

Biogarden – in harmony with nature

*The aim of this project is to develop public awareness that the right to seeds is a human right and to ensure that it is recognized through the legal framework, and thus the right of all Croatian citizens to quality, affordable locally produced food. Also, the goal is to recognize the importance of the informal sector (growing seeds for own needs, exchanges among producers and organizing community seed banks as part of the civil sector) in the protection and development of plant genetic resources, according to UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) documents. The new draft of the Seed law, which was adopted at the end of 2020 at the session of the Croatian Government, opened Pandora's box, encroaching on the right to grow seeds for the farm's own needs.*

*The Initiative "Seeds is our human right" mobilized a large number of citizens and sought dialogue with the institutions, but no consensus was reached. The parliamentary procedure has already begun and the next two months will be a critical period in which significant decisions need to be made on how the disputed Article 16 will be amended. The Initiative wants to take an active watch dog role in this process in order to monitor it and ensure respect for farmers' rights to basic seed resources as well as to participate in decision-making on genetic resources.*

*The planned activities are the development of an expertise on the possible effects of regulations that the legislator failed to prepare, the launch of a facilitated process of reaching consensus through a round table and public advocacy. The main beneficiaries of the project are agricultural producers whose fate is being decided, citizens and institutions involved in the process.*

*The project will offer a better, reasoned dialogue on possible solutions leading to Better Regulation Agenda principles promoted by European Commission and Croatian government. The partners have been equally involved in the Initiative from the very beginning.*