

# Commoning the Anthropocene



VIRTUAL CONFERENCE · April 21 - 23 · ONLINE · WORLDWIDE

## Seed Commons: The transformative potential of Commoning for enhancing the sustainability of seed systems

Modern agricultural systems face manifold interlinked challenges, like maintaining food security, halting biodiversity loss and adapting to climate change, which can be traced from farming back to plant breeding. Farmers are increasingly dependent on a handful of suppliers, and research efforts concentrate on only a few crops and a limited range of varieties for global seed markets. Specifically, the ongoing replacement of traditional crops and varieties by a limited number of modern varieties caused rapid genetic erosion of crop diversity, resulting in reductions of resilience to environmental changes, due to a loss of genetic resources, threatening food security and sovereignty over choice of diverse varieties.

This special session brings together different analytical approaches and perspectives around Seed Commons (capabilities framework, social-ecological resilience assessment, Social-Ecological Systems Framework, institutional work, transformation), assessing their social-ecological effects and contrasting commons-based and industrial plant breeding approaches. It covers the diversity of seed systems by including case studies on wheat-, vegetable- and rice breeding, both from the Global South and North. We use these for a discussion in which contexts capital based breeding can learn from Commoning approaches and where social dilemmas arise in efforts of leveraging Commoning for transformative processes towards more sustainable agricultural systems.

**When:** Wednesday April 21, 2021, 8:00 am (AZ)

Check your time-zone [here](#).



[2021anthropocene.iasc-commons.org](https://2021anthropocene.iasc-commons.org)



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