

A landscape photograph featuring a vibrant rainbow arching over a dense forest of evergreen trees. In the foreground, several polytunnels are visible, partially obscured by the text. The sky is overcast and grey.

A seed saving start up in the West of Ireland

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Ireland

Leen Organics

- Where
- When
- How
- What



Background

- Chef
- Grower
- Seed saver
- As well as.....



Markets



Retirement

- When
- Why
- New projects
- Seed Sovereignty
- Keeping growing



GAIA Seed Sovereignty Programme UK and Ireland, Coordinator

- Remit to encourage more commercial growers
- 2 days a week
- Courses intro and intermediate
- Team work 5 coordinators and a programme manager
- Conference this weekend!



Seeds

- Irish Seed Savers Association
- Brown Envelope
- Over 30 varieties
- Mainly in poly tunnels
- Weather



Equipment

- What I have
- What I would like
- Infrastructure is fairly cheap on my scale



First seed crop

- Learning curve
- Issues
- Drying
- Storage



Opportunities

- New Organic Regulation 2022
- 100% Organic seed by 2035
- UK no longer able to sell to Ireland since Brexit
- Seed saved here is adapted to our climate



Drawbacks

- Very undeveloped sector
- Very little infrastructure
- Growers are very busy



Sales

- Exclusively to Brown Envelope
- Selling small packets to home gardeners
- Opportunity for larger wholesale packs to growers
- First time they have bought in seeds from outside their farm
- Demand outstripped supply last two years
- Potential for a part time income



Cereals

- Working with some cereal growers for first time as part of seed sovereignty work
- Lots of opportunities for this
- See Grain Lab and Bread Lab and Scotland the Bread in the UK
- Trying to work with whole supply chain from producers to end user and all points in between



Conclusion

- Lots of opportunity with seed for P/T and F/T incomes
- Seed saving is getting a lot easier for organic producers due to change in legislation and demand should stay good
- Its not a massive change for growers but there is a lot to learn
- Development in infrastructure and markets needs to happen in parallel with production
- There is a deficit of knowledge here and in the UK
- Growers here and in the UK are responding to the current situation over 100 growers trained in the last 2 years



Resources

- Book. The Organic Seed Grower by John Navazio (Chelsea Green)
- Web.
- <https://www.brownenvelopeseeds.com/>
- <https://www.seedsovereignty.info/news-blog/>
- <https://seedalliance.org/news/>
- <https://weseedchange.org/>
- [https://www.realseeds.co.uk/seedcleaner.h
tm](https://www.realseeds.co.uk/seedcleaner.htm)
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