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About CERERE:

Through a balanced, multi-actor network of researchers and communities of practitioners, the project promotes innovation by producing and disseminating accessible end-user materials and training products for farmers, food manufacturers, consumers, researchers and policy makers.

SELF-TAXATION AIMED TO SUPPORT OF ACTIVITIES AND NEEDS OF FOOD NETWORKS

PROBLEM

Food networks are facing several problematic issues linked to damages to harvest, technical support and general needs of farmers.

SOLUTION

Actors involved in ancient wheat chains overcome this issue by experiencing self-taxation as a valuable strategy for supporting both their activities and needs of food networks they participate of.

Outcomes

Self-taxation experiences can be developed as solidarity funds for farmers in need as well as to pay the technician who provides technical advice to farmers. It can consist in a rate included in the price of the flour (e.g. "Pane di Montespertoli" experience) or in the creation of two price lists for products, a commercial and a solidarity price. In the latter example, a minimum amount of purchasing is fixed and a certain amount of the final cost ends up in the solidarity fund (e.g. "La Terra e il Cielo" experience).



Figure 1: Headquarters of "La Terra e il Cielo" cooperative. Figure 2. Lodging of crops.

Practical Recommendation

For a successful output, as the self-taxation is often not enough to deal with all concerns, it is necessary a strong commitment of the farmers as well as a well-organized collective action to advocate and deal at regional level with local problematic issues (e.g. wild fauna damages) and peculiarities of considered territory.

Practical recommendations for food networks include the opportunity of associating at regional as well as national level with other networks of farmers (developing network of networks) in order to:

- deal with damages to crops by adopting risk pooling strategies
- advocate for regional policies dealing with problematic issues of agricultural production at local level
- promote among local community and policymakers environmental-friendly, socially and economically sustainable productions.

The main added value/benefit/opportunities to the end-users will include the following points:

- managing and pooling the risk among members of the network
- making agricultural production more sustainable from environmental, social and economic perspectives
- raising awareness among policymakers in order to support alternative chains by ad hoc policies and regulations
- developing networks and relationships among members of food networks and the local community.

Evaluation and sharing of the results

Use the comment section on the CERERE website to share your experiences with other farmers, processors, retailers, advisors and scientists. If you have any questions concerning this Practice Abstract, please contact the author by e-mail.

Project partners

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Further Information

www.laterraeilcielo.it/en
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