

## Press release

Bretonnières, July 2017

### **1. Kokopelli among the Swiss : Mission accomplished!**

For more than twenty years, Kokopelli has conserved, reproduced and disseminated more than 2500 heirloom vegetable varieties. In 2009, the directors of the Kokopelli Association and Joël Vuagniaux decided by mutual agreement to open an office in French-speaking Switzerland. We wanted to invite the Swiss to appropriate and reproduce this rich biodiversity. This would serve to raise awareness among our fellow citizens about the seeds that must be freed from a web of restrictive and draconian legal restraints, to spread the word about the work of Kokopelli and to extend its action in our country.

The result was not long in coming: considerable success over the past eight years, with the adhesion of more than a thousand supporters and tens of thousands of seed packets of hundreds of varieties distributed in Switzerland. Over these eight years we also organized conferences, workshops, courses and various activities around subjects important to Kokopelli: humus, seeds and pollinators; The indivisible trilogy.

Kokopelli works around the world to make food sovereignty and self-sufficiency possible through the seeds it disseminates. It supports gardeners, farmers and communities in their search for autonomy and seed independence. By its very nature, the association helps intrepid and unbowed vegetable growers move toward independence and reproduce the treasures of their collection, aiming for autonomy.

At the request of the Association Kokopelli (France), which wishes to review its distribution policy and the use of its name abroad, and in agreement with those aims, we have renamed our association and redesigned part of the statutes, developing our work around the notion of "resources" linked to the food chain.

The members of the Association Kokopelli - Suisse, assembled in an Extraordinary General Assembly on 17 June in Bretonnières unanimously adopted the new name and the proposed amendments to the by-laws, forming the association ResSources, which we are proud and delighted to introduce!

## 2. A new start: ResSources

Essential resources are interlinked in a systemic way; health and nutrition, agricultural practices, knowledge and practical know-how, distribution and transformation, citizen and political mobilization, etc. It is the whole process from seed to plate that interests us as a system and this will be the basis of our reflection and our future actions which we will be working on starting in September 2017.

The association ResSources was born out of these reflections and the experience gained during the last 8 years in Switzerland. We intend to continue the work begun around seeds by distributing an assortment of varieties from our future production.

ResSources will support the development of a local, professional seed production network in order to meet the needs of our members and customers. We will also be able to distribute the seeds of other selected organic producers. We will continue to cultivate our seed sharing network, Sème! and will always support ongoing seed donation projects internationally, as means permit.

Various conferences, trainings and events will support the work of ResSources. More information about the objectives and projects of the association ResSources will be on our site ([www.association-ressources.ch](http://www.association-ressources.ch)) and in forthcoming documents.

**We are looking forward to see you soon!**

*Joël Vuagniaux and the ResSources team.*



*Vital resources for all, shared rights and responsibilities with the Earth as our legacy!*

You can support our work and help increase our impact by joining the *ResSources* association, by talking about us to those around you or by making a donation.

IBAN : CH 61 0900 0000 1249 4048 0

[www.association-ressources.ch](http://www.association-ressources.ch)