

SARE Seed Production Course Survey Summaries

2023

In 2023, we had 52 people fill out the survey, which was a majority of our course participants. 71% of respondents produced a seed crop. Of the 29% who didn't, lack of field access was the number one reason why they weren't able to produce a seed crop. Most of the seed produced will be used on the farm with 13 people selling to seed companies. Some people are also using the seed produced for their communities.

Within the course, the sessions on seed production basics, assessing seed maturity, harvest, post-harvest drying and seed cleaning and storage were the most highly rated. Most of course participants attended at least one mentorship meeting through the season to ask questions and get advice on growing.

Over the course of the season, the growers produced an estimated \$96,000 of seeds, some for sale, most to be used on farm and some for the community.

2024

In 2024, we had 25 people fill out the end of course survey. We also asked our 2023 cohort for information about what they grew in 2024. We had a smaller number of course respondents in 2024. We had higher total numbers of growers, but about equal active course participation. This is likely because we vetted the list heavily in 2023, but allowed everyone who signed up in 2024 to enter the course.

Of the respondents, 77% of them produced a seed crop. Of the 23% who didn't, most folks ended up too busy with other life events to produce a seed crop. As with the 2023 cohort, most of the seed will be used on farm with some going to seed companies and some to community purposes.

The most useful sessions in the course were seed cleaning and seed harvest, post harvest drying and storage. Almost half of respondents didn't access the monthly mentorship through the season although in the responses, people said it was mostly that they were busy.

Over the course of the season, these growers produced approximately \$108,000 of seed and the 2023 cohort produced another \$48,000 of seed with only 20 people responding to that survey.