

Arable weed conservation programme in Órség National Park

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Because of the intensive utilization of ploughlands, (chemical weed control, melioration, mechanization) a lot of formerly common arable weed became extremely rare nowadays. Due to the spread of new, mechanized technologies we lose slowly the knowledge of ploughing, sowing and harvest by hand. These two groups of values: to save rarefied weeds which are important considering biodiversity and to transmit farming knowledge stimulated us to start a field reservation project. To this aim, a 2 ha wide field was chosen and cultivated on a traditional, ridge-planted way since 2004 till 2007. After the ploughing by tractor, every further work was made by hand or with tools pulled by horses. Among the lines of winter wheat, rye and flax; native arable weed species and rare pioneers were sowed, which were collected from local habitats and received from the Botanical Garden of Gatersleben. Because of the lack of financial and human resources, the continuity of managing our field reservation was broken. We started again our programme in 2011. During this year, we multiplied 5 rare weed species in a separated garden. At the end of the growing season the crops were harvested which will sowed in next spring on the new field reservation. The appointed new field smaller (0,3 ha), enclosed by fence against game, and easily accessible for tourist, that makes demonstration simpler. Our future plans to provide possibility for people to show ridge-planting by horse, to try out sowing and harvesting by hand. Information board will be placed out also. Survival and new appearance of endangered weed and pioneer species will be monitored continuously.

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