

ERP-Gathering Kielce (14th September 2022)

Number of the workshop: 24 **Short food supply chains**

Our responses to challenges:

How to bring benefits of shorter food supply chains to more food producers and food consumers – and for the benefit of the rural areas of food-origin?

- (small-scale) food producers need to be more engaged in working out solutions to logistical, financial, organisational and other challenges of shortening food supply chains, including co-ownership solutions.
- Counter domination (& unfair competition) in shaping the food system of hypermarkets and corporate retailers.
- Participants, prospective participants, organisers and supporters need to be clearer about the objectives of shortening a food supply chain (who is to benefit?) and the goals of public policy, programming and financing.
- Better education of consumers on food safety, where food comes from, as well as relationship between quality and price – so that they value small-scale food producers in the marketplace (ie. choose to buy products from small-scale producers)
- Build trust between producers, consumers and organisers/supporters engaged in co-creating local food systems – create solidarity and commonality of interest for long term mutual benefit.
- Simpler sanitary regulations adapted to needs, circumstances and resources of small-scale food producers/processors to breakdown bureaucratic market access barriers, including education of vets & other sanitary inspectorates.
- Making locally-produced products more conveniently available locally and also to consumers who want to buy them (i.e. new types of distribution channels that can solve logistical, quality assurance and continuity of supply challenges)
- Integrate local markets for locally produced food into rural development policy and planning.
- Incentivise participation in short-food supply chain initiatives (eg. by offering producers packaging, distribution and other solutions that bring individual benefit from collective action).
- Better ways of identifying and engaging interested food producers and consumers for engagement in short food supply chain initiatives.
- Other?

Our three proposals for governments & EU

- Invest in farmer-owned and farmer-led short food supply chain initiatives that seek to add value to their participants through food processing, product innovation, consumer education and distribution solutions – especially in rural areas far away from urban areas.
- Support Ukraine in creating 1 million small/family farms as part of a programme to promote and enable short-food chain initiatives that address short-term food security challenges and drive agricultural reform, including land reform (create more small farms) and preparations for post war rebuilding of food system
- Treat Ukrainian efforts to assure food security (inter alia through promoting food self-sufficiency & local food markets) as opportunities for learning and developing innovative organisational, IT and financing solutions for collective action of producers and consumers
- Other?

Good ideas, practices, processes

- Polish Government policies, programmes and regulatory changes aimed at increasing the number and importance of short-food supply chain initiatives (identify other EU governments that have been actively supporting short-food supply chain initiatives)
- Introduce and promote standards/guidelines for good practice on growing short food supply chains in terms of sustainability and impact based on practical experience and peer-to-peer learning.
- Put schools at the heart of short food supply chain initiatives, seeing them as consumers and future consumers and opportunities for educating producers and consumers about the benefits of locally produced and consumed food.
- Enable peer-to-peer learning and support between amateurs and participants of short-food chain initiatives, as well as governments seeking to formulate policies and programmes to mainstream short-food supply chains in the food system.
- Take better advantage of advances in IT and organisational solutions (shared economy) to enable short food chain solutions (espec. on line financial/investment products, sharing economy), including IT-platforms that can be sustained in the marketplace (ie from sales).

- Support Ukrainians in Poland and other EU countries in engaging in short food supply chain initiatives in the countries they are residing as part of a learning programme to build capabilities, know-how, competencies that can be deployed in Ukraine now and in the future.
- Other

Additional Recommendations for Government of UA (& EU Govts and EC)

1. Support small and medium sized farms/farmers through policy and programming aimed at creating and growing local markets for locally-produced food (drawing on lessons in this area from EU member states)
2. Diversify agri-production (not just cereals) with greater focus on Ukrainian market (as opposed to export markets)
3. Push forward with agrarian reform to increase small-scale farming capabilities now and assure food security as part of the war effort (and not wait for post-war rebuilding)
4. Introduce a system of certification/control for locally-produced food that is in line with EU standards, but adapted to needs, circumstances of small-scale production & processing.
5. Ensure that short-food chain solutions are integrated into any strategy on rebuilding agriculture in the post-war period.
6. Invest in producer-consumer owned IT-solutions for creating baskets of products that engage many small producers, taking advantage of relevant experience/expertise in EU member states.
7. Mobilise international expertise and support for cleaning up and bringing poisoned/polluted (by war) agricultural land back into productive use.
8. Support and endorse creating a non-governmental Ukrainian Food Security Fund for channeling investment into the above priorities.