

## University of Groningen

### Planting Possibilities

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## **Planting Possibilities**

### *The contribution of community-based food collectives to food system sustainability*

**Ciska Ulug**

- 1) Alongside the actions they carry out, the value of community-based food collectives lies in how they support innovative governance and organizational capacities (this thesis).
- 2) Understanding community food practices as place-based and relational helps understand how food practices contribute to food system sustainability (this thesis).
- 3) The rise of community food collectives in the Global North indicates a changing tide in sustainability debates – one where citizens take charge and co-determine the agenda. Such a perspective challenges top-down alternatives and is necessary for food system change (this thesis).
- 4) A strong identity in community collectives is an asset but also a challenge for initiating greater-scale change (this thesis).
- 5) A three-year PhD contract is not only a naïve timeline for ethnographic work, it also expects a linear trajectory, leaving little room for mistakes – a necessary component of scientific research.
- 6) “An organic farmer is the best peacemaker today, because there is more violence, more death, more destruction, more wars, through a violent industrial agricultural system. And to shift away from that into an agriculture of peace is what organic farming is doing” (Vandana Shiva).
- 7) “To change our thinking is to change the world, in small and sometimes major ways” (Gibson-Graham).
- 8) Researching food initiatives not only tells you a lot about communities, identities, organizing, governance, and sustainability, but it also means eating lots of different things with lots of people you don’t know (yet), which is fun *and* delicious.
- 9) The best way to learn what you’re capable of, is to begin. A logic that applies to starting *and* finalizing a PhD, but also for policy makers hesitating about implementing sustainable (food) policies and legislation.