



## FORM BEST PRACTICES CONTEST

Municipality Seferihisar..... Country TURKEY.....

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Name project

Seeds of Seferihisar

Category Certification Criteria

- Energy and environmental policies (politiche energetiche e ambientali);
- Infrastructure policies (politiche infrastrutturali);
- Quality of urban life policies (politiche per la qualita' urbana);
- Agricultural, touristic and artisan policies (politiche agricole, turistiche, artigianali);
- Policies for hospitality, awareness and training (politiche per l'ospitalita, la consapevolezza e la formazione);
- Social cohesion (coesione sociale).

Summary project



For hundreds, perhaps thousands of years native seeds have been evolved in accordance with the conditions of our land. In Turkey, like the rest of the world, certain laws and regulations have been put into place to stop the sale and production of the native seeds. These laws that were put in place to open the door for GMO seeds and make this sector a monopoly have resulted in the loss of local and native seeds. Hybrid tomatoes were being grown in Seferihisar in place of the local tomatoes of which there were dozens of types. To put an end to this the municipality of Seferihisar started the Seeds of Seferihisar project. We needed to locate and collect different types of native seeds Seed Swap Festivals organised in 2011 and 2012. The laws that prevented the sale of local seeds does not have a factor that affects the swapping of seeds so this method was used to allow people to swap their seeds. An sample of each seed was collected at the seed swap festival with the participation of villagers of and from Seferihisar. A seed centre was opened to preserve, analyze and grow the seeds. From the seeds collected at the festival over 30.000 saplings were grown from over 100 types of seed, this year the aim is to grow over 30.000 saplings from 37 types of seed. The seeds that were produced from the crops were distributed all around Turkey free of charge. With the establishment of a seed web between the villages over 7.000 m<sup>2</sup> of land was planted with these seeds and production was regenerated. To teach the children the importance of local seeds a vegetable garden was created in each school which help the children to learn which seeds were planted in which season and the saplings that were grown in these gardens are distributed to the children. This year 2100 saplings will be distributed to 7 school gardens.

#### Goal project

The goal of the Seeds of Seferihisar project is to protect the local seeds from extinction and encourage their usage. The other aim of the project is to encourage the producers to use the seeds and also enlighten the children of Seferihisar about the importance of local seeds.

#### Result project

All stages of the Seeds of Seferihisar project was accomplished with success. The seed swap festival was an attraction for the villagers and producers of Seferihisar, the older generations brought seeds that they had preserved for over half a century. A seed centre was established for preserving and growing the seeds and all of the operations were based from this centre. The seeds that were most sought after were produced and given out to not only the local producers but to people who requested them from all over Turkey. The most rewarding aspect of the project was the fact that produce such as the pink tomatoes which were nearly extinct has now been saved and is being produced with great success. A special space will be designated for the sale of these products in the local producers markets.

#### Finance (costs and benefits)

Seed swap festival, Seed centre and the cost of establishing the school gardens came to around 30.000 Euros.



Staff (time use and saving)

5 part time personnel were assigned for the seed swap festivals. There are 2 technical personnel working at the seed centre. The school gardens were established by the municipality and are taken care of regularly.

Additional information (if necessarily)

Link website .....

(if available)

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