GROWING SEED SAVERS

Nordic Council of Ministers' Office in Latvia

Seeds, Knowledge and Resilience

Connecting Libraries, Seed Savers and Communities

FINAL INTERNATIONAL ONLINE CONFERENCE

Project: "Seed Saving: The Knowledge of Resilience"

20 October 2026 | 15:00–19:00 Baltic time (14:00-18:00 CET time)

Online • Working language: English

How can we keep heritage crops alive and pass on the knowledge needed to grow and save them? Partners from Latvia, Denmark and Lithuania share findings from heritage-crop expeditions, seed-library activities, practical learning and a study visit, and explore lasting Nordic–Baltic cooperation.

For librarians, seed savers, gardeners, small-scale farmers, researchers, educators, museum professionals and community organisers. Join the whole conference or the part most relevant to you.

Draft programme. Final speaker details are subject to confirmation.

PART I | Libraries as Partners in Seed Saving and Community Resilience

15:00–16:30 Baltic time

15:00–15:05 — **Welcome and Project Highlights**

Ilze Mežniece, Latvian Permaculture Association, Latvia

An introduction to the project, its partners, activities and key lessons learnt.

15:05–15:20 — **The Latvian seed savers movement: A case study in fostering resilient food systems**

Maija Kāle, researcher, Latvia

Research insights into the Latvian seed-saving movement, its participants and the transmission of knowledge, with connections to wider European experiences.

15:20–15:45 — **Libraries as Places of Resilience**

Marianne Mikkelsen, Green Libraries and project development at Aarhus Libraries, Denmark

How librarians can support community resilience by connecting people, sharing practical knowledge and making seeds and plant stories part of library life.

15:45–16:05 — **Latvian Libraries and Seed Saving**

Daina Mūrniece, seed saver and librarian, Latvia

Librarians' motivation, preferred activities and lessons from their involvement in the project.

16:05–16:30 — **Discussion: From Library Shelf to Living Seed**

Speakers and participants

How can libraries and seed saver organisations help each other to keep heritage crops alive and pass on the knowledge needed to grow and save them?
Questions and reflections with the speakers and participants.

16:30–16:40 | Break

PART II | Seed Saving in Practice: Expeditions, Rural Traditions and Cooperation

16:40–18:00 Baltic time

16:40–17:00	**Seed Saving in Rural Communities: The Lithuanian Experience** Viva Sol, Lithuania Connecting existing rural seed-saving traditions with new opportunities for participation. Experiences of engaging small-scale farmers and gardeners, organising seed exchange with a library, and linking seed diversity with local food and community life.
17:00–17:25	**From Shallots to Seed Libraries: Keeping Heritage Crops Alive in Denmark** Louise Windfeldt, Danish Seed Savers / Frøsamlerne A journey from finding and documenting local heritage shallots to conserving them in collections and keeping them in cultivation. The Danish team shares experiences of working with Aarhus University, supporting seed libraries, and hosting the Latvian–Lithuanian study visit, highlighting how practical knowledge can be shared across borders.
17:25–17:45	**Finding Seeds, Finding Stories: Heritage Crop Expeditions in Latvia** Latvian project team Experiences from meeting local growers, documenting heritage crops and recording the knowledge connected with them. How can expeditions help preserve both plants and living traditions while strengthening relationships within communities?
17:45–18:00	**Seeds in Action: Three Partners, Three Practical Stories** Latvia, Denmark and Lithuania; five minutes each Each partner presents one seed or heritage crop, the people or story connected with it, and one practical lesson. A visual show-and-tell bringing the project's work to life.

18:00–18:10 | Break

PART III | Growing the Network

18:10–19:00 Baltic time

18:10–18:50	**Round Table: From Project to Movement -How Do We Grow Seed Saving in the Nordic–Baltic Region** Project partners and representatives of Nordic–Baltic seed-saving networks Together with participants, we will connect libraries, growers, educators and seed-saving organisations around one shared question: what should we do together next?
18:50–19:00	**Seeds for the Future: Next Steps and Closing** Project partners Key take-aways, resources for continued learning and opportunities to stay connected. Participants are invited to share one action they would like to take forward.

Join us to exchange experience, meet potential partners, and help shape the next steps for seed saving in the Nordic–Baltic region.

Registration and joining details: ej.uz/seed-conference

PROJECT PARTNERS

Latvian Permaculture Association	Danish Seed Savers / Frøsamlerne	Viva Sol

With the financial support of the Nordic Council of Ministers' Office in Latvia