

SUPURBFOOD is a research project funded by the European Commission's 7th Framework Program. It aims to contribute to the development of sustainable modes of urban and peri-urban food provisioning.

About the project

Until recently, short food supply chains and multifunctional agriculture were considered to be part of the rural development realm. However, this project looks at these topics from the perspective of urban rather than rural development. Short food supply chains have been advocated as a means to reduce the environmental impact of the agro-food system. However, to improve the ecological performance of the agro-food system other flows ((e.g. nutrient, water, and urban waste) need to be considered as well. In the current context these aspects are usually treated separately. This project will treat them in an integrated manner.

Approach

Research will be carried out in seven European city-regions (Rotterdam (NL), Rome (IT), Ghent (BE), Vigo (ES), Bristol (UK), Zürich (CH) and Riga (LV)) in collaboration with a diverse group of SMEs to further innovate in urban and peri-urban food provisioning, nutrient, water and waste management, and multifunctional use of urban and peri-urban space. Finally the project will also establish links with researchers, policymakers and SMEs in these domains in developing countries. This will be organised through a process of dialogue, sharing of experiences, exchanging of best practices and joint learning.

More information



The Community Farm is a not for profit organisation that is registered as a Community Benefit Society that grows organic vegetables, distributing them through a box scheme and a wholesale service.

The Community Farm employs 18 people on a mixture of a full and part-time basis, growing and delivering organic vegetables throughout the Bath and Bristol area.

Who is involved?

The Community Farm is owned by its 500 members who have invested £180,000 in the farm, in 2 rounds of share offers. Members are able to vote at the annual general meeting and receive discounts of the veg-box and events at the farm.

The farm is run by a board of directors who represent a wide range of skills and communities who worked to bring the project into being.



Which activities are carried out?

Organic vegetable box – a range of boxes throughout the year delivered in the city region area.

Wholesale of organic vegetables – selling organic vegetables to local retailers including high profile restaurants such as the River Cottage Canteen.

Engagement with the community – the Community Farm hosts a wide range of events giving people chance to learn about food and agriculture, meet one another and play a role in the life of the farm. This extends on-line to a Facebook group and Twitter feed.

The **commitment of the farm to the environment** means that it seeks to minimise carbon emissions – so therefore delivers early in the morning when there is less traffic and does not supply produce that has been air-freighted. It minimises the use of packaging and recycles 'waste' into compost and the farm's pigs, after working hard to minimise it.

Part of the aims of the farm is to create and nurture a thriving local economy, so it aims to deal fairly with suppliers and customers.

Based in the Chew Valley

The farm is based in the Chew Valley close to both the cities of Bristol and Bath on 22 acres of prime agricultural land, next to the Chew Valley lakes. It is possible to reach the farm by bike, bus or car.

Lessons from The Community Farm for SUPURBFOOD

- ✓ 1 – How peri-urban food schemes can be produce food and social benefits.
- ✓ 2 – An alternative model of setting up a food business.
- ✓ 3 – How to involve people with food production.
- ✓ 4 – The challenge to conventional food chains well considered projects can create.

Contact details of the CCRI

Dr Matt Reed

mreed@glos.ac.uk

www.ccri.ac.uk

@ReedMtweet.

Contact details of The Community Farm,

www.thecommunityfarm.co.uk

