

Workshop Title:

Seed Perspectives Plenary

Speakers:

Fred Wiseman, Laurie McKenzie, and Daniel Brisebois

Executive Summary:

Three speakers discussed their perspectives of seeds and its importance. Seeds are the foundation of food and strengthening seed security for farmers will help empower them. Fred Wiseman presented a case study of seed adaption for colder climates.

Main Notes:

Fred Wisemen

- ◆ The 1816 Bicentennial Paleoecology Project: Surviving Mount Tambora
- ◆ 1800 and froze to death
- ◆ Global temp depression= -0.4 to -0.7
- ◆ Seeds of renewal
- ◆ Collected 45 diff types of seeds, many over 200, 300, 400 years old
- ◆ Zone 4- northern edge
- ◆ Polar jet variability- cold and warm variation
- ◆ Wabanaki area long-term climate variability
- ◆ Phaseolus vulgaris- successfully survives in cold temp, adapted

Laurie McKenzie

- ◆ Seed is the foundation of food

- ◆ Access to appropriate and robust varieties- some perform better in some places than others do
- ◆ Stewardship and on-farm seed production- program education
- ◆ Diversity = resiliency
- ◆ On-farm participatory plant breeding. Regional and national breeding and variety trial networks. Open pollinated varieties.
- ◆ Empowering farmers:
- ◆ Dark star zucchini- only hybrid to survive the wind
- ◆ Seed=food

Daniel Brisebois

- ◆ Ecological seed network canada 2008, 2009
- ◆ Seed security- farmers need high quality seed in large amounts