

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Group 1a FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

1. Cost of production a barrier
2. Lack of knowledge for buying local food at higher price – value
3. Economic viability – subsidies, community involvement
4. High cost of land
5. Secure tenure – living on land
6. Linking land with farmers, even small scale single crops
7. Government policy (mobile abattoir needed)
8. Define agriculture, horticulture for zoning
9. Advocacy statements re food processing
10. Natural Area Protection Tax break
11. Housing for farm workers
12. Advocacy re labelling local food – full cost accounting – include high school students in accounting rules comparison
13. Slow money farm investment in local agriculture – landschaft system
14. During WWII, 45% of food came from Victory gardens
15. Trust – no new construction on agriculture lands – education
16. Simplify the regulations
17. Food processing available to community (Bruce's, GISS)
18. Community Gardens
19. Council of elders – help line
20. Conservation of water – plant cover crop when trees removed
21. New construction includes catchment of water using inexpensive methods like strategically placing sandbags to channel water to flow into ponds and other storage areas area (sand bags to raise water storage)
22. Life leases of land for communal living
23. Education : a) Clubs; b) Skill building; c) Programs with allotment gardens

Group 1b FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

1. Greenhouse code – plan for greenhouse easy to build, low investment. SSI standard easy for permit, work with CRD building inspection
2. Education and skill training courses be more affordable and accessible
3. Increase public awareness about local food production including setting up displays at markets
4. What is in stores – what are alternatives, education re whole foods
5. Publicize studies re food on island, value of vegetarian diet
6. Solutions re prices – premium yes but not too much
7. More growers
8. Local meat processing
9. Using land not farmed – tax incentives
10. Linking land with growers
11. Low interest loans start-up costs
12. Value added – commercial kitchen
13. Educating re canning/preserves courses- fermentation
14. Raw milk – cow and goat shares
15. SS Foundation? – Microloans?
16. Food trading among gardeners
17. Promote grow your own
18. More respect for work of farmers
19. More grain production; use draft horses
20. Present data in novel ways e.g. 400 people can eat if local is 4% of food purchased
21. Local grocery store supports local farmers
22. Local food into hospital
23. More Community Shared Agriculture

SUMMARY

- 1. Public awareness and education – purchasing and growing courses**
- 2. Land and growers and assistance – GH, loans, infrastructure**

Group 2

1. Network and bring together resources – younger people – young backs
2. Encourage institutions to purchase local Greenwoods, Braehaven, VIHA
3. More composting – open burn ban in Trust
4. CSA- Food boxes – Promote
5. Help create facilities so community can invest e.g. credit. Put money into island and get returns – long amortization, slow money initiative – credit union, SS MF
6. Public awareness and education- displays to explain what is happening
7. Community commercial kitchen
8. Memorial food trees
9. Bruce's commercial kitchen for people to do Presentations
10. 1000 nut trees
11. Accelerate what we are doing – involve all.
12. Cooperative farms – part time farmers
13. Learn how to work farm cooperatively – allotments
14. Network of all resources
15. Land tenures on all land including provincial lands
16. Housing adjacent to lands
17. Development permits for ALR – preserve ALR and use for purpose
18. Incentives for appropriate use
19. Put money where mouth is – infrastructure
20. Agency – bonds – funds e.g. 4%, ½ % to agency – pilot

Summary Notes: Agriculture/Food Group 1

Based on the urgency that we are facing regarding food security, such as in the post war Victory Gardens scenario in the US, where, in spite of opposition from Agricultural agencies, people rapidly transformed their growing to produce 45% of their food.

Today, the group suggests that combined with community gardens which are really important and in demand, we learn how to farm together as a community, develop the required skills for productive growing, provide mentorship opportunities and support one another with

- educational programs
- sharing knowledge and expertise
- working on water collection and conservation techniques
- setting up tours of poultry farms and water catchment systems
- identifying community kitchens for community preservation of food
- having fun together.

Summary Notes: Agriculture/Food Group 2

Allow the community to invest locally in growing more food instead of buying mutual funds or other investments from a distance. The return will come from people who want to work the land. This is like the slow money movement in Europe and America where people buy bonds that go to an agency like Farmland Trust who would administer the funds. This money could help buy land and create farm infrastructure.