





European Conference: Biodiversity in Food Supply Chains

Providing a Market for Forgotten Native Cultivars and Animal Breeds

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Schweizerische Stiftung für die kulturhistorische und genetische Vielfalt von Pflanzen und Tieren



- Active non-profit organisation since 1982
- Conservation of rare cultivated plants and animal breeds
- Usage is key!
- Diversity in the field benefits the environment and biodiversity







- The supermarket started the collaboration in 1999
- A partnership with ideal preconditions for products of diversity:
 - Big ProSpecieRara collection for any food section and outdoor plants
 - -Coop provided supermarkets, some restaurants and garden centres
- Common goal: make varieties and products available to the broad public





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Products and quality















Products and quality

Ende des 19. Jahrhunderts in einer Hecke im Kanton Bern langem bekannte Sorte, könnte Eine Schweizer Züchtung der



Eine alte, im Baselbiet seit



Bevorzugt warme Lagen. Lager-



nerkunt jedoch unkar, as anhin beliebte Handelssorte, aber heute massiver Produk-tionsrückgang, Fruchtfleisch knackig, saftig mit erfrischen-der Säure. Im Anbau eher



Wilerrot (im Angebot)



Sauergrauech (im Angebot) bis Ende Dezember.



Alte englische Sorte, um 1200 Alte Schweizer Sorte, zufällig



Breitacher (im Angebot)



Spatzehöfler (im Angebot)



Jonathan (im Angebot)



Berlepsch (im Angebot)





Products and quality

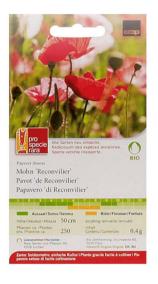








Products and quality















High investment...

- ProSpecieRara products by nature are not easy to get or to sell
- Product investment by «Coop Naturaplan Fonds»

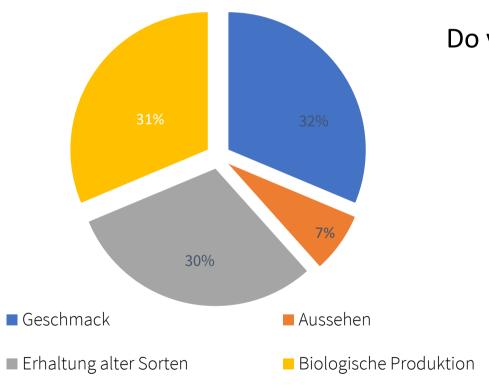


Schweizerische Stiftung pro für die kulturhistorische Specie und genetische Vielfalt raira von Pflanzen und Tieren

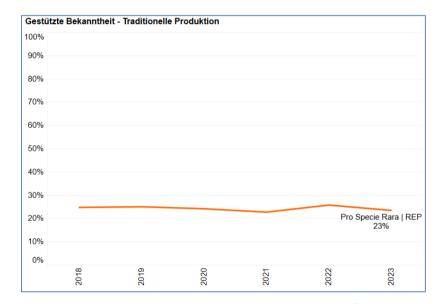
...but a very likeable brand

Why do you buy ProSpecieRara products?





Do you know this label, if only by the name?





Challenges

- Production effort, lower yields, higher risks, higher price
- Different product handling for the commerce
- Development of seeds / plants / animals
- Finding enough farms to take the risk is not always easy
- Communication and marketing need extra effort to sensitise customers







Many measures taken

- Funding of ProSpecieRara and partners
- Screening of collections for potential products
- Agronomic trials
- Test production, test sales
- Know-how recording and transmitting
- Breeding efforts
- Consulting of production steps
- Development of seeds / plants / animals
- Development of recipes and communication
- Support of sales campaign (e.g. apple procurement from farms)
- Tasting activities in the supermarket
- Communication in Coop magazine, in social media, in ProSpecieRara magazine, and campaigns by ProSpecieRara





Results

- Leader products are established successfull conservation through utilisation
- Example: old trees are used and cared for again
- Products in a range of several food and plants sections
- Vegetable breeding led to reuse of varieties / types that weren't used anymore



- Some specific varieties are associated strongly with ProSpecieRara (label): blue potatoes, parsnips, Coeur de Boeuf tomatoes
- Rare ornamental plants are valued by communicating their role for insects
- Popularity of ProSpecieRara is kept relatively high (25%), which led to stable donations
- Label is a likeable brand
- Coop may tell background stories of varieties and breeds
- Successful social media response



Success factors

- Longterm commitment and support by Coop on the chief executive level
- Legal framework on national level that supports reintroduction and sustainable use of pgr
- Label facilitates communication on the shelf and in the enterprise communication in general





Conclusion

- Numbers of varieties on supermarket level (ca. 100) vs. total available collection (ca. 4500) – BUT important flagship role
- Niche products of the Coop assortment BUT unique and attractive
- ProSpecieRara benefits the sustainabilty portfolio of Coop
- Popularity of the label benefits the foundation's fundraising for conservation work
- Empowerment of customers to participate in diversity supporting consumption







European Conference: Biodiversity in Food Supply Chains

13 & 14 November 2024, Berlin

Supported by:



based on a decision of the German Bundestag



This conference is part of the UBi-project. The UBi-project is funded within the German Federal Programme for Biological Diversity by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation with resources from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection.

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