAUSER, 71729 Erdmannhausen
- 09.10.10 - Lämmerhof, 23896 Panten
- 09.10.10 - Hof, Höllwangen, 88662 Überlingen
- 10.10.10 - Demeter Hof Bexte, 25767 Bunsöh
- 13.10.10 - Möhrlehof, 88634 Herdwangen-Schönach
- 14.10.10 - Biolandhof Gruel, 73277 Owen-Teck
- 16.10.10 - Reyerhof, 70567 Stuttgart-Möhringen
- 17.10.10 - Saalfeld + Feddersen, 23992 Kahlenberg
- 17.10.10 - Honhardter Demeterhöfe, 74586 Frankenhardt
- 22.10.10 - Sonderhauser, 84574 Taufkirchen
- 26.10.10 - Hof Leyde, 71394 Kernen
- 30.10.10 - Haus Bollheim, 53909 Zülpich-Oberelvenich



Luxembourg

- 03.10.10 - Hof Houtmann, Buschdorf



Slovakia

- 09.10.10 - Farm Makáň, Sl'ažany



Norway

- 26.09.10 - Ommang Søndre, Ådalsbruk



England

- 23.10.10 - Hungary Lane Farm, Loughborough, Leicestershire



USA

- 19.09.10 - Hawthorne Valley Farm Learning Center, Ghent NY



South Korea

- 23.10.10 - Kooji Roggenkamp, Chung-Cheong Nam-Do



France

- 31.10.10 - Ferme du Béqui, Penne d'Angonais

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