



SEEDHEADS TRANSCRIPT

Episode 0: STEPH BENOIT & HUGO MARTORELL English

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{music}

Steph Benoit

Hey Hugo, how are you?

Hugo Martorell

All right, headphones, headphones, headphones.

Okay, can you hear me?

Steph Benoit

Yeah, I can hear you.

Hugo Martorell

Should we just go ahead?

Steph Benoit

Okay.

Hey, I'm Steph Benoit.

Hugo Martorell

Hi, I'm Hugo Martorell.

Steph Benoit

And we're your hosts for a new podcast, SeedHeads.

Hugo Martorell

In French, Les Semeurs.

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Steph Benoit

Right, a podcast with two titles. Let's talk about that. Today's short little episode is really just to introduce you, the listener, to this project and to us -- Hugo and Steph -- and it will be our only really bilingual episode. We'll try to make it pretty easy to follow. But if you'd like to follow along with the translated transcript, please head to seedsecurity.ca/podcast.

Hugo Martorell

That's right, our first introductory episode is completely bilingual, but for the rest of the season, don't worry, the episodes will be in either French or English. For today, you will find a unilingual translation. Visit our website at semencessecur.ca and click on "ressources" and "balado".

Steph Benoit

Alright, now that we've got that out of the way, maybe we should introduce ourselves?

Hugo Martorell

Tell me Stephanie, how did you get into the seed world?

Steph Benoit

How did I get into seeds? Well, I wasn't really someone who was super into seeds or even agriculture until university. I studied environmental science at Queen's and it was when I was doing that degree that I started to really learn and think more about the sort of feedback loops between climate change and agriculture. And that got me so curious that I decided to do a Master's on the subject. And then, when I was studying my Master's, I was learning so much about all of these international food sovereignty movements, and our biodiverse inheritance of all of the seeds that have been passed down from the people before us. And I think that's when I really made that connection and got really excited about seeds. What about you? How did you get down this crazy rabbit hole?

Hugo Martorell

Well, I started a few years ago when I joined the team of The Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security, which is a program of SeedChange, which used to be known as USC. Then, I took part in a few activities and met some breeders, seed producers and gardeners. There is a really nice community in Quebec. The moment that most inspired me seed-wise is when I had the chance to go to Corvallis in Oregon in 2018 for a conference on organic seeds with five seed producers from Quebec. We had a lot of fun together and we met people for the first time whose names we know and who have a big reputation, but are just extremely nice and friendly, and generous when sharing their knowledge.

Steph Benoit

I love how when you get into this, I mean, I'm fairly new to the seed world, but it seems that once you get into it, everyone knows everyone. Even though seeds are such a massive idea, and there is like this monolith of companies that are producing so much of it. In the sort of alternative seed world, it is such a small, tight-knit community. I think that part is really cool.

Hugo Martorell

Yeah, pretty early on we hear about the problems we see in the seed industry, and realizing that we can build something different, something regionally-based, something built on community and on relationships I think is really empowering.

Steph Benoit

Absolutely. Our generation is one of the first to not grow up knowing this sort of stuff, sort of not inherently, but like... I was asking my grandmother recently about seeds and she's always had this big garden, and it wasn't until I kind of became more interested in seeds that I asked her like: "Hey Gran, where do you get all of that?" And she's like: "Oh, I've been saving these, this like one variety of beans for something like 50 years". And this was just like how she grew up and it was just like a given. And so it makes me realize that this information isn't that far away if we want to access it, if we want to still continue that, and inherit it. So, Hugo, why are we doing a podcast?

Hugo Martorell

Well, I think this is a new experience for you and me. COVID forced us to find many solutions to offer some content to seed producers, gardeners, and

farmers across Canada. Podcasts are a great way to do that. We're also doing webinars and factsheets, and developing several other seed resources.

Steph Benoit

2020 has brought a lot of changes and one of those is that we're not able to be together in the same ways that we were before, so it kind of felt natural and like the right time in some ways to launch a project like this. So, we're super excited to be able to share this with you. Hugo, can you tell us a little bit about the French language episodes that we're going to be hearing this season?

Hugo Martorell

With pleasure. There will be two episodes, one with Annie Richard who lives in southern Ontario, in Wolfe Island, and who does her own breeding projects with peppers and, namely, cucurbits. We will also hear from Richard Favreau who lives close to the Bic in the Bas-Saint Laurent region and who will talk about his projects with alliums and the stabilisation of tomato hybrids. I really look forward to having these two conversations in French and cross-pollinating those stories.

What about you Steph, what are you looking forward to in the English episodes?

Steph Benoit

Our English language listeners are going to be lucky enough to hear three episodes. The first two are with Bob Wildfong, who is such an interesting character, and holds so much knowledge. We're going to be talking to him about seed saving from the cucurbit family and then also hand pollination using cucurbits as an example. And then, I also had the immense honour and privilege of talking to Tiffany Traverse who's an Indigenous SeedKeeper and land steward up in the northern reaches of BC. And that was a really great conversation about some of the work she's doing exploring her ancestry through seeds. So, those are both really great conversations that I'm excited to be able to share.

Hugo Martorell

So, that's it, we can look forward to five episodes, three in English and two in French, that will be broadcasted every two or three weeks. You can subscribe on Spotify, Apple or any other podcast sources, on your phone or your computer.

Steph Benoit

So, as Hugo just said, over the course of the season we're going to be releasing five episodes in total -- three in English, two in French -- approximately every other week, but we'll see how that goes. You'll be able to find them on all of your regular standard streaming services: iTunes, Spotify, wherever else you get your favourite podcasts.

Hugo Martorell

Yes, and you can listen to the podcasts again, but also find pictures, resources, documents, websites as well as French and English transcriptions of each episode.

Steph Benoit

So you'll also be able to listen to each episode on our website -- for English listeners it's at seedsecurity.ca/podcast -- and there, you're going to find a whole bunch of information, pictures, other resources, and transcripts and translations for all of our episodes.

Hugo Martorell

Visit our website at semencessecur.es.ca and click on Ressources and balado.

Steph Benoit

We hope we've been able to give you a small idea today of what's to come. And with that, I want to formally welcome you to SeedHeads, the cross-pollinating podcast where our Canadian seed heroes tell their stories, share their how-to tips, and talk about the seeds they love.

Hugo Martorell

Welcome to Les Semeurs, a cross-pollinating podcast. Here, passionate seed producers will share their stories and their practical tips and tell us about their favourite varieties.

Steph Benoit & Hugo Martorell

Talk to you soon!

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