

## **Seed Saving Session**

Ken Greene, Hudson Valley Seed Library

### Presentation Summary

Focus on Seed Quality: When considering growing or planting regionally grown seed, seed quality is of utmost importance. It is not enough to simply save seeds, understanding how to overcome the challenges our region presents is essential if we are to have a viable network of regionally grown seed.

The general challenges of growing seed in the Northeast include our climate, length of growing season, and regional diseases. The Hudson Valley Seed Library has been pioneering methods to successfully produce seeds in the Northeast for the last decade. Recently, through a SARE grant, the Seed Library began studying seed quality through training NYS farmers in seed production and partnering with Cornell to test plant health and seed quality of specific seed crops.

Ken Greene will share preliminary results from the SARE research including experiences of the commercial vegetable growers being trained to integrate 1-4 seed crops into their farms, diagnostic results from the Cornell Plant Clinic, and success stories of specific seed varieties that are now available to farmers.

The Seed Library grew out of a germ of an idea at a small town library in the Hudson Valley region of upstate New York. Over the past nine years, the idea has grown and blossomed into an online seed library focused on the Northeast and a full seed catalog for all gardeners. Today, the Seed Library has its own seed farm where open-pollinated seeds are grown, saved, and packed by hand. There are close to one thousand seed library members and thousands more buy our unique Art Packs and heirloom seeds every year. Seed Library gardeners can feel good about their seeds because we care as much as you do about preserving genetic diversity and saving seed stories.