



Sowing the future

Kenyan farmer Gladys Wandia Kariuki was stunned to discover that a centuries old tradition of producing and selling her own seeds has recently been declared a criminal offence.

People in many countries across the Global South are having the same experience as Gladys. Economically driven laws are restricting free access to seeds worldwide, and community-based production of locally adapted seeds is steadily declining, together with its diversity. The right to share, develop or sell seeds is central to ensuring adequate, healthy and locally rooted food systems.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations estimates that 75 percent of cultivated crops have disappeared over the past century. At the same time, farmers like Gladys cultivate and maintain around 80 percent of the seeds used worldwide.¹ They preserve this diversity.

For many people, seeds hold spiritual significance. It connects generations and is a gift shared by all. For this reason, seeds must be preserved and used for the benefit of everyone to secure our “daily bread”. Fastenaktion and HEKS advocate for farming communities to have control over their own seeds.

“Sowing the future” is an appeal to recognise the importance of seeds as the basis of life and to support the work of Fastenaktion, HEKS and Partner sein for a future without hunger.

Your support matters. We hope that members of your congregation will be inspired by the projects of this year’s ecumenical campaign and help to ensure its success.

¹ Source: ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, 2019

Yolima Salazar Higuera – Colombia



Visiting Switzerland from 28/02 to 15/03/2026

For 38 years, Yolima Salazar Higuera has been a part of Vicaría del Sur, an ecclesiastical organization in Colombia's Amazon region. Trained as a social worker, she is supporting people in their faith and in their daily lives. Through this **Fastenaktion** project, she empowers small-scale farming families by promoting education, sustainable agriculture and the establishment of "Amazon farms". The aim is to foster a just and dignified way of life, that is ecologically based and in harmony with nature. **Further interesting details about Yolima and the Amazon farms are available online***.



Lent calendar

The **Lent calendar** accompanies you day by day through the season of contemplation, with moving stories, almost forgotten recipes and inspiring reflections. Central themes include seed diversity, food security and the right to food. It reminds us that hope must be sown. **Whether printed or digital:** order the calendar, send it out or advertise it online. Let's sow the future together. **Curious about the themes of the Lent calendar? More about this online***.



Day of action



On the **day of action** for the right to food on **14 March 2026**, we invite you to get involved and actively support the work of Fastenaktion and HEKS in the Global South. Let's join together to make a statement for the right to food. This year, we are once again offering fragrant Fairtrade roses and seeds to create wildflower meadows. **Do you want to actively participate? Find inspiration on our website***.

Sermon guide

Reflections on the parable "The Rich Fool" (Luke 12:13–21)

My life is not my own; it is only lent to me as time entrusted to my care. In the same way, this earth does not belong to us; it is given to us only for a time, and we should therefore treat it with even greater responsibility. All that we own is temporary, whether inherited or earned. The rich farmer had forgotten all this. He was successful. He was wealthy. He was self-sufficient. Other people were not important to him. His possessions were his life; what he owned was his happiness. He wanted only one thing: to have even more. Jesus called him a fool.

There is a saying: "You can't take it with you." We all know this. But do we live and act accordingly, as individuals, as a society, as churches? Is our economic activity not primarily geared towards maximising profit? Are we not caught in a logic of always wanting more? So, are people merely fools, self-centred egotists concerned only with themselves? No. The ecumenical campaign under the slogan "Sowing the future" sharpens and broadens our perspective. It reminds us of our power to shape the world and of our shared humanity. Our lives, our possessions and our world are on loan to us, and we are called to treat them responsibly, in the spirit of the one who lends them. For the good of all. Jesus calls this becoming rich before God. That has eternal value: Here, going the extra mile truly matters.

Domenic Gabathuler
Catholic parish priest, Männedorf



* sehen-und-handeln.ch

