

Bauta on Initiative Canadian Seed Security

L'initiative Bauta sur la sécurité des semences au Canada

# The Bauta Initiative on Canadian Seed Security

New Farmers' Roundtable

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# The Bauta Initiative on Canadian Seed Security

- 9 out of every 10 bites of food bites start with seeds
- More than ever, seed diversity is needed to face our increasingly unpredictable weather.
- Our food diversity is quickly eroding- 75% of our food comes from 12 plant and 5 animal species (seeds bred for uniformity and performance in controlled situations)

#### Goal:

Build a more secure, resilient and diverse seed system, one that also enhances communities.

- Strengthen regional work & build a national network
- Save and spread high quality, regionally adapted ecologically grown, Canadian seeds



### 5 Program Streams

- **1. Support for farmers:**Knowledge exchange, seed facilitation fund for seed savers, and market development initiatives.
- **1. Applied Research:** Participatory breeding, seed production methods, and climate adaptation.
- **2. Public Access:** Support for seed libraries, seed saving training, and exchanges.
- **3. Web Extension Service:** Farmer-to-farmer networking, seed saving information, and identification of valuable seeds in low supply.
- 4. Movement Building:
  Building capacity to carry on regional work and national collaboration for years to come.



# What might interest New Farmers

#### **TRAINING**

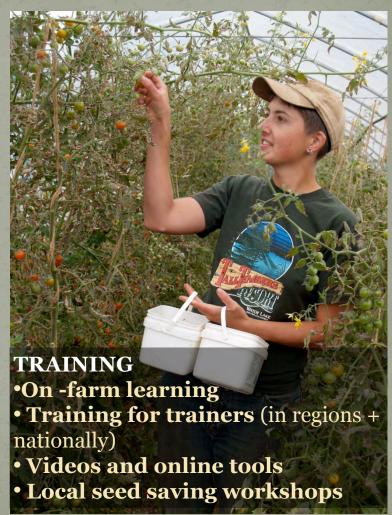
- **Peer-to-peer learning** (exchanging on particular varieties, disease prevention techniques, etc.)
- On-farm seed apprenticeship (1/ year)
- Training on both on the technical side of seed production and the practicalities of running a seed business

#### ACCESS TO GOOD SEEDS & SEED MARKET

- Access to high quality, regionally adapted ecologically grown Canadian seeds
- Support for cooperative crop planning, packaging and marketing initiatives, etc.

### ACCESS TO SEED SAVING INFRASTRUCTURE & RESOURCES

 Support for seed cleaning & storage, seasonal staff, land rental, etc.



# Challenges

- Building capacity and momentum across the country
- Lack of knowledge and time from new farmers
- Fear of seed quality when self-saved



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