Fringe Farming: Agroecology on the urban fringes

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Glasgow Fringe Farming event – WashHouse, Glasgow
(Credit: Rob Logan)
Agroecological food systems

- Shorter supply chains
- Decentralised
- Diversification

Local food – connect food producers and consumers in the same geographic region, to develop more self-reliant and resilient food networks
Agroecological food systems

- Shorter supply chains
- Decentralised
- Diversification
- Horizontal decision-making
- Farmer empowerment

Local food – connect food producers and consumers in the same geographic region, to develop more self-reliant and resilient food networks

Food sovereignty - a food system in which all actors involved control the mechanisms and policies of food production & distribution
The Fringe Farming project

- Build connections between urban and rural areas with multiple agroecological benefits
- Increase access to fresh fruit & veg across the UK
- Support local food infrastructure

Number of annual premature deaths attributed to low vegetable diets in the UK: 18,000*

Converting 0.65% more agricultural land to horticultural production would meet national fruit and veg demand**

*Veg Facts 2021 - Food Foundation
**Veg Facts 2020 - Food Foundation
What’s been happening?

• **Year 1** – local meetings to form action plans
• **Year 2** – engaging with local action plans
• **Year 3?** – forging political alliances, lobbying action, devolved nations
Context - critical issues

- Public health
- Climate emergency
- Cost of living crisis
Proportion of farm-holders younger than 35 years old: 3%*

Context - critical issues

- Public health
- Climate emergency
- Cost of living crisis
- Lack of diversity in farming
- Land competition

*Agriculture in the UK, 2017
Lobbying local & national policies

- Maintain and expand land access by local authorities and other public institutions
Lobbying local & national policies

• Maintain and expand land access by local authorities and other public institutions

• Delivering an integrated package
  • Land
  • Resources
  • Skills training
  • Market
Policy recommendations

Our national & local policy recommendations in full

www.sustainweb.org/publications/feb22-fringe-farming/

Policy briefing

www.sustainweb.org/assets/policy_briefing_fringe-farming-Jun22.pdf

www.sustainweb.org/fringe-farming/
SEEDS TO SOLUTIONS

PEOPLE POWERED SYSTEMS

A GROUND UP RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE
INcredible Beginnings

Why bother?

- Huge weather swings
- Health problems through the roof
- Water wars on the horizon
- Increasingly divided societies

Where’s the leadership?
SPINNING

THREE PLATES

Local food growing in our neighbourhoods
Sharing the lost arts of growing and cooking
Making sticky money economies

Community
Learning
Business

150 group’s across the UK
Australia, France & Argentina
Incredible grass roots innovators & change makers

A KINDER PROSPERITY

Influence Anchor Institutions: Local Government, NHS & Academia, Housing...

IF YOU EAT YOU'RE IN
1. Public realm needs to change
2. Community owned land
3. More edible towns and cities
Incredible Edible’s vision for a healthier, greener future.
Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world.

Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

MARGARET MEAD
Fringe Farming in London
Fringe Farming London action plan

Access to / protection of land
- Develop business case for local authorities / landowners
- Undertake demand for land survey
- Develop a campaign for productive use of the greenbelt

Policy change and implementation
- Meet with individual LAs re food / land policies
- Get better data on land availability
- Identify / campaign for new funding

Training and skills
- Develop evidence base
- Map out & join up routes / pathways
- Identify key blockages eg starter farms
Challenge LDN Fringe Farming project

Creating a compelling, comprehensive business case and commercial service offer for local authorities & other institutional landowners
## Sutton Community Farm: Annual Value Generated

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct Financial Revenue</td>
<td>£624,283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labour Value</td>
<td>£371,822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skills Enhancement</td>
<td>£297,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost Saved</td>
<td>£1,468,145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>£2,761,450</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Pie chart showing the breakdown of annual value generated by Sutton Community Farm. Direct Financial Revenue is the largest contributor at 22.6%, followed by Cost Saved at 53.2%, Labour Value at 13.5%, and Skills Enhancement at 10.8%.]
Developing a service

Preparing the ground
- Gathering information, ensuring alignment with policy objectives, building support, developing understanding, and testing feasibility

Getting on site
- Developing a land offer, business plan development, ensuring appropriate legal structures, tenure and planning are in place

Sustainability and scaling
- Market and business development, training and securing capital investment
New Entrant Support Scheme

A new training programme to provide incubator support to new entrants into agroecological farming in the South East of England.

**Start up programme** for those starting a new business

**Scale up programme** for those developing an existing business

January to April 2023
Thank you!

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