cerere

CEreal REnaissance in Rural Europe:

embedding diversity in organic and low input food systems

CERERE is a thematic network that puts together scientists with practitioners. Funded by the European Commission's Horizon 2020 programme, CERERE is a multi-actor network involving farmers, food scientists, sociologists, agronomists and others. Its aims are to raise awareness about the value of good food, to identify cereals supply chains which use low inputs, and to empower farmers and those actors who work with alternative food systems.

Led by Áine Macken-Walsh, the Irish partner in CERERE is the Rural Economy Development Programme (REDP) of Teagasc, Ireland's Agriculture and Food Development Authority. A central mission of Teagasc in CERERE to broker innovation between diverse actors in how the renaissance of Ireland's heritage cereals is imagined and practiced. In this context, artistic praxis is envisioned as a powerful tool in opening up CERERE to society by creating expressions of the project's multiple scientific, tacit, and consumerist facets; using aesthetics to draw the gaze of those uninvolved in cereals to important public concerns; and renaissance of heritage cereal identities through inventive, provocative and spectacularised gastronomy. Teagasc has commissioned a public art project by Deirdre O'Mahony (2018-2019) and joins with The Domestic Godless for Tulca's Syntonic State, 2018.

www.cerere2020.eu
www.teagasc.ie

The CERERE Mind Meitheal assembled by artist/producer Deirdre O'Mahony, is a collective gathering of agronomists, farmers, social scientists, policy makers, heritage NGO representatives, historians, chefs, food processors, and artists. With members chosen from an interrogative process employed by O'Mahony among people passionate about heritage cereals, the Mind Meitheal approach serves to amplify the inspiration provided by The Domestic Godless during

Tulca's 'Syntonic State' visual art festival, generating new, cross-sectoral imaginings for heritage cereals renaissance.

A CERERE artwork by Sadhbh Gaston has also been commissioned, making use of cross stitch to produce pixelated images of Irish landrace and heritage cereal seeds, varieties that until recently were considered irrelevant to modern farming. Each embroidered work is accompanied by a text that tells the story of the specific seed in relation to CERERE in Ireland.

Fabric banners have been designed to hang outside Sheridans', 14 Churchyard St., Galway, bringing public attention to the varieties of heritage cereals identified through CERERE's Mind Meitheal and highlighting the mission of CERERE and its main event with The Domestic Godless on 18th November 2018.

Artist Biographies:

Deirdre O'Mahony's art practice is grounded in collaborative engagements with rural publics and contexts, examining ideas of sustainability, food security and rural/urban relationships through food-based projects. Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally and she has received Arts Council awards and bursaries. She recieved the Irish American Cultural Institute 2018 O'Malley award.

www.deirdeomahony.ie

Sadhbh Gaston is an emerging artist who uses stitch to examine agriculture and labour practices. Reflecting on the obstacles facing the production of everyday products, her slow making process is used to rephrase our relationship with the food and clothing that come and go swiftly from our lives. Exhibitions include SKIN/NAKH/ODA in Cork and Estonia and the Courthouse Gallery Ennistymon (2019).

http://sadhbhgaston.wixsite.com/sadhbhgaston

Donegal Oat
Avena strigosa

Donegal Oat *Avena strigosa*

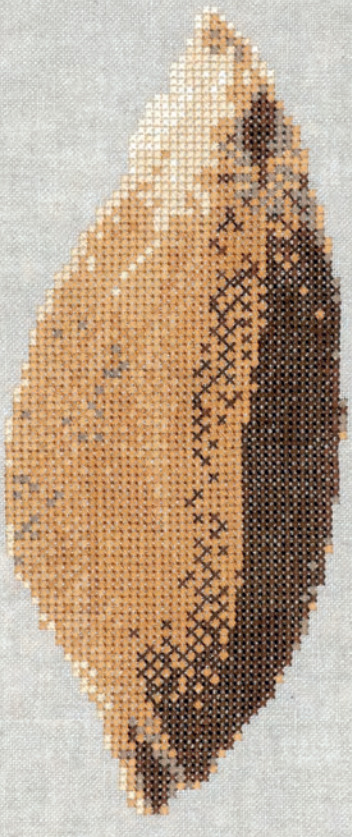
Seed source: Irish Seed Savers and Brown Envelope Seeds, County Cork.

Stored as the accession Donegal Oat at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Backweston Farm, Leixlip, County Dublin.

The Donegal oat is an Irish heritage grain known as a black or bristle oat. Bristle oat has been closely associated with rye; Tom Curtis has noted that it is often a companion species where the former is grown. The Donegal oat is well suited for growing on poor marginal land and was sown this year by Kate Carmody for CERERE on her farm in North Kerry. Oats are usually a reliable crop for spring sowing, however this year an extremely wet spring followed by summer drought resulted in a very poor crop. A small amount of oats was harvested by hand and the seed saved for next year.

References:
Carmody, Kate. Personal Interview, 14th September 2018. Curtis, Tom. Report On The Production Of A Genetic Conservation Strategy For Plants In Ireland: Crop Wild Relatives And Landraces, Report to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine: Conservation of Genetic Resources Grant Aid Scheme for Food and Agriculture, 2014. McKeever, Madeline. https://www.brownenvelopeseeds.com/product-p/donegal-oat.htm, 2018 Miklis , Michael. ISSA Grain Project http://www.irishseedsavers.ie/-blog/2009/life-on-the-farm/issa-grain-project-by-michael-miklis-issa/, 24 November 2009.

Sadhbh Gaston, Grain 1, Embroidered silk on linen, 47 x 44 cm, with text 20 x 44 cm 2018, Collection Teagasc.



Emmer Wheat
Triticum dicoccon

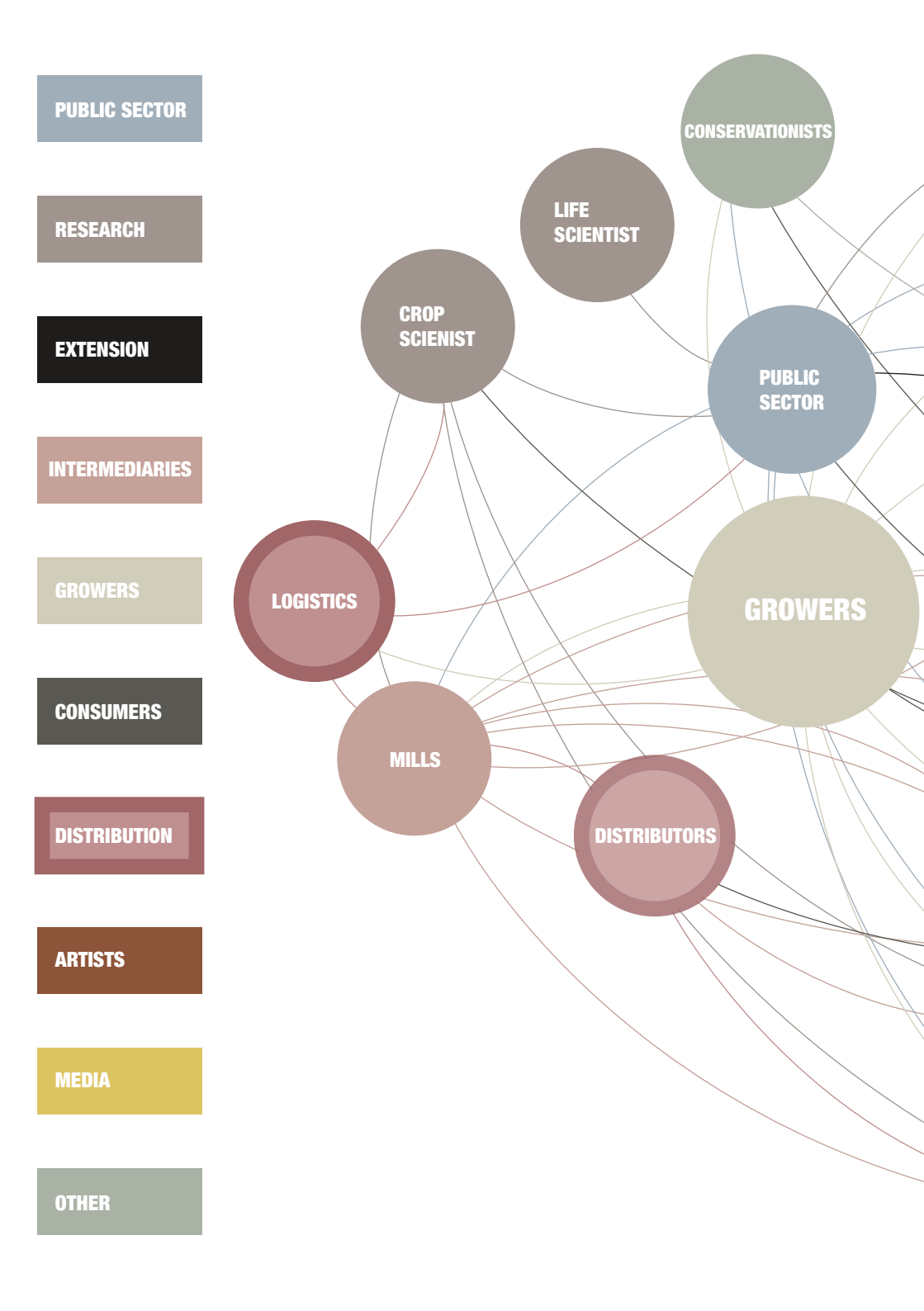
Emmer Wheat *Triticum dicoccon*

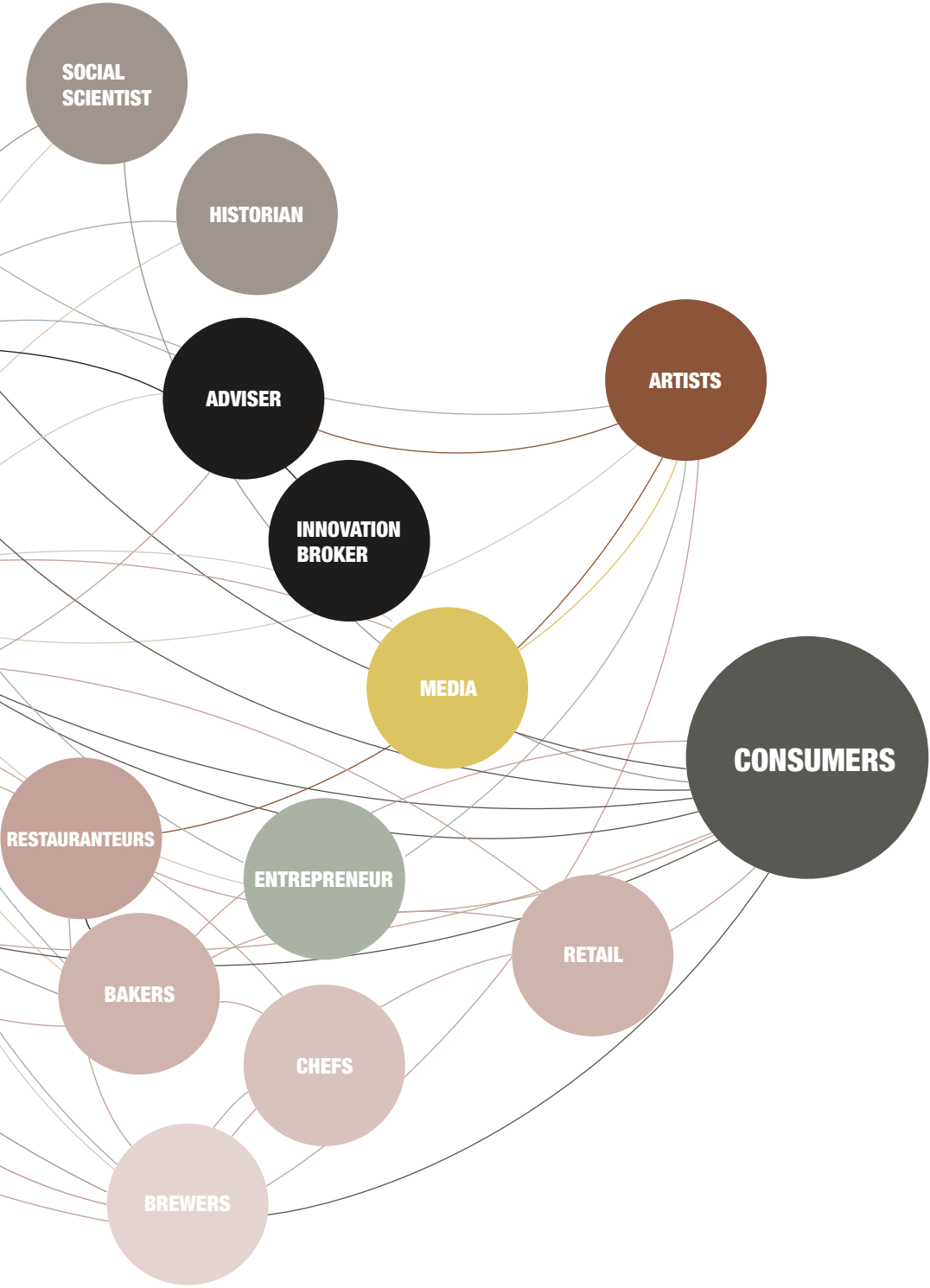
Seed source: Teun de Jong/George Pars Graanhandel, St. Jacobiparochie, Friesland, Netherlands

A grain of Emmer wheat was identified in a sample of charcoal linked to beaker ware at Newgrange in the Boyne valley from around 4000 BCE and was also excavated from medieval sites in Swords, Dublin. The seed was difficult to source, arriving via the Netherlands, and will be grown in Fingal by farmer Larry McGuinness over 2018/2019. He will be aided by the experience and knowledge of CERERE Mind Meitheal participants Dominic Greyson and Michael Miklis, co-founder of Irish Seed Savers, who have both previously grown the crop.

References:
O'Kelly, Michael J; O'Kelly, Claire. Early Ireland: An Introduction to Irish Prehistory Cambridge: Cambridge U.P. 1989 Lyons, Susan, 'Food Plants, Fruits and Foreign Foodstuffs: the archaeological evidence from urban medieval Ireland', Food and Drink in Ireland Eds., Elizabeth Fitzpatrick and James Kelly, RIA: Dublin, 2016. McClatchie, Meriel http://ancientfoodandfarming.blogspot.com/2017/, 2017 Curtis, Tom. Report On The Production Of A Genetic Conservation Strategy For Plants In Ireland: Crop Wild Relatives And Landraces, Report to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine: Conservation of Genetic Resources Grant Aid Scheme for Food and Agriculture 2014.

Sadhbh Gaston, Grain 2, Embroidered silk on linen, 47 x 44 cm, with text 20 x 44 cm 2018, Collection Teagasc.


PUBLIC SECTOR
RESEARCH
EXTENSION
INTERMEDIARIES
GROWERS
CONSUMERS
DISTRIBUTION
ARTISTS
MEDIA
OTHER
CONSERVATIONISTS
LIFE SCIENTIST
CROP SCIENIST
PUBLIC SECTOR
LOGISTICS
GROWERS
MILLS
DISTRIBUTORS


SOCIAL SCIENTIST
HISTORIAN
ADVISER
ARTISTS
INNOVATION BROKER
MEDIA
CONSUMERS
RESTAURANTEURS
ENTREPRENEUR
RETAIL
BAKERS
CHEFS
BREWERS

Hunter Barley
Hordeum vulgare

‘Hunter’ Barley: Spratt-Archer *Hordeum Vulgare*

Seed source: Stored as the accession Hunter Barley at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Backweston Farm, Leixlip, County Dublin

Attributed to Herbert Hunter, a hybrid variety Spratt-Archer was created in Ireland in 1908. Used in the craft brewing industry, it is currently marketed as a heritage grain. In 1904 Herbert Hunter joined John Bennet (1862-1935), on whose farm in Ballinacurra, County Cork Ireland’s Department of Agiculture and Technical Instruction (DATI) founded a Cereal Breeding Station. Together they ‘spent long days in the barley fields with the farmers and local maltsters’ (Fisher Box, 1987, 48), leading to the Spratt-Archer hybrid. It proved to be ‘amazingly adaptable’ (Horne, 1951, 86).

References:
Fisher Box, Joan. Guinness, Gosset, Fisher, and Small Samples, Statistical Science, Vol. 2, No. 1, 45-52, 1987. Horne, F.R. Development of New Varieties of Malting Barley, Meeting of the Scottish Section, North British Hotel, Edinburgh, 6th November, 1951. Hunter, H. The improvement of malting barleys; in retrpospect and prospect. Communications. Nov.-Dec, 1943 https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1002/j.2050-0416.1943.tb01255.x McConnell, David. Hands that changed the barley, The Irish Times. Sat. Jan 13th, 2007.

Sadhbh Gaston, Grain 3, Embroidered silk on linen, 47 x 44 cm, with text 20 x 44 cm 2018, Collection Teagasc.

TCG 101 Rye
Secale cereale

TCG101 Rye *Secale cereale*

Seed source: Inis Meáin
Stored as the accession TCG101 at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Backweston Farm, Leixlip, County Dublin.

TCG101 is one of a number of varieties of rye found on the Aran Islands and holds an important place in the heritage of the islands. Grown for centuries as a thatching material for houses, it is culturally significant to the vernacular architecture of the island. It is also genetically important to maintaining cereal landraces and provides an ecological sanctuary for important plants such as darnel, or Lolium tementulum, thought to be extinct in the wild.

References:
Curtis, Tom. Personal Interview, 6th October 2018
Curtis, Tom. Report On The Production Of A Genetic Conservation Strategy For Plants In Ireland: Crop Wild Relatives And Landraces, Report to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine: Conservation of Genetic Resources Grant Aid Scheme for Food and Agriculture, 2014. Viney, Michael. Thatcher in the Rye. The Irish Times Aug. 2nd , 1997

Sadhbh Gaston, Grain 4, Embroidered silk on linen, 47 x 44 cm, with text 20 x 44 cm 2018, Collection Teagasc.

Hemp
Cannabis sativa

Hemp *Cannabis sativa*

Seed source: Fruit Hill Farm, Bantry, Cork

Hemp has been cultivated in Ireland for over 1000 years. During the Napoleonic wars, a survey of Irish bogs as potential sites for hemp and flax was carried out, to provide raw materials for ropes and sails for the British navy. Both whole stalk and seed can be harvested from the same crop, and today it is being explored as a raw material for automotive and bulding industries, as well as for food.
Hemp Cooperative Ireland was recently established to create an infrastructure for farmers and local businesses to develop the hemp industry. Kerry farmer Kate Carmody sees the crop as a way for farmers interested in a sustainable approach to diary farming to revitalise waterlogged land, hinder the growth of rushes and as a cash crop that can be produced without the aid of agrochemicals.

References:
Kate Carmody, Interview September 14th 2018. Hemp Cooperative Ireland, https://www.hempcooperativeireland.com/, Brian Houlihan, Teagasc Hemp Research From The 1990's, https://medium.com/@dubhempmuseum/teagasc-hemp-research-from-the-1990s-f3945af0c4cd, Arnold Horner, "Napoleon's Irish Legacy: the bogs commissioners, 1809-14", History Ireland, Issue 5 (Sep/Oct 2005), Volume 13, Oliver Moore: Hemp thrives in coastlal north Kerry, Irish Examiner, August 04, 2016.

Sadhbh Gaston, Grain 5, Embroidered silk on linen, 47 x 44 cm, with text 20 x 44 cm 2018, Collection Teagasc.

This project receives funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation program under Grant Agreement n° 727848

teagasc

Agriculture and Food Development Authority