



DEVELOPING THE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND TALENT OF YOUTH TO FURTHER FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

The following case study was received as a result of a call issued by the Committee on World Food Security for case studies highlighting examples of initiatives aimed at 'Developing the knowledge, skills and talent of youth to further food security and nutrition'. The cases received provide the background for a discussion of lessons learned and potential policy implications at a special event on October 15th, 2015 during CFS 42. Find out more at www.fao.org/cfs/youth.

High School Project for Sustainable Fisheries, Sweden.

Background

This project supports the promotion of local fish species through an inclusive community initiative bringing together catering students, fishermen and local enterprises around a small but promising project to raise awareness and promote local and sustainable sourcing. It was supported by [Vänern Archipelago and Mount Kinnekulle FLAG](#)¹ from Sweden.

Challenges

Around 130 fishermen operate on the local Lake Vänern, the largest freshwater lake in the European Union, and UNESCO biosphere reserve. Vanern fishermen face a challenge in selling lesser known local freshwater species such as burbot and vendace, particularly to younger consumers, used to consuming, and ultimately putting pressure on the "big five" (cod, salmon, tuna, haddock and prawn).

Approach Used

The La Gardie high school developed an awareness raising programme to eat and learn how to prepare fish species which are caught locally and sustainably. As part of their training, catering students at La Gardie High School run a public restaurant in Lidköping, where they develop fine cuisine and original recipes with a specific emphasis on sustainability. In the second year of the course, students are required to put together their own menus, following specific criteria. This has provided the opportunity to develop a sustainable fisheries project, based on the Swedish version of the WWF's buyer's list of fish and shellfish, helping address students' questions on:

- *how the Swedish fishing industry is structured*
- *which fish and shellfish species should be used or avoided*
- *how local species could provide a sustainable alternative*
- *how to connect with the local fisheries community*

¹ [Fisheries Local Action Groups](#) (FLAGs) are public private partnerships, funded by [Axis 4](#) of the European Fisheries Fund to support the sustainable development of fisheries areas.



The project included training for students and teachers and started with visits by teachers, students and the school's fish supplier as well as a local restaurant owner and a representative of the Lake Vänern fishermen to: Gothenburg's fish auction; seafood companies (Svensk Fisk AB); restaurants (Sjömagasinet); and an eco-training center (Ekocentrum Foundation).

Outcome and Impact Achieved

By the end of the visits, 90 people had been involved in the exchanges and the project proved very successful in raising interest amongst students in local species. The diversity and quantity of fish recipes in the catering restaurant has doubled (increased use of perch and pike-perch from Lake Vänern and burbot is also now being served), now outweighing meat dishes. It has also motivated teachers and local fishermen to work more closely together and several fishermen have already expressed interest in being involved in follow up initiatives, such as taking students on fishing trips or testing new ways of preparing the catch.

Lessons Learned/Opportunities for Scaling-Up

This low-cost project², fostering links with key stakeholders of a fisheries community, is easily transferable to other areas. One of the aims of Axis 4 is to actively involve younger people in local fisheries communities. This project illustrates some basic steps to achieving this, creating a group composed of education and fisheries representatives. The project demonstrated the successful involvement and knowledge transfer within a community with a long term vision. Although this was a small scale project, it has the potential to deliver longer term results by disseminating the outputs in subsequent training programmes and by capitalising on the experience transversally within the community.

Policy Implications

Axis 4 of the EFF is a bottom-up approach to local development, inspired from the LEADER rural development programme. This kind of approach has been extended as a possibility under all European Structural and Investment funds for the 2014-2020 programming period under the name of Community-Led Local Development (CLLD).

CLLD has proved effective at supporting a broad range of socio-economic development in local communities, including enhancing the sustainability of local food production. Through innovation and improved food quality standards; better marketing of local products, including support for "KM 0" produce; and by ensuring that young people are better informed and connected with fishing and agriculture, including as a career option, CLLD offers strong potential to contribute to enhancing food security.

² €15 380, of which €7 690 was supported by Axis 4 of the EFF