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Classroom and field based trainings to assist beginning farmers enter into organic seed production

Presenter: Micaela Colley, PD
Organic Seed Alliance

BFRDP Award # [2015-04745]



Project Overview

Training beginning farmers in organic seed production

- Target audience: Farm interns, agricultural students, and beginning vegetable and grain farmers interested in diversification
- Key approaches: internships, conference intensives and workshops, on farm workshops, seed production educational resources including Spanish translations
- Overall target outcome: by the end of this project we will have helped educate **380** beginning farmers in seed production, at least **30** will begin growing organic seed and **30** more will increase their seed sales income by at least 20%



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Project Accomplishments

- Seed production internships- Yr 1 - 10 interns on 5 farms,
- 3 Latino interns



[ABOUT](#) [BECOME AN INTERN](#) [BECOME A HOST](#) [PARTICIPATING FARMS](#) [LOGIN/REGISTER](#) [ONLINE SEED COURSE](#)

The Seed Internship Program combines online and classroom learning, farm-based independent study, and real-world experience through a diverse network of family farms

Become an Intern



Apply to Intern

Learn more and apply to be an intern



Find a Host

View participating hosts here



Join the Program!

Enroll in the 6 month seed training course

Become a Host



Apply to Host

Learn more and apply to host



Update Farm Listing

Keep your farm listing up to date



Find an Intern

View intern applicants



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Project Accomplishments

- Hosted seed production intensive and track of workshops at the Organic Seed Growers Conference (hosted live by eOrganic and archived online). Spanish translations
- Planning seed economics intensive and workshop track at Organicology, 2017





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Project Accomplishments

- Hosted 3 out of 6 webinars



Webinars by eOrganic

Organic Agriculture

- August 23, 2016 (20160823)

[Print](http://www.printfriendly.com) (<http://www.printfriendly.com>)

Learn the latest in organic farming practices and research by attending or watching an eOrganic Webinar. Sign up for upcoming webinars to watch slides, listen to the presenter, and type in questions during the live events. To receive notices about upcoming webinars, and find out when we post the archived sessions, sign up for the eOrganic newsletter (<http://eOrganic.info>).

Register for upcoming webinars or browse our extensive archive of past webinars in chronological order below, or view them by topic (</pages/68066/eorganic-webinar-and-broadcast-recordings-by-topic>)

You can also find the webinar recordings on the eOrganic YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/eOrganic>)

Registration is now open for upcoming 2016 webinars at the links below. Many more webinars are in the works, so check back often!

Upcoming Webinars	Presenters	Date
<p>Organic Seed Production Six Webinar Series: Register just once and attend any or all of the webinars! (/pages/73816/organic-seed-production-webinar-series)</p> <p>1. June 21: Introduction, Field Planning, Recordkeeping, Recording available here (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OHHgkheSoFA)</p> <p>2. July 19: Trials and Selection. Recording available here (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMgsyrFd5X4&index=2&list=PLZMuQIAj6rOrsMJxypEc7uJWw461kLXc)</p> <p>3. August 16: Diseases and Pests</p> <p>4. September 20: Seed Quality, Harvesting, Equipment</p> <p>5. October 18: Cleaning and Recordkeeping Redux, Case Study</p> <p>6. November 15: Seed Contracting, Economics and Policy</p>	<p>Micaela Colley, Organic Seed Alliance staff and organic seed farmers</p>	<p>June 21, July 19, August 16, September 20, October 18, November 15, 2016</p>
<p>October 5, 2016</p>	<p>How to Implement and Verify Biodiversity Conservation Activities in Organic Agricultural Systems (/pages/73891/how-to-implement-and-verify-</p>	<p>Jo Ann Baumgartner, Wild Farm Alliance; Benjamin Bowell, USDA NRCS;</p>

1. **June 21:** Introduction, Field Planning, Recordkeeping. Recording available here
2. **July 19:** Trials and Selection. Recording available here
3. **August 16:** Diseases and Pests
4. **September 20:** Seed Quality, Harvesting, Equipment
5. **October 18:** Cleaning and Recordkeeping Redux, Case Study
6. **November 15:** Seed Contracting, Economics and Policy



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Impacts and Evaluation

- Webinars: 667 participants, 149 identified as beginning farmers
- Internships: 6 hosts, 21 registered intern applicants, 10 interns, (3 Latino)
- Conference intensive and workshops (w/Spanish translation): 91 intensive participants, 500 conference participants, 32% of evaluation respondents beginning farmers (estimated 200 BF reached), 30 BF scholarships (5 Latino)
- Impact assessment: Follow up evaluations of participants in yr 3 to assess impacts in seed production practices



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Lessons Learned & Best Practices

- Valuable to partner with another organization with existing internship program (MESA) and eOrganic as webinar/conference co-hosts
- Interest in other farmers and students accessing seed production curriculum outside of the participating interns, need to assess additional BF impacts



- Value outreach, communications, impact assessment staff



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Next Year & After

- Hosting intensive and workshops at Organicology
- Promoting and hosting 2017 internships
- Assess long term program management options
- Leverage staff and partnership expertise





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Questions?

Thank you! BFRDG/NIFA
and our partners MESA and
eOrganic

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www.seedalliance.org

<https://apply.mesaprogram.org/osa/>

www.eOrganic.info

