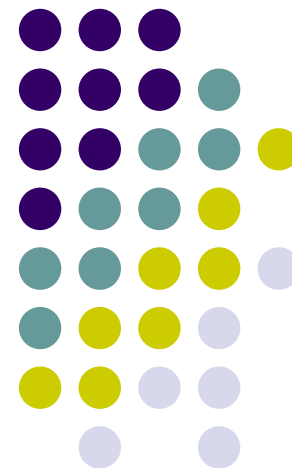


Can it be both? Local Food Initiatives for Social and Environmental Change in Communities

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Just Metropolis
June 18th, 2010



Outline



- > SCD, SE and Food
- > Good Food Box (Edmonton)
- > Local Food First (Vancouver)
- > Challenges of Food System Transformation
- > Linking Social and Environmental Change through Food?



CONTEXT AND RATIONALE



- > Sustainable Community Development (SCD), Social Economy (SE)
 - > Diversity in approaches
 - > Weak vs. strong, shallow vs. deep
 - > Criticized for lack of social justice, lack of scale, and sector-based approaches

Context and Rationale



> Convergence

- > Strong sustainability and deep social economy

- > Values of reciprocity, trust, participation, equity, democratic control (Soots and Gismondi, 2009)

> What about Local Food?

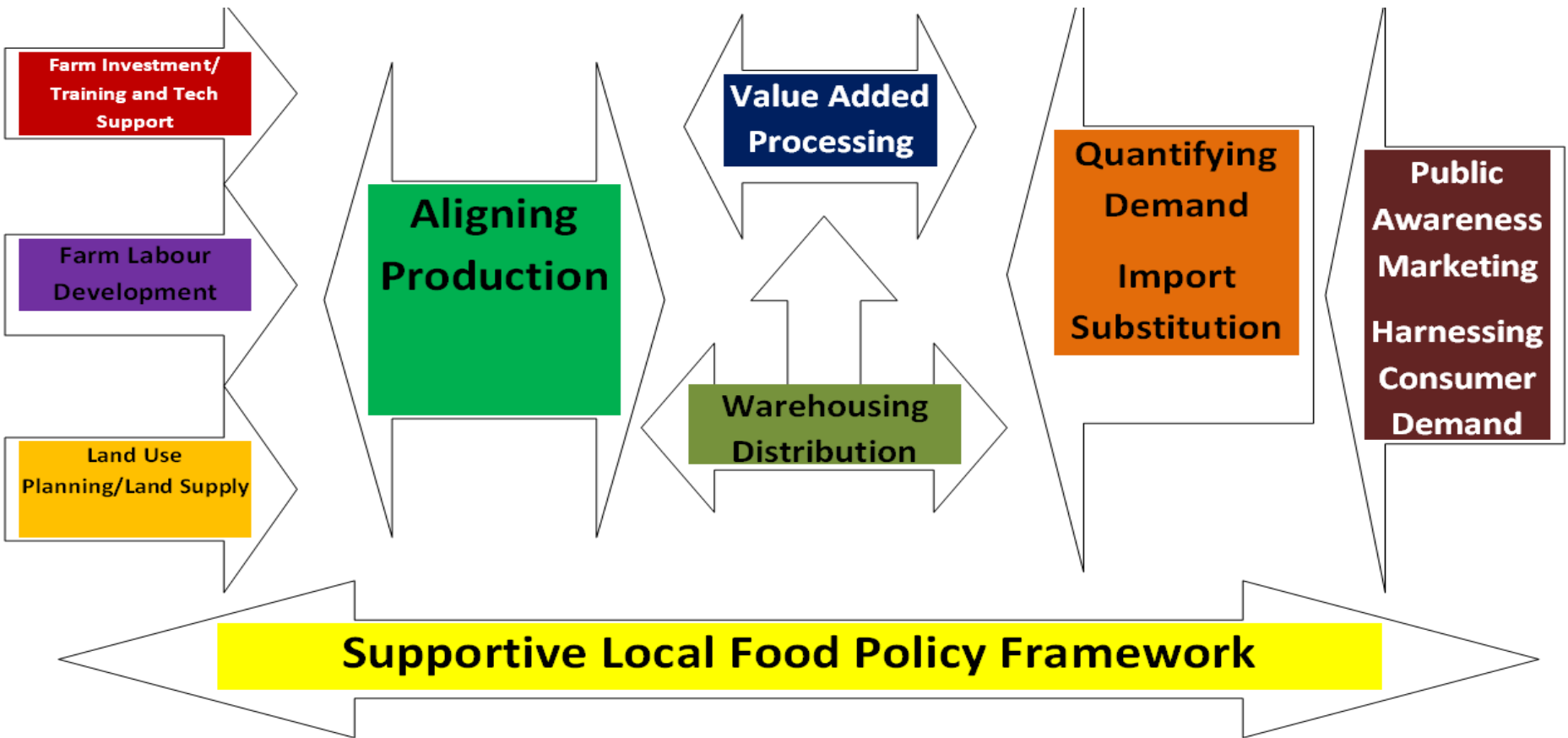
- > Similar spectrum for local food – alternative vs. conventional

- > Criticisms – “local trap”, sector-based

- > Great potential → value based and system wide transformation (Marsden and Murdoch, 2006)



Local Food Systems



Edmonton Good Food Box



- > Social Enterprise Pilot Project 2009
 - > Huge consumer demand
 - > Recruitment of FM producers
 - > Price, capacity to deliver, approach to production
 - > Increase access points for local food beyond FM and Farm Gate sales



Good Food Box & Weekly Ordering 2010



What's Available This Week
What's New This Week

- All Categories
- Vegetables
- Fruits
- Mushrooms
- Meat & Poultry (Frozen)
- Dairy
- Grains and Legumes
- Seafood
- Dried or Packaged Foods
- Bee Products
- Eggs
- Bread & Baked Goods
- Condiments, Sauces, Marinades & Oils
- Animal Food
- Prepared/Ready Made Meals
- Beverages
- Chocolate and Sweets

Note: The current ordering period closes on Saturday, June 05, 2010 11:59:00 PM.

Categories

Vegetables



Fruits



Mushrooms



Meat & Poultry (Frozen)



Dairy



Grains and Legumes



Seafood



Dried or Packaged Foods



Bee Products



Vancouver Local Food Hub



> Food System Assessment (VFPC, 2005)

- > Build capacity
- > Strengthen and expand linkages
- > Expand retail offerings
- > Food friendly city policy



> Local Food First

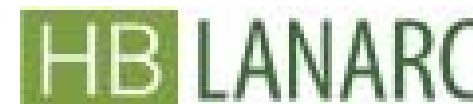
- > Meet Your Maker
- > Local Food Branding opportunities
- > Tomato Value Chain Development
- > Economic Landscape Report



Trout Lake / Cedar Cottage Food Security Network



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NETWORK



Local Food Hub



- > Food Hub Visioning
- > Negotiation with City
- > Capital Campaign
- > Governance Structure



Challenges



- > Scaling-up and Implementation
- > “How will this make money? We’re talking about transforming the food system, but doing it within the constraints of the existing system, that makes it really hard.”
- > “I’m not willing to put my business on the line for speculative ventures that might work down the road, regardless of their value. It is simply too risky. We want proven solutions that work. Values are important, but they are not something that will take over the business.”

Challenges



- > Shift in Values – Whose Values?
 - > “I think most of the people I know that have joined up with the GFB did it as much for the good food as for the political reasons because they didn't want it to fail. Right now we are hoping to try and reach out to people who maybe aren't that, who just want the convenience and I think you still have to be a little bit convinced that it's good because you don't get to choose your vegetables and choices are made for you.”

Potential of Local Food to link SCD and SE?



> Common Challenges

- > Incrementalism vs. transformative change
- > Power and politics
- > Equity and inclusivity



Potential of Local Food to link SCD and SE?



> Potential

- > “It is hard to work together, but that is what pays. It is not foreign. Grain elevators and farm coops are how agriculture flourished in the first place.”
- > Reflexive localism
- > Embedded in place
- > Local Food initiatives as a process rather than a goal

