

University of Groningen

Communal farming: An Alternative agri-food system?

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Toolkit 2022

Steps to take, resources to consider

Green Deal, Green Food Research Project



Develop a consistent idea

Formulate a mission statement

Research financial sustainability

Search for a farming partner



Start reporting

**Assess the soil quality/
condition at the farm**

**Broaden the network:
Reach out to
possible partners**

**Develop a financial plan
(needs, possibilities)**

Apply for subsidies



**Organize a theme day
or theme week**

**Develop online presence
(website tab; mailing list)**

**Conduct a survey
in the community
on the interest in the project**



Roadmap

Develop a consistent idea

- Find common ground and - vision (there might be contradictory ideas, priorities and non-negotiables within the project group).

- Formulate a clear "mission statement". One sentence that sums up the goals of this project and that could be promoted to the public/to partners.

--> For example *related to, but not limited to:* Soil quality, community engagement, farmer/citizen relationship & sustainability.

Conduct further research into:

- The economic sustainability of CSA farms.

--> Contact points: Local CSA farms for practical knowledge/experience on economic sustainability as a CSA farm; look at Urgenci handbook for basic information.

- The soil problem in Friesland and possible mitigations (once a farm/farming partner has been found).

--> Contact researchers for input on the soil problem.

Reach out to possible partners & broaden network:

- Potential farming partners (vital for location-specific soil analysis and to gain a main initiator).

- Network organizations (see if they have ideas; contacts of other possible partners).

- Practical knowledge partners (for idea input into the design of the farm; possible farmer contacts).

--> Look for common ground, matching values, etc.

Garner interest:

- Report on the project.

- Create a website (tab) with updates on the progress of the project.

- Organize a theme day or week (depending on the funds available); invite experts, stakeholders and possible key partners.

- Create a mailing list that people can sign up for to stay updated on the project.

--> Create awareness; involve the community from early-stage to nurture their positive interest in the project.

Funding

- Determine financial needs --> how much money would Omrop Fryslân need for the ideal project?

- Take into account resources of partners.

- Test possibilities --> For which parts of the project are funding options available?

- Apply for funds as soon as there is a clear idea, angle and plan for this project.

Assess interest in Friesland

- Conduct a survey in the area of close proximity to evaluate citizens' interest in organic food, sustainable farming, etc.

- Also present the project idea and conduct a survey asking whether people would generally be interested to participate.

--> If there is little interest, more conversations to be held within the community to perhaps get more people interested - or this project has to be re-evaluated: different area (farm), report on an existing initiative,..

The information contained in this file is meant to provide a basis for a communal farming project, with no guarantees of completeness.

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Omrop Fryslân