

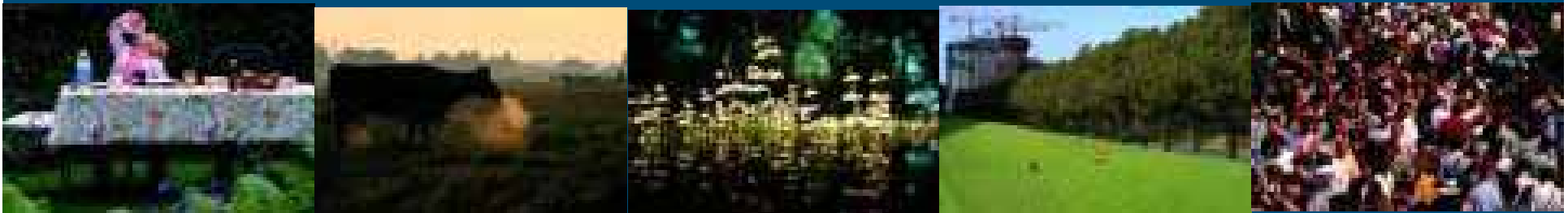


# Genebanks, on farm conservation and EC regulations: Dutch experiences

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# Outline presentation

- Management of conservation varieties in the Netherlands
  - SWOT; role CGN; position Dutch government
- Impact of EC conservation varieties directives
  - problems encountered; experiences until present
- Conclusions



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# *On farm and in garden* management

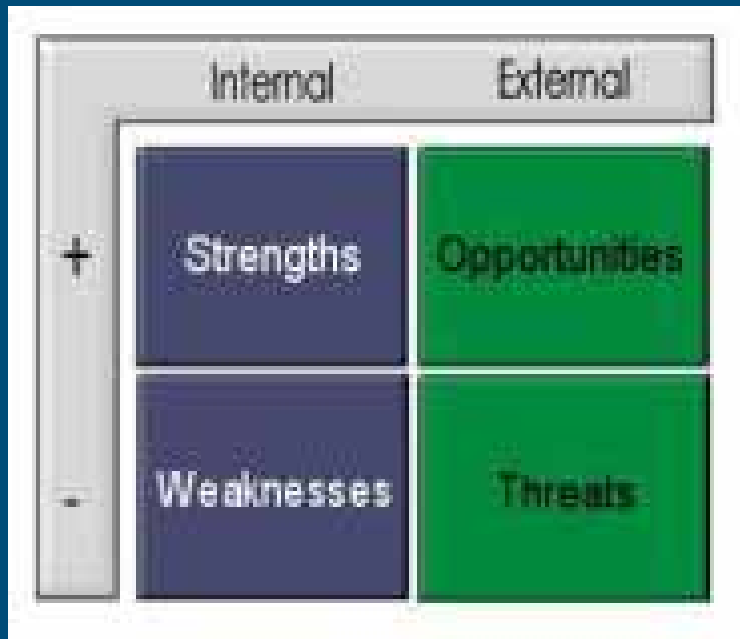


- In the Netherlands with its highly industrialized agriculture, maintenance of landraces is taking place very rarely by farmers; mostly private persons, foundations, NGOs are involved
- Therefore we better can speak of *in garden* management of landraces rather than *on farm* management in the Netherlands.

# Dutch *in garden* initiatives: types

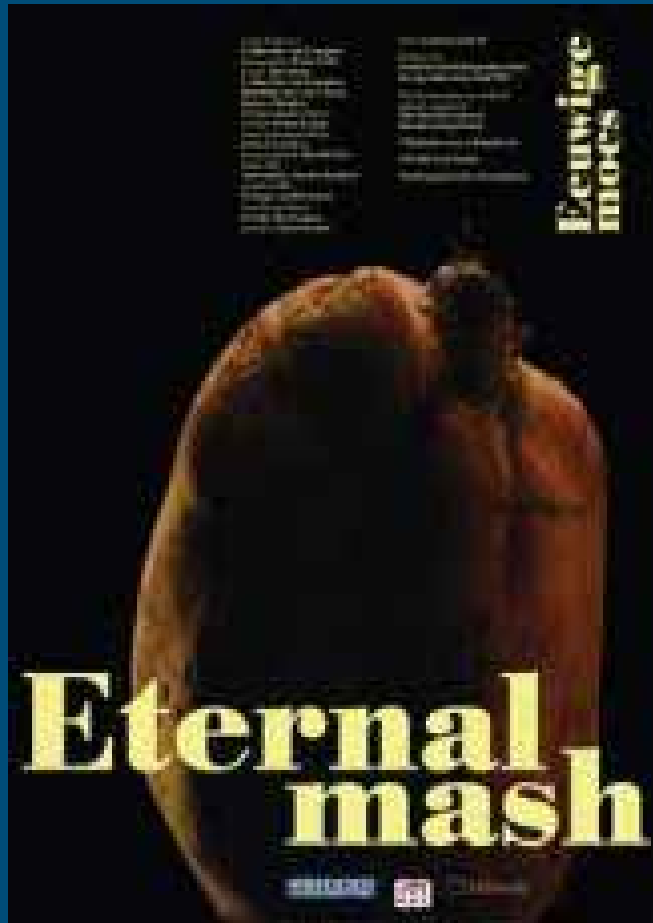
Type of initiative	#
Demonstration (castles & estates)	34
Support	07
Producers & demonstration	18
Breeders	02
Seed production & distribution	08

# SWOT analysis Dutch *in garden* initiatives



- Strengths
  - authentic
  - bio-cultural heritage is an issue in NL
- Weaknesses
  - low degree of organisation and professionalization
- Opportunities
  - combinations with companies (restaurants, breweries, bakeries), education, etc
  - address government on their role in the management of bio-cultural heritage
- Threats
  - lack of public and private funds

# Dutch *in garden* management: biocultural heritage



## ■ Action

- Establishment of a network of Dutch *in garden* initiatives: Eternal Mash; ca. 40 initiatives active in this network; [www.deoerakker.nl](http://www.deoerakker.nl)

# CGNs' role *in garden* activities

## ■ Facilitating role

- co-organizing meetings; maintenance of website ([www.deoerakker.nl](http://www.deoerakker.nl)); stimulate public awareness
- regenerate and function as back-up for threatened collections
- research:
  - molecular screening of apple collections of Dutch NGOs to identify duplicates
  - development of a list of Dutch conservation varieties: the so-called Orange List (<http://www.deoerakker.nl/oranjelijst.htm>)

crop	before 1940	currently present	% present
potato	751	72	11
endive	50	16	47
beans	453	158	54
peas	382	142	59
cabbage	577	98	20
leek	37	8	28
shallot	17	4	31
lettuce	271	36	15
spinach	98	23	31
onion	129	22	21
carrot	161	38	31
total	2926	617	27

- The Orange List of old Dutch varieties

# Position Dutch government - conservation varieties



- is in favour of a more sustainable agriculture,
- will not develop a specific fund for *in garden* initiatives and sees CGN as a facilitator,
- is a strong supporter of EU seed rules, and
- tolerates the production and exchange of (limited amounts of) seed of conservation varieties.

# EC conservation varieties directives & activities in NL



## ■ EC Directives

- Arable crops: directive 2008/62/EC; implemented 20/6/09;
- Vegetables: directive 2009/45/EC; to be implemented 31/12/10

## ■ Activities in the Netherlands

- May '09: workshop; ca. 25 participants
- Nov '09: technical meeting; 6 participants

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# EC directives & Dutch experiences: registration costs

## ■ Proposal (on workshop)

- per conservation variety: € 400 application, € 400 technical report, € 66 registration → € 866 immediate costs per variety; later on: € 250 seed quality control (ad hoc); seed quantity control: ?

## ■ Implementation (on basis of workshop discussion)

- € 25 costs per conservation variety, only for conservation varieties registered in 2010; afterwards: see above; Ministry of Agriculture provides necessary funds ca. k€ 70.

# EC directives & Dutch experiences: description

- Proposal on workshop
  - applicants will send a brief technical description to the variety registration office (NAK); NAK will carry out DUS testing according to directives; on the basis of the results obtained and after checking with CGN it will be decided if the variety will get the status of conservation variety.
  - question: how to deal with varietal changes through time?
- Implementation (on basis of workshop discussion)
  - as above; varietal changes: authenticity is more important than identity

# EC directives & Dutch experiences: other issues

- Seed quantity, seed quality and region of origin
  - no real problems expected in the Netherlands

# Experiences until present

- 177 varieties have been registered by 7 applicants; 27 vegetable and 4 arable crops are involved
- # of varieties / conservation variety and crop type

	<b>arable</b>	<b>vegetable</b>	<b>total</b>
<b>amateur</b>	-	<b>143</b>	<b>143</b>
<b>landrace/regional variety</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>177</b>

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# Experiences until present

- Crops for which most applications took place
  - Vegetables: pepper, pumpkin, eggplant, tomato, beans
  - Arable crops: barley, oats and potato

# Conclusions

- No *on farm* management, but *in garden* management of conservation varieties in the Netherlands
- Stakeholders are not well organized → establishment of network Eternal Mash; CGN: facilitator
- Implementation of new EC conservation varieties directives in the Netherlands
  - meetings organized to discuss with stakeholders
  - trials have started to determine which varieties will receive a conservation variety status
  - no significant problems identified until present

# Thank you for your attention !



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