COMMUNITY FOOD SYSTEMS : FOOD ENTERPRISE CENTER

GOALS

Local and regional food businesses have the opportunity to bridge a full range of issues in the local food system. Food Enterprise centers, or entrepreneurial investments in local food, provide **COMPREHENSIVE AND DIVERSE** approaches to scaling up the food system through a self-financed, sustainable profit. Food Enterprise Centers are focused on positive cash flow, food, local ownership and local control. Many of these programs work hard to include **SHAREHOLDER LOYALTY** by including options to buy into the company or provide memberships. This strategy builds a market base and assists in community capacity and financial sustainability. In addition to community support, typical businesses also devote time to **GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY** through good stewardship of the land, sustainable waste management, and affordable food programs.

BENEFITS

- Increased civic engagement
- Distributional efficiency
- Improved access to local food for all income levels
- Revitalize local economies through partnership with local businesses in the area
- Positive social change
- Training opportunities for workforce in food system
- Support regional food branding
- Partnership and community opportunities for infrastructure space: growing, cooking, entrepreneurial activity

COMMUNITY IMPACT

- **LOCAL SMALL BUSINESS EXPANDING:**
  Between 1998-2002, food businesses focused on a small scale and increased in number of outlets

- **EFFECTIVE DISTRIBUTION AND FARMER INCOME:**

  1990, farmers typically got 40% from sales, with the other 60% going to distribution + inputs.

  NOW - 7% goes to the farmer and 73% goes to distribution- and 20% goes to retail

NATIONAL BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

DC Central Kitchen:
http://www.dccentralkitchen.org/volunteer-profile-suga-chef-brings-style-sweets-to-dcck/

DC CENTRAL KITCHEN: Washington DC:

Using food as a tool to strengthen bodies and build communities; several programs including Farm to Kitchen and fresh start whole packaged goods

Intervale Center
https://www.facebook.com/IntervaleCenterVT/timeline

THE INTERVALE CENTER: Burlington, VT:

A blend of a for-profit and non-profit engaging in all steps of the supply chain from pre-production to post-consumer waste

Mavrovic Companies
Image from: Wallace Center: Community Food Enterprise: p.154

Mavrovic Companies: Slobostina, Croatia:

Four business models: organic farms, research and education center, bakery, and marketing + distribution company.

Republic Food Enterprise Center
http://www.republicfoodenterprisecenter.org/#!about-rfec/c6kt

REPUBLIC FOOD ENTERPRISE CENTER: Republic, PA:

Promotes the economical, physical and environmental health of through the creation of local, healthy food. The FVEC links the gap between farmers and consumers and offers entrepreneurs opportunities to create value-added products in the shared-use kitchen space. It also operates a food hub to offer aggregation resources.

LET US KNOW OTHER BEST PRACTICES

TITLE: CONTACT INFORMATION:

INTERESTED IN HELPING? SHARE YOUR INFO

NAME: CONTACT INFORMATION: