

seed sourcelist work in progress a short list of seed saving organizations

## Oriental Vegetables

### Oriental Vegetable Seeds

Agrohaitai, Ltd.

<http://www.agrohaitai.com/onlinecatalogue.htm>

Ontario, Canada

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## Rice Variety Preservation

<http://www.ecowalkthetalk.com/blog/2011/10/13/reviving-the-lost-legacy/>

Thursday, October 13th, 2011 | Posted by Bharathi Shiva

Reviving the Lost Legacy of Rice Biodiversity: The Story of Ghani Khan

Rice means life and survival for billions of people. Relying on a narrow range of rice strains grown in monocultures has led to increased pest problems and erosion of rice biodiversity. Anitha Reddy shares a story of a farmer from India, Ghani Khan, who has successfully eschewed modern hybrid rice seeds to return to traditional varieties of rice which he believes are more nutritious and resilient.

## Bada Bagh Farm

### The Farm

The lane to Bada Bagh is muddy, accosted by trees, shrubs and sugarcane. The last thing you would expect to find there is a farm. And yet as you walk ahead Bada Bagh startles you with its sudden presence.

Welcome to Bada Bagh. Famed all over Karnataka (a state in southern India) for its flavourful mangoes, the land on which the farm stands today was given to Syed Ghani Khan's family by the legendary Tipu Sultan himself, who ruled parts of modern Karnataka in the 18th century.

The farm is now managed by Ghani Khan, a fourth generation descendant. The mangoes come from trees that have a 250 year old history. But there is another reason why Bada Bagh is popular today, thanks to Ghani Khan's introduction and cultivation of 146 traditional rice varieties including rice strains of different combinations.

Ghani Khan

## Journey to Organic Farming and the Search for Traditional seeds :

Ghani, the eldest among the four sons says that it is the quest for alternative seeds and farming practices that brought the family together. The once separated brothers are back and they owe much to the traditional rice strains.

Ghani, like many young farmers initially operated the farm adopting modern agricultural practices with synthetic fertilisers and pesticides. However, he witnessed rapid deterioration of his once fertile fields. A fellow farmer suggested alternative methods to rejuvenate the soil and with his help Ghani began experimenting with organic composts. The hybrid rice (the IR series) did not respond well to organic composts. This led him to search for a rice variety that would respond to his new cultivation methods.

This proved to be more difficult than he had imagined. Due to widespread hybrid cultivation the region had lost most of the traditional rice varieties. Traditional varieties of sturdy, drought resistant rice distinct to the region that he knew like Rajabhoga, Coimbatursanna, Kadibatha, Bangarusanna, Bangarukaddi and Doddibatha were now rarely being cultivated.

Ghani's long search for traditional seeds finally bore fruit when he came across 'Rathnachudi' - a fine variety of rice. He started experimenting with it with success. Motivated by this, he continued to cultivate the variety for about 6 years. Soon he decided to test other varieties of traditional seeds and his search yielded about six paddy varieties. All six varieties proved to be successful. The six became twenty six in the consecutive year and it more than doubled to seventy five in 2008. Today he has as many as 146 varieties.

Ghani says he owes a lot to Sahaja Samrudha (an organic farmers association) for their technical guidance and helping him with his efforts in collecting seeds from different regions. He now has a wide range of varieties from five different states of India. His diverse seed varieties include wetland, dryland, medicinal, aromatic, and irrigated rice.

His farm uses the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) method for irrigation. The SRI method saves a lot of water. The plot has been designed in a way that follows a combination a several principles, like alternate wetting and drying, increased spacing between plants, and transplanting the plants when they are young.

Paddy nearing Harvest

The Need To Preserve Traditional Rice varieties

The main drawback of hybrid seed varieties, says Ghani, is that they are sterile. The traditional seeds on the other hand have evolved over the years and have developed beneficial qualities like resistance to certain pests, and diseases. This makes them hardier and healthier than hybrids. Their unique features are preserved and each rice variety has a distinct flavour, and come in many different colors, sizes, and shapes.

Ghani and other like minded farmers believe that because the traditional varieties have evolved through the combined process of natural selection and farmer selection, it is superior to hybrid varieties. Traditional crop varieties, from their experience, maintain biodiversity and perform better when exposed to erratic climate changes. They cite the example that during floods and prolonged droughts the modern high yielding rice varieties and hybrids have shown drastically reduced performance. The farmer often suffers partial or total loss of crops.

Endorsing the farmers' view Shanta Kumar, Coordinator of 'Save our Rice' campaign in Karnataka, says

"For thousands of years farmers have developed and nurtured crop genetic diversity. With their careful insight they select the plants and develop varieties with suitable traits and improve on the existing one. This system of selection and improving on the plant is what has led to an astounding diversity of landraces\*, which still exists with some farmers. Though most of the rice diversity has been eroded, there are some farmers, who are working towards reviving and maintaining the rice diversity and Ghani is one among them"

Prized collection of Paddy

Prized collections

Today Ghani maintains different paddy strains to keep alive the evolutionary processes and to ensure a continual supply of germplasm. He is skilled in the art of seed production and has over the years developed a fine ability to identify the best seeds. He has reserved a portion of his plot for maintaining a seed bank, to preserve them and prevent them from disappearing forever.

Mr. Krishna Prasad, of Sahaja Samrudha says "On-farm conservation of rice diversity is carried out only by farmers who are interested and willing to do so. It cannot be imposed on them. A farmer who conserves 'inter' and 'intra' species diversity needs to have an understanding as to how, what and why he does it. Organizations can only technically support and provide opportunities for the farmers in continuing their efforts at conserving crop diversity". He further adds that on-farm conservation of crop diversity is important. This form of managing diversity of crops is easy to implement and links farmers' economic concerns with conservation. Management for crop diversity can promote on-farm conservation of rice, and potentially other crops too, in a feasible and sustainable way.

Some of the traditional seed varieties in the Farm:

Rajabhog: A weed Suppressor.

Anandi: A high yielding variety.

Jeeriga samba: An aromatic, non lodging and good grain yielding variety.

Parimalasanna: A fine variety appropriate for making festoons.

Govindbhog: Considered to be sacred and used as an offering to God Krishna.

Sagvad: Used for Poha (beaten rice).

Maladi: A medicinal rice variety used in bone fracture treatment.

Raj gudiypa: A dry land medicinal rice variety used for weakness.

HMT: A farmer developed variety.

Kasubai: A scented variety.

Other varieties include Chinnaponni, Kempudoddi, Halublu, Rajakayame, Rasakadam, Gamgadale, Burmablack, Kagisali, Ambimohar, Gamsale, Kottayane, Bilinellu, Gandhasale, NMS2, Rajmudi, Gowrisanna, Jeerigesanna, Bilidoddi, , Gambatha, Jeerigesale, Kalakali, Dharisal, Tulasiya, Sheerabathi, Thamadisala, Rathbath, Ratnachudi.”

Roping in other regional farmers

Ghani's concern for conservation of biodiversity has got many farmers interested in traditional varieties as a result of which his farm is drawing visitors from villages near and far. His experiment has enthralled scientists and officials, who have applauded his venture and there are talks of naming the farm as a Biodiversity Heritage Centre.

Ghani Khan can be contacted at 9901713351

Ghani Khan can be contacted at +91-9901713351

Recently Dr. Narayanagowda, Vice Chancellor, University of Agriculture Sciences, Bangalore visited his farm along with Rice Research station scientists. He praised Ghani for his endeavor

and has undertaken the traditional varieties for a scientific characterisation.

India is presently facing a rice crisis due to erosion of its biodiversity and increase of monocropping in agriculture. Reliance on a narrow spectrum of cultivars grown in monoculture have increased pest problems and India being a mega diversity country has a plethora of traditional varieties which are nutritious and have been developed over centuries. The traditional strains are more resistant to drought and could be an answer to the climate change. So saving them is important lest we lose these forever.

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About the Guest Writer:

Anitha Reddy is a freelance writer and has been documenting and publishing articles in the field of agriculture and biodiversity conservation for over a decade. She collaborated with NGOs and farmers to launch the 'GM free Karnataka' campaign to oppose the introduction of GM crops into the state.

She is at present working as a Communication Advisor for Sahaja Samrudha, Bangalore, an organic farmers association which has been carrying out research on the erosion of biodiversity.

She was given the 'Asia Pacific Rice Journalist Award in 2009 by PAN AP and the International Federation of Environmental Journalists (IFED).

Photos by Mr. Krishna Prasad.

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\* Landraces refers to the particular kinds of old seed strains and varieties that are farmer-selected in areas where local subsistence agriculture has long prevailed. Landraces are highly adapted to specific locales or groups. The term is usually applied to varieties of corn, squash, and beans that were domesticated by native farmers, and further modified by native and also immigrant farmers. Source: Dave's Garden.com

Further links you may be interested in:

EWTT: Prakash Singh Raghuwanshi: One Farmer's Crusade to save Indigenous Seeds

EWTT: Can One Man and One Cow Save Our Planet: Seeding the Real Green Revolution

EWTT: Organic Farming: Can It Feed the World?

EWTT: State of the World Report 2011: Innovations that Nourish the Planet

EWTT: Nero's Guests and Farmer Suicides in India

EWTT: The Source Project

Youtube: System of Rice Intensification – Cambodia

DiggRedditFacebookStumbleUponTwitterMySpaceShare/Save

Short URL: <http://www.ecowalkthetalk.com/blog/?p=8301>

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Vegetable Seed Saving Handbook

Seed Handbook Project

Jack

<http://www.howtosaveseeds.com/>

Seed-Related Bibliography

<http://howtosaveseeds.com/biblio.php>

A Seed Saving Guide For Gardeners and Farmers

Organic Seed Alliance

30 page PDF

[http://www.seedalliance.org/uploads/publications/Seed\\_Saving\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.seedalliance.org/uploads/publications/Seed_Saving_Guide.pdf)

Ute Bohnsack & Michael Miller

<http://homepage.eircom.net/~merlyn/seedsaving.html>

heirloom and open pollinated

<http://homepage.eircom.net/~merlyn/seedsaving.html#section1>

seed swap

<http://homepage.eircom.net/~merlyn/seedsaving.html#section3>

commercial sources: heirloom and open pollinated

<http://homepage.eircom.net/~merlyn/seedsaving.html#section5>

botany genetics horticulture for seedsavers

<http://homepage.eircom.net/~merlyn/seedsaving.html#section2>

seedsaving literature

<http://homepage.eircom.net/~merlyn/seedsaving.html#section8>

Seed Resources at the Permaculture Activist  
<http://www.permacultureactivist.net/seeds/SeedResrcs.htm>

## CHINESE YAM

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----- Original Message -----

From: Wolfgang Stränz <[straenz@web.de](mailto:straenz@web.de)>

Tobias Hartkemeyer has finished his Chinese Yam career. It was his idea to concentrate on Yam production, but now he thinks, it better to covert his family farm to CSA.

He still might have contacts to the Yams crowd, because afaik he did his thesis on Yams at Kassel Witzenhausen University.

His e-mail address is [tobias@hartkemeyer.de](mailto:tobias@hartkemeyer.de) <<mailto:tobias%40hartkemeyer.de>>

Maybe he did some testing during his studies using horizontal chromas.

He published a book about Dioscorea batatas and gave me one copy, unfortunately in German.

A professional grower of Lichtyams/Lichtwurz is a farm called Andreashof

Andreashof Jeridin GmbH

Kirchgasse 35

88662 Überlingen/Bodensee

Tel: +49 (0) 7551/ 94747-0 Fax: +49 (0) 7551/ 94747-15

Email: [info@andreashof-bodensee.de](mailto:info@andreashof-bodensee.de) <<mailto:info%40andreashof-bodensee.de>>

Directors: Frau Dr. Cornelia Hahn, Marc Thomke

Marc Thomke is one of the speakers at the seminar in Sicily on the 2nd of February

There is a German website: <http://www.lichtwurz.de/> with these two addresses which you might contact

Ralf Rößner: [ralf.roessner@t-online.de](mailto:ralf.roessner@t-online.de)

<<mailto:ralf.roessner%40t-online.de>> who is the owner of the site

<http://www.lichtwurz.info/>

and

Dr. Markus Heyerhoff

Überlinger Str. 8c

D - 88662 Überlingen

Telefon 07551 / 94 89 45

[info@heyerhoff.de](mailto:info@heyerhoff.de) <<mailto:info%40heyerhoff.de>>

He is the owner of lichtwurz.de.

A full text search in Rudolf Steiner GA didn't give any results.

A description of the plant (in English) at

<http://www.pfaf.org/user/plant.aspx?LatinName=Dioscorea+batatas>

<<http://www.pfaf.org/user/plant.aspx?LatinName=Dioscorea+batatas>>

Best

Wolfgang

### Fruit Trees From Seedlings

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sources for possible seed exchange network:

(I will add to this as I find potential participants)

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Re: [permaculture] Fwd: Fukuoka and trees

Date: Wed, 1 Feb 2012 07:19:14 -0800

From: sals3 <sals3@cox.net>

Reply-To: permaculture <permaculture@lists.ibiblio.org>

To: permaculture <permaculture@lists.ibiblio.org>

I like this thread. I found that some mangoes grow true to type. I can't spell but they call them pollyembroatic or something like that. the way I tell is that the mango seed that put out more than one tree from the seed usually come true to mom. I live in Santa Barbara and I had lots of grafted mango trees that were kill back below the graft from a freeze we had in the 90s so now I really prize seedlings because there is no dying below the graft and they can come back true. I know folks that only eat from seedling trees and think grafting is not so good. either the scion grows faster than the graft or vice a verse . I think for money people in stores all buy Hass or name brands. so for money I grow good tasting grafted trees but I also love seedlings . I also have a white peach that has great seedlings . I have a orange grapefruit that is so sweet and comes true to seed so far. remember all trees came from seedlings . I would like to see the list of true parent seed plants. nothing beats a true seedling with tap root and natural growth. all one and the same plant .

----- Original Message -----

From: "loren luyendyk" <loren@sborganics.com>

To: "Permaculture Listserve" <permaculture@lists.ibiblio.org>

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 9:19 PM

Subject: Re: [permaculture] Fwd: Fukuoka and trees

>

> In my experience, pruning usually leads to more pruning. Depending on the  
> tree's response to pruning (maybe due to the timing of the pruning, ie  
> waxing or waning moon), more corrective pruning may be necessary to keep  
> the shape desired, or to manage rampant growth (water sprouts) which may  
> compromise tree health and stability.

>

> I am a fan of minimal pruning. I prune to correct crossing branches, or  
> to reduce the chance of branches breaking due to occlude bark or bad  
> branch angles. It is true that larger and higher quality fruit is the  
> result of a proper pruning regime.

>

> Grafted trees definitely grow differently than seedlings. Due to their  
> precocious nature, they set large amounts of fruit early on in life.  
> Also, depending on where the scion came from on the mother tree, the graft  
> retains the memory. For example, if you use a laterally growing branch  
> for a scion, the grafted tree may grow sideways. Same goes for cuttings.

>

> I have been working on growing out fruit trees that are true to type from  
> seed, in my own small and slow way. I have found that many subtropical  
> fruit trees produce high quality fruit from seed, ie cherimoyas, loquats,  
> rose apples, pineapple guavas and others. We also have some local  
> naturalized white peaches that are great from seed. These trees all seem  
> to have great form naturally and do not need much pruning at all.

>

> I think Fukuoka must have been growing seedlings, especially since he was  
> so zen and probably didn't deem it necessary to graft. I also like Sepp  
> Holzer's approach to plant seeds in the field and graft in place, and then  
> leave the seedling branches below the graft. I don't think he prunes much  
> at all either.

>

> Loren Luyendyk  
> ISA Certified Arborist #WE 7805A  
> Permaculture Design & Education  
> (805) 452-8249  
> [www.sborganics.com](http://www.sborganics.com)  
> [www.globalpermaculture.com](http://www.globalpermaculture.com)  
> [www.surferswithoutborders.org](http://www.surferswithoutborders.org)

## Tomato Breeding Programs

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Amateurs are doing some really fun breeding work with tomatoes, here for example:

<http://www.frogsleapfarm.blogspot.com/>

Some interesting tomato seeds are for sale here:

<http://www.wildboarfarms.com/>

Random Public Comments and seed source information:

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A Black Tomato with high antioxidant content

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bought these tomato seeds from Territorial Seeds this year

trialed these tomatoes last season; got the seeds from breeder Tom Wagner.

They are late-season (80-85 days), large sturdy plants and have terrific flavor. Saved the seeds and will grow them again

Nichols Nursery in Oregon has them too

from Johnny's

<http://www.johnnyseeds.com/p-8711-indigo-rose-og.aspx>

'A really, really purple tomato that can be as black as an

eggplant' <[KVAL](http://www.google.com/url?sa=X&q=http://www.kval.com/news/local/A-really-really-purple-tomato-that-can-be-as-black-as-an-eggplant-138335339.html&ct=ga&cad=CAEQAhgAIAAoATAJOAIAtuSd-QRIAVAAWABiAmVu&cd=ZIZ9qtQUckQ&usg=AFQjCNG216xXiliyRefeVFgSRj-jg13qtQ></a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

Breeding for the antioxidant potential of the purple anthocyanins in the fruit is the most important goal for OSU breeders, led by Myers, professor in the horticulture department. (Photo by Tiffany Woods.) Indigo Rose, a truly purple tomato, ...

See all stories on this topic

><<http://www.google.com/url?sa=X&q=http://news.google.com/news/story%3Fnccl%3Dhttp://www.kval.com/news/local/A-really-really-purple-tomato-that-can-be-as-black-as-an-eggplant-138335339.html%26hl%3Den%26geo%3Dus&ct=ga&cad=CAEQAhgAIAAoBjAJJOAIAtuSd-QRIAVAA>

[WABiAmVu&cd=ZIZ9qtQUckQ&usg=AFQjCNEisGONRp3blbfvWILD7NlcVdWMvg>](http://WABiAmVu&cd=ZIZ9qtQUckQ&usg=AFQjCNEisGONRp3blbfvWILD7NlcVdWMvg>)

<>

I noticed that the announcement of this tomato from Nichols said that the flavor has been improved from the earlier ones. It does sound like a very healthy tomato with its high amount of anthocyanins.

Nichols nursery said--"There has been a buzz about this breeding program for some years because the deep purple colored skins and surrounding tissue are extremely high in anthocyanin. The flavor is quite pleasing, much more so than early selections several years ago."

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#### Organic Seed Alliance Related Resources

[http://www.seedalliance.org/Seed\\_Companies\\_Selling\\_Organic\\_Seed/](http://www.seedalliance.org/Seed_Companies_Selling_Organic_Seed/)

Please note:

The seed companies listed below have stated that they sell certified organic seed and requested to be listed on our website. Some of the companies sell both certified organic and conventional seed. Some also sell biodynamic seed. **We do not endorse any of these seed companies or guarantee their quality or organic certification status.** We provide this list and links to seed companies as a service to help farmers and gardeners source organic seed.

[Click here](#) for companies that have signed the "Safe Seed Pledge" through the Council for Responsible Genetics.

OSA receives requests on a regular basis from individuals who want to **avoid Seminis varieties**. The Seminis company provides a list of its products for both [professional growers](#) and [home gardeners](#).

**[OMRI](#) and [ATTRA](#) provide organic seed databases.**

[Abundant](#)

[Life Seeds](#)

[All Good Things Organic Seeds](#)

[American Organic](#)

[Blue River Organic Seeds](#)

[British Columbia Seed Database](#)

[DLF Organic](#)

[Fedco Seeds](#)

[Full Circle Seeds](#)

[Genesis Seeds](#)

[The Garlic Store](#)

[High Mowing Seeds](#)

[Irish Eyes Garden Seeds](#)

[Johnny's Selected Seeds](#)

[Nature's Crossroads](#)

[Osborne Seed Company, LLC](#)

[Peaceful Valley Farm & Garden Supply](#)

[Salt Spring Seeds](#)

[Seeds Depot](#)

[Seeds of Change](#)

[Seed We Need](#)

[Parke Seed](#)

[Sow True Seed](#)

[Southern Exposure Seed Exchange](#)

[Stellar Seeds](#)

[Territorial Seed](#)

[The Natural Gardening Company](#)

[Turtle Tree](#) Biodynamic Seed Company

[Uprising Seeds](#)

[Welter Seed and Honey Company](#)

[Wood Prairie Farm](#)

[West Coast Seeds](#)

[Wild Garden Seeds](#)

- Baker Creek Seed (inspiring company, not necessarily organic, based in Missouri)
- Abbondanza Organic Seeds (Awesome breeders/growers/sellers, based in Colorado)
- Wild Garden Seeds (Phenomenal breeders/growers/sellers, based in Oregon)
- Uprising Seeds (Awesome breeders/growers/sellers, based in Washington)
- Siskiyou Seeds (Permaculture-based breeders/growers/sellers, based in

Oregon)

-Turtle Tree Seeds (Biodynamic, cooperatively grown by small scale farmers, based in New York)

-Bountiful Gardens (John Jeavons outfit, not sure where they get much of their seed, though I tend like the company and mission)

-Native Seeds SEARCH (Southwestern adapted crops, based in Arizona)

-Seeds of Change (Still have a lot of rare varieties of southwestern crops)

-Seed Savers Exchange (Still have more heirlooms than anywhere)