

Lebende Samen Success Story in Portugal

Registration of varieties through plant breeding projects

February 2021

Thanks to previous projects and in partnership with Living Seeds Sementes Vivas SA (LSSV), Lebende Samen has been able to start the registration of various traditional varieties of vegetables in the European catalogue of varieties. We received the seeds from local people looking for a way to pass on their varieties to new generations. The varieties were used in trials on the farm of LSSV and selected for uniformity and adaptation to low water and high heat conditions. In a project in partnership with LSSV and the Escola Agraria de Coimbra (ESAC), the registration of two tomato, one pepper, and one carrot variety was initiated.

The **carrot** variety (Registered as: Pau Roxo de Seis Marias) came from a farmer in the Algarve. Her selection of traditional purple carrots is typical for the region and was saved for generations by her family. Pau Roxo de Seis Marias now presents the first officially available carrot variety of this traditional carrot in Portugal.

Secondly, a flat, thick-walled **pepper** (registered as Vale Longo) was received and selected for additional uniformity. This pepper was specifically cultivated for transformation into paprika paste and as such presented quality characteristics which are unique in terms of flavour compared to other pepper varieties

Lastly, two **tomato** varieties were registered (de Inverno and Cereja de inverno), both with exceptional storage qualities. The varieties presented the possibility to be stored up to half a year after harvesting, in cool and dark storage conditions. These varieties enable producers to have fresh tomatoes available all winter long.

All varieties pass through a two-year registration process with the Portuguese authorities (DGAV). During these trials, the uniformity and stability of the varieties are evaluated. In the meantime, the varieties can be commercialized with a special permission. All varieties mentioned, so far, are in the second and final year of the registration process. End of 2021 we expect the official announcement of the results of the inscription process.

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prolific South of the Mediterranean.

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