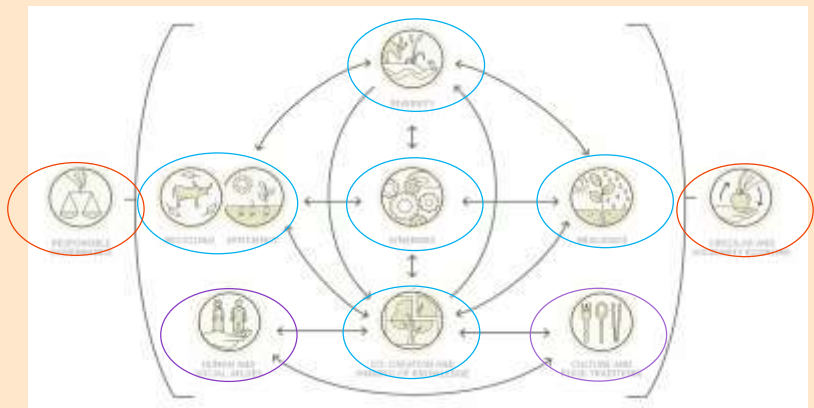


# Community supported agriculture

## The 10 elements of Agroecology

- Myriad of interaction and interdependencies
- Common characteristics, foundational practices and innovation approaches
- Context features
- Enabling environment



## Co-creation and sharing of knowledge



- Knowledge intensive
- Context-specific knowledge
- Participatory processes
  - Traditional/indigenous knowledge
- Practical knowledge
- Scientific knowledge
- Education (formal and non-formal)

**Agricultural innovations respond better to local challenges when they are co-created through participatory processes.**

## Human and social values



- Core values
  - Dignity
  - Equality
  - Inclusion
  - Justice
- Producers/communities
  - Autonomy, adaptive
- Capacities
  - Empowerment
  - Agents of change
- Gender equality
  - Decision making
  - Access to resources
- Rural youth
- Decent agricultural jobs
- Labor and knowledge intensive

**Protecting and improving rural livelihoods, equity and social well-being is essential for sustainable food and agricultural systems.**

## Culture and food traditions



- Agriculture and Food are core to human heritage
- Disconnection between food habits and culture
  - Obesity
  - Malnutrition
  - Hunger
- Re-balance tradition and modern food habits
- Source of inspiration for AE solutions

**By supporting healthy, diversified and culturally appropriate diets, agroecology contributes to food security and nutrition while maintaining the health of ecosystems.**

## Circular and solidarity economy

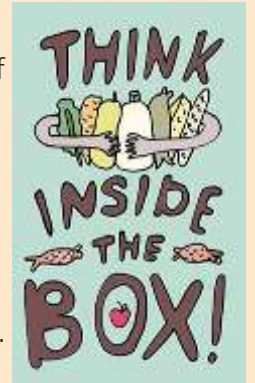
- Reconnect producers and costumers
  - Participatory guarantee systems
  - Local producer's markets
  - Denomination of origin
  - **Community supported agriculture**
  - E-commerce etc.
- Income for producers ↑
- Fair prices for consumers
- Food waste ↓
- Energy use ↓



**Circular and solidarity economies that reconnect producers and consumers provide innovative solutions for living within our planetary boundaries while ensuring the social foundation for inclusive and sustainable development.**

# What is Community supported agriculture (CSA)

- ❑ It is a system that connects producers and consumers within the food system more closely by allowing the consumer to subscribe to the harvest of a certain farm or group of farms.
- ❑ It is an alternative socioeconomic model of agriculture and food distribution that allows the producer and consumer to share the risks of farming.
- ❑ The production is based on organic principles and locally adapted products and and respect the seasons
- ❑ The term CSA is mostly used in the United States and Canada, but a variety of similar production and economic sub-systems are in use worldwide, in Austria and Germany as Solidarische Landwirtschaft ("solidarity farming") and in the UK mainly in the vegetable box scheme.



## How it works??

### Who Can Start a CSA?

- ❖ Producer-Initiated CSAs – the majority of CSAs are started by farmers interested in alternative marketing and strengthening their connection to consumers
- ❖ Member-Initiated CSAs – a group of interested consumers works together to find a local farmer to produce their food
- ❖ Multiple-Producer CSAs – several farmers band together to provide consumers with a wide variety of products
- ❖ Organization-Initiated CSAs – organizations such as businesses, churches, schools, etc. offer an existing community of consumers that forms a CSA

### How to Get Started

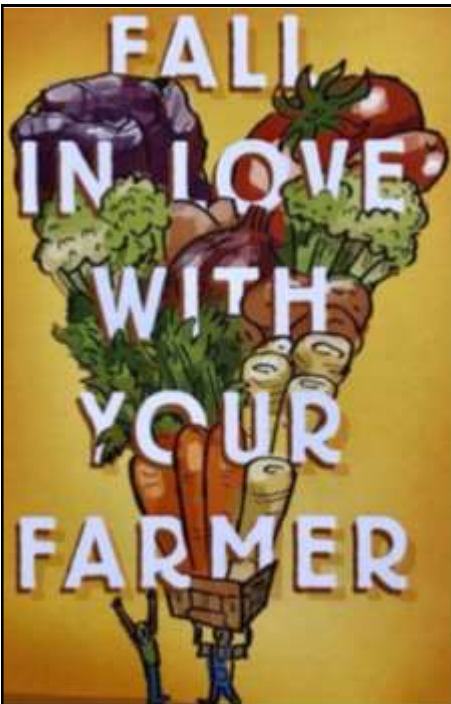
- ❖ Meet with Potential Members
- ❖ Establish a Core Group
- ❖ Develop a Business Plan
- ❖ Create a Budget



# Meet with Potential Members

Start with the people you know best:  
*friends, family, neighbors, colleagues, etc.*

Existing groups or communities (environmental groups, businesses, churches, community action organizations, health food stores, fitness centers, schools, civic organizations, etc.) are a perfect place to find members; use their meetings and newsletters as way to spread the word about CSA and recruit members



## Establish a Core Group

- The core group is comprised of the farmer(s) plus several consumer members and is responsible for working out the details of the CSA
- Core groups broaden ownership, spread the workload, and decrease the chance for farmer burnout; much of the organizing work of a CSA can be done by a core group
- The core group generally does NOT deal with farm-based decisions – these are left to the farmer
- Activities may include crop selection, helping determine share prices, payment schedules, organizing distribution, volunteer activities, newsletters, special events, etc.

# Develop a Business Plan and Budget

- ❖ Both done by the farmer
- ❖ Budget should meet the true costs of production and organizational costs and provide a fair salary for the farmer
- ❖ Capital expenses – land, equipment, structures, tools, irrigation, etc.
- ❖ Labor expenses – farmer and worker salary and benefits, FICA, workers' comp, etc.
- ❖ Operating expenses – seeds, plants, water, taxes, fuel, soil amendments, supplies, etc

Share Price and Payment

<small>University of Wisconsin</small> <b>BENEFITS</b> <small>VERSUS</small> <b>BARRIERS</b> <small>COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE</small>	
 Guarantee of business at the beginning of the season	 Uncertainty of how to market your CSA in order to gain income, interest and participation
Community involvement	Weather disruptions resulting in crop damage
Shareholders make an upfront payment for the whole year of the season. The more shareholders in which food is being delivered and how many shareholders will participate	Problems with receiving total amount of products produced. See much produce, etc. a
Shareholders may become involved in the actual production of the CSA	Maintaining high-quality produce