

*”Even if I knew that tomorrow was the end of the world,
I would still plant an apple tree today.”*

AGREEMENT

ON THE COLLABORATION IN THE CONSERVATION OF FRUIT SPECIES THAT CAN ADAPT TO THE REGIONAL CONDITIONS, AND ARE GROWN FOR A LONG TIME IN THE CARPATHIAN BASIN

To protect our natural heritage, to conserve and increase our natural values are our moral duties. These are responsibilities we bear towards ourselves, others and the future generations. Besides the wild-growing animal and plant species, the domestic agricultural genome is another important part of our natural heritage. We are concerned about the security of the survival of conserved species, and to attain the safe size of the genome, while preserving diversity. We find it essential to make our inherited domesticated plants and livestock become again an organic part of farming.

An important element of safeguarding our heritage is to spread the biggest possible number of the varieties of fruit-growing arborescent agricultural plants – trees and bushes – conserved in the Carpathian basin. Namely the enlargement of their stock in a way, when we know exactly, which species and varieties can be found where, and in what number.

We agree that we have to commence this task with the cooperation of reliable community institutions, both to set a good example and to obtain the registration possibility, safety and utility of the originating external gene stocks. These institutions are the estates of historical churches (gardens of parishes, clergyman residences), the gardens of municipality and religious schools, as well as the gardens and roadsides managed by municipalities.

Upon the initiation of the Hungarian Parliamentary Commissioner for Future Generations, the prelates of the Lutheran, Catholic and Reformed churches, the Ministry of Rural Development, our gene-preserving and scientific institutions, and the Fruit-growing Network of the Carpathian Basin have expressed their support for this programme. In the framework of this cooperation the parties will exchange saplings and propagating material of regional fruit trees originating from collections of gene-preserving species (gene banks, national parks, municipal and private collections), respectively the parties will receive and grow these young trees in clergyman’s gardens and lands.

We cherish the hope from the implementation of the Agreement that

- the vanishing species, grown for a long time in the Carpathian basin, and the regional species will survive and re-domesticate, and new varieties will emerge;
- with their spread these species will provide a genetic base to solve the local problems originating from the global climate (and social) changes, respectively from the ecological and the resource crisis;
- the ancient knowledge connected to traditional fruit-growing and processing will be saved and, adapted to the present opportunities, it will be applied;
- the young people living in the countryside will get familiar with the possibilities of adapted fruit-growing and landscape-friendly farming in general, and they can also begin to contribute to restoring the economy of life in their homeland;
- the consumers will get more varied, healthier fruits thereby;
- a new market section will become available for the farmers through the exploration of new and already forgotten gastronomic opportunities;
- our initiative will swell into a movement, and
- the fruits, cultivated in a traditional way, as elements of the landscape, will become parts of the Pannonia region again.

In favour of the abovementioned statements, the Hungarian Parliamentary Commissioner for Future Generations, the Ministry of Rural Development, prelates of the Hungarian Evangelical-Lutheran Church, the Hungarian Reformed Church, and catholic bishoprics initiate and support the cooperation of their specialized institutions and parishes, as well as municipalities, schools, professional and civil organizations

- to map, examine the old and local regional species, as well as to create a local and national database;
- to establish local species’ collections with the aim of *in situ* gene preservation;
- to propagate, grow and utilize the endemic and re-domesticated old species;
- to explore the possibilities on the market and to integrate the regional species into the farming.

The Hungarian Parliamentary Commissioner for Future Generations shall undertake

- to encourage the connecting and networking of the parties concerned;
- to participate in analysing and shaping the legal framework;
- to participate in gaining the cooperation of the governmental and municipal partners concerned;

- to help the establishment of the publicity of the programme, and the commencement the first local plantings;
- to organize courses, study visits and professional meetings.

The prelates shall undertake

- to encourage the cooperation of their congregations, vicarages;
- to allow the survey of suitable lands;
- the associating institutions shall preserve the allocated plants, and allow their registration.

The Ministry of Rural Development shall undertake

- that its gene banks and supervised gene preserving institutions will provide expertise for the harmonization of species and habitats;
- that its gene banks and supervised gene preserving institutions will provide expertise for the research and examination of further species;
- that its gene banks and supervised gene preserving institutions will provide reproductive materials for the allocations;
- that its gene banks and supervised gene preserving institutions will manage and provide expertise for the registration of the allocated stocks;
- to participate in the preparation of necessary legislative proposals.

The Adaptive Fructiculture Programme of the Fruit-growing Network of the Carpathian Basin shall undertake

- to cooperate with the national gene preserving institutions in the exploration, identification and examination of regional species;
- to register its own stock of species, as well as to allow and help its national registration;
- to participate in the courses, exchange of experiences, and collection, allocation of fruit trees;
- to support the preservation of species among farmers;
- to participate in the preparation of the necessary legislative proposals.

This Agreement of cooperation has been accepted and opened for adhesion in Budapest, at the Office of the Hungarian Parliamentary Commissioner for Future Generations, on the 5th September 2011.

.....
 Mr. Sándor Fülöp
 Hungarian Parliamentary Commissioner for Future Generations

.....
 Mr. József Ángyán
 Minister of State, Ministry of Rural Development

.....
 Mr. Győző Szenci,
 Director, Gene Bank Council of Hungary

.....
 Mr. Gábor Ónodi
 Director, Environmental and Landscape Management Institute of the Szent István University

.....
 Mr. Tamás Lantos
 Fruit-growing Network of the Carpathian Basin

.....
 Mr. Gusztáv Bölcskei
 Bishop, Reformed Church of Hungary

.....
 Mr. Péter Gáncs
 Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hungary