

Towards re-localised and resilient food systems: challenges and opportunities in Europe

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Local food initiatives growing in Europe

- **Local Food Systems** - production, processing, trade and consumption of food occur in a defined reduced geographical area
- **Short Food Supply Chain** - the number of intermediaries is minimised, the ideal being a direct contact between the producer and the consumer.



Study of 84 different SFSCs in Europe

(Kneafsey et al, 2013)

- CSA and AMAPs
- farm shops, pick-your-own schemes...
- farmers' markets, shops owned by farmers, farm-based delivery schemes, or through one single trade intermediary
- Farmer link with public procurement scheme
- Sell mainly to local and /or regional markets
- Products traded: fresh fruit and vegetables, animal products (meat, dairy), beverages
- Urban-driven schemes have grown rapidly in recent years in comparison with rural SFSCs

Social impacts

- SFSCs and LFS favor the closer connection between farmers and consumers
- Development of trust and social bonds - a sense of community and of 'living-together'
- Behavioral changes: eating habits with public health effect (reduced obesity)

Economic impacts

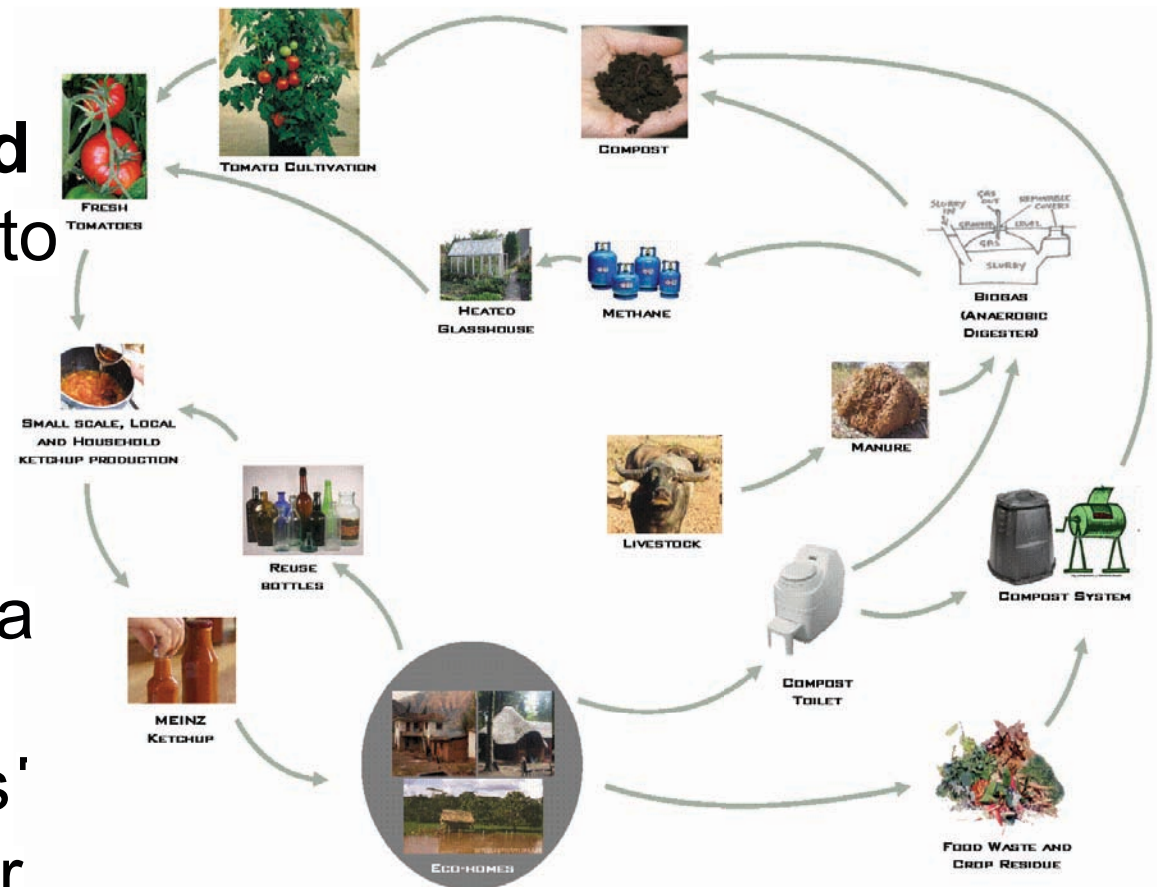
- Benefits for rural development and economic regeneration
- LFS and SFSC - higher multiplier effect on local economies than long chains, with impacts also on maintaining local employment, particularly in rural areas
- A higher share of value added is retained locally by producers

Environmental impacts

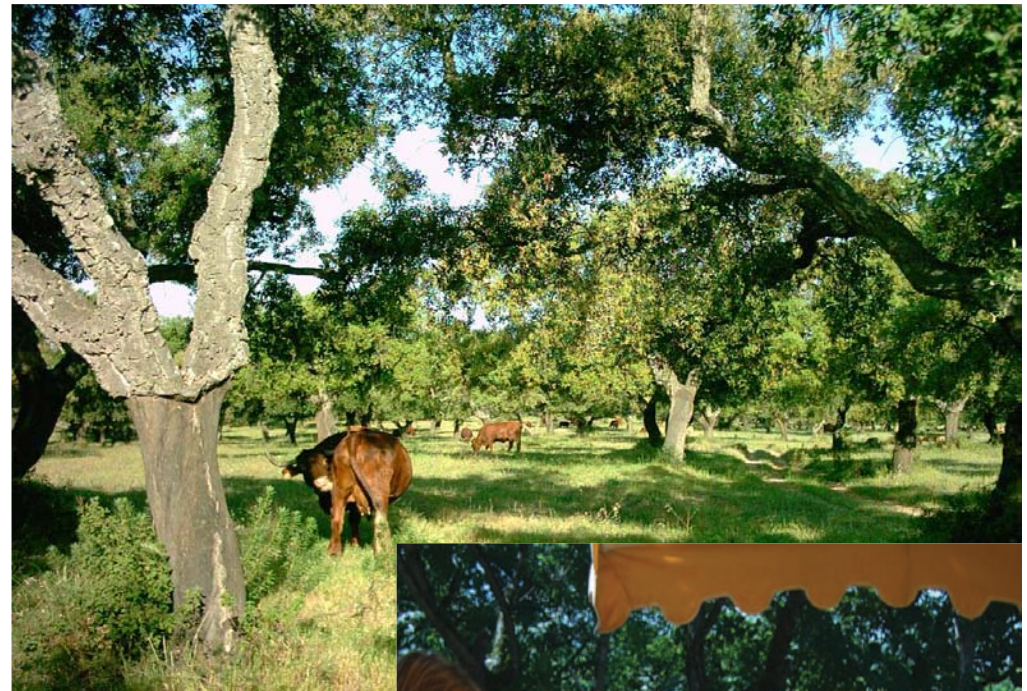
- **Local:** reduced GHG emissions associated with transportation
- **Seasonal:** Reduced GHG emissions involved in storage
- **Ecological production methods:** reduced GHG involved in production; reduced pesticide use, reduced soil and water pollution, enhanced biodiversity, minimum processing (reduces GHG in processing & storage)

Towards re-localised food systems and circular economy models

- **Appropriate scale and technology** e.g. tomato ketchup stories
- **High levels of reuse and recycling** so that a large proportion of resources and 'wastes' remain in the system or locality



- **Diversity, multifunctionality and complexity**
- **Self reliance and the proximity principle**
- **Local organization sustain food systems**



Challenges and opportunities for the spread of local food systems in Europe

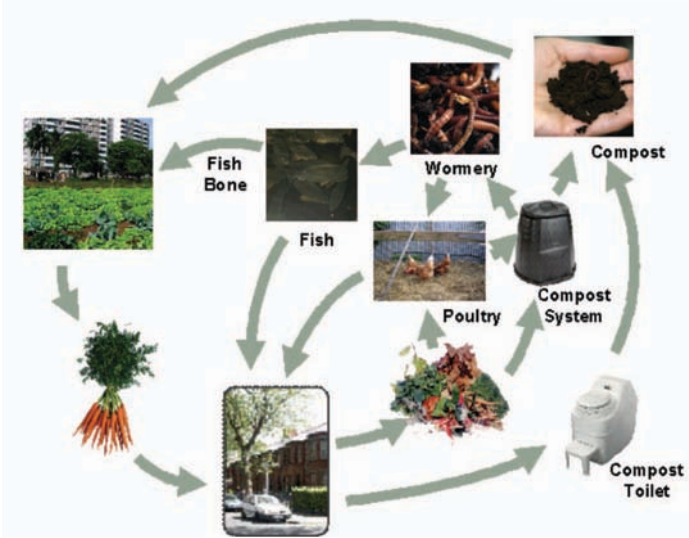
- **Strengthening local organisations** of farmers and citizen/consumers
- **Policy opportunities in Europe**
- **Redistributing public goods** to rebuild the infrastructure of local food systems (e.g. local food processing units, mills, abattoirs....) and support local food procurement

Equitable rights of access & use to land and resources

- **Reversing the concentration of land ownership and land grabs** that limit entry of new farmers and spread of local food systems in rural and urban areas
- **Securing Farmers Rights** to save, exchange and use seeds & livestock breeds



Transforming knowledge and ways of knowing



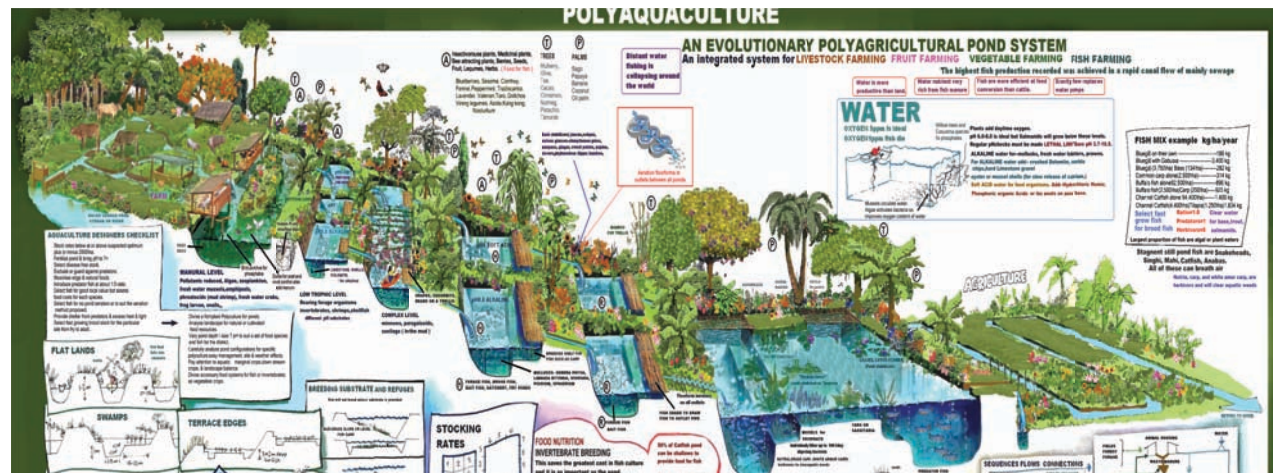
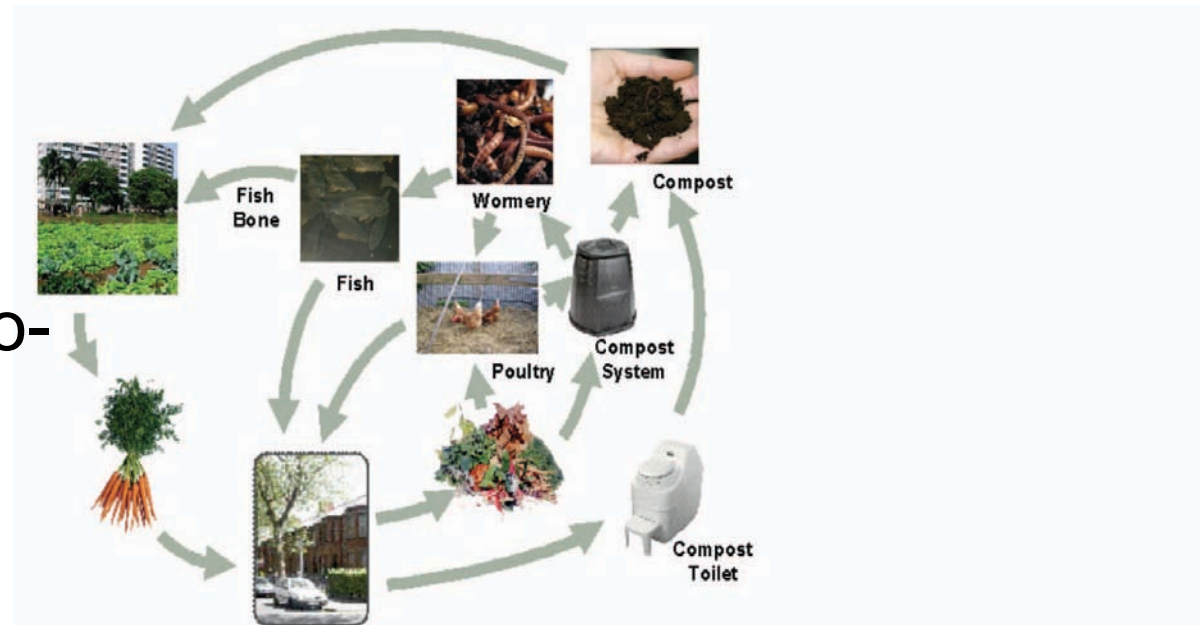
- Agro-ecology & eco-literacy
- Science of dynamic complexity
- Rethinking economics

- **Democratising research and more funds for public systems**
- **De-institutionalising research for autonomous learning and action**

A paradigm shift - creating resilient food systems to deal with peak oil, the water crisis, climate change, unemployment, and disasters

Key approaches:

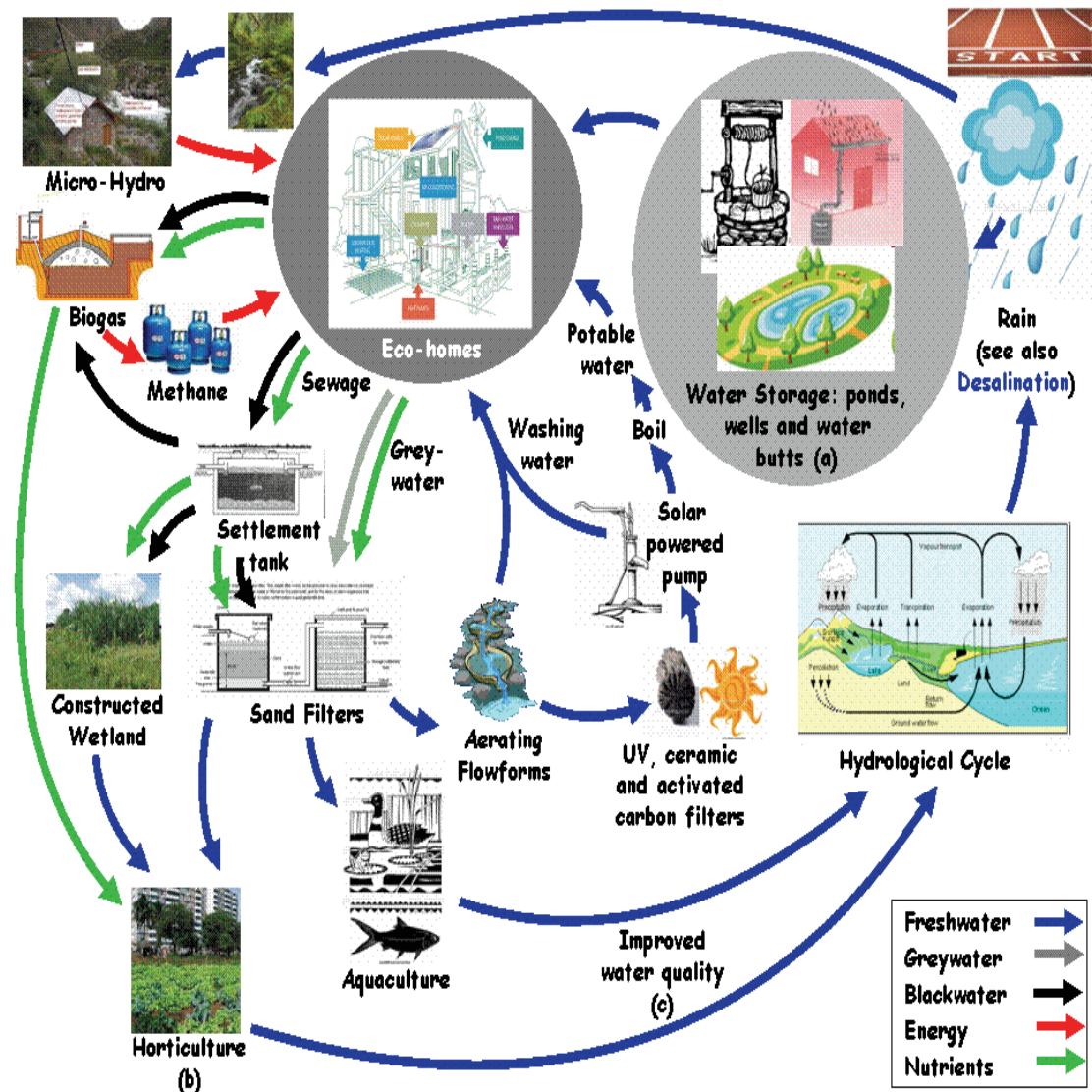
- Agro-ecology
- Eco-literacy and eco-design
- Bio-mimicry
- Permaculture and holistic design
- Local food webs
- Models of circular economy



Circular and integrated water, energy, housing, sanitation and food systems

Circular systems that mimic natural ecosystems at different scales - from farms to entire cities:

- *functional biodiversity*
- *ecological clustering of industries*
- *recycling and re-localised production*



Examples of 'self managed' research

- victims of pollution developing a people's epidemiology
- scientific activism by citizens affected by HIV/AIDs
- the open source community developing non-proprietary software and internet programs
- involvement of amateur naturalists in national biodiversity surveys

Deepening democracy

- **Claiming and realizing citizen's rights to participate** in policymaking and institutional choices
- **An economics for the well being of people and planet** - links between solidarity economy, de-growth, and food sovereignty

Leveling the economic playing field for democracy & transformation

- the re-localisation of plural economies that combine both market oriented activities with non monetary forms of economic exchange based on barter, reciprocity, gift relations, and solidarity
- a guaranteed and unconditional minimum income for all
- a significant drop in time spent in wage-work and a fairer sharing of jobs between men and women

Leveling the economic playing field for democracy & transformation

- a tax on financial speculations, - to fund the regeneration of local economies and ecologies
- a shift from globalised, centralised and linear systems to re-localized circular models that mimic natural cycles and link sustainable food and energy production with water and waste management in urban and rural areas.