

Cooperatives:

Promoting inclusive rural-urban linkages for sustainable food systems

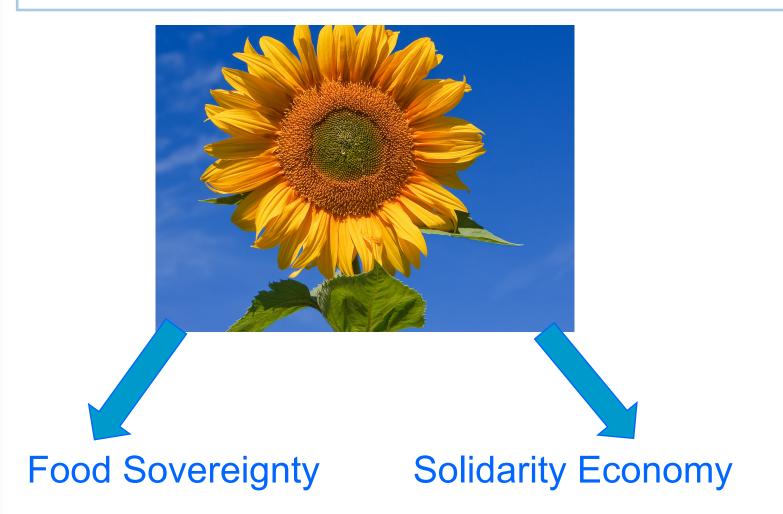




URGENCI: Local solidarity partnerships between producers and consumers: Community Supported Agriculture

A global network composed of continental networks of national Community Supported Agriculture networks: at the crossroads between food sovereignty and solidarity economy

Community Supported Agriculture

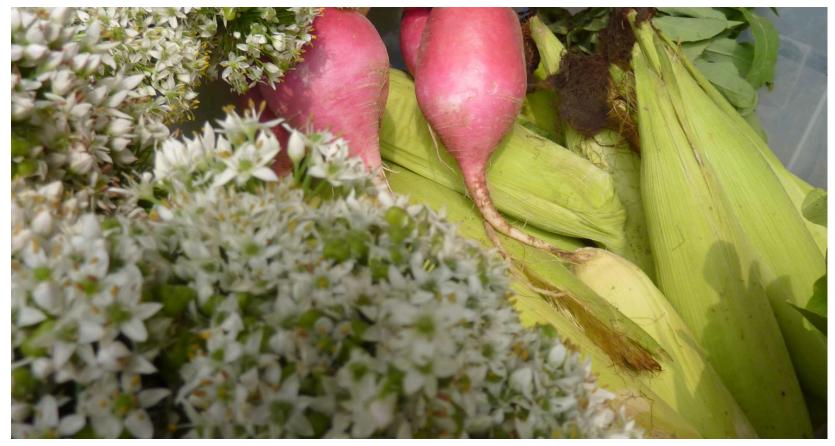




Our economy or theirs?

 Neoliberalism versus grass-roots solutions: solidarity economy and food sovereignty as illustrations of change and part of Agroecology...
Food sovereignty and Agroecology must be included an economic paradigm change!

What does this look like? A biodiverse bouquet of communitycentred flavours!



The 4 basic principles of CSA:

- Partnerships between producer(s) and consumers
- Local
- Solidarity: sharing the risks and the benefits
- The producer-consumer tandem is based on direct contact

Farmer led or consumer led?

■ No one-size fits all!

Some collectives, some co-ops, some other forms...

Solidarity Economy

Complementary currencies & ethical finance, timebanks and barter

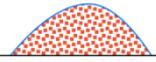
Participatory budgets

Local community-managed resources (energy, transport...)

Locally devised and managed services and welfare

Community managed housing etc

Social enterprise & cooperatives (non-food related) Shared zone Food Sovereignty (food, land...)



Opposition to neo-liberal, capitalist system (industrial agriculture & food processing, GMOs...)

Empowerment of civil society (decide on local food policies...)

(Re)Localisation of employment

Rights and equality-based jobs

Community supported agriculture & fair trade, various forms of solidarity purchasing groups

Farmers' markets

Barter & exchange (food, seeds)

Local community-managed resources (community land trusts...), collective kitchens

Public procurement of local food from groups of small-scale local farmers for school canteens etc

Allotments, Community gardens, Edible landscapes...

Social enterprise for local food processing

Organised small-scale farmers' unions, fishers and landless peoples' movements (Via Campesina)

Struggles (fight against land-grabbing...)

Defence of smale-scale agriculture and land reform & biodiversity

Social justice and defence of farmers' and agricultural workers' rights



Farming risk

- Poor weather/"ugly"
- Volatile market price
- Unreliable market
- Poor health, lack of social protection
- Lack of capital

- How consumers can help
- Consumer takes share regardless
- Fair prices agreed in advance
- Consumers advance commitment = farmer plans production
- Consumers step up and help
- Needs included in annual negotiation

Urban-rural regeneration and cooperation through solidarity partnerships



Benefits to local community

- Safe fresh food from known source
- Low food miles, no/low packaging, ecological farming
- Build agroecological community system
- (Re)build local economy (relocalise) and decommodify food
- Re-educate community on food
 - Break with industrial agriculture and agrifood, protect from land-grabbing
- Food justice
- Producer-consumer involvement and empowerment

Other economic benefits

Reduce food waste and loss at all levels

Social Justice: possibility to agree differentiated pay scale (socially excluded, retired, students...)

Extract from the Nyéléni Forum on Agroecology (March 2015)

• « IV. Build local economies

- Promote local markets for local products.
- Support the development of alternative financial infrastructure, institutions and mechanisms to support both producers and consumers.
- Reshape food markets through new relationships of solidarity between producers and consumers.
- Develop links with the experience of solidarity economy and participatory guarantee systems, when appropriate. »

Working collectively on a CSA farm



Distributing the weekly share: active consumer involvement!



Beijing farmer's market: backto-back with the local CSAs



* Territories are now recognised as the most relevant level of social inclusion

* People, through their resistance have invented solutions

* We are now working to achieve joined-up thinking on how to build these into policy that can be adapted to each specific territory's needs

