Overview of Community Food Systems

USDA OPPE Faith & Opportunity Fellowship Convening
December 16, 2020

Who We Are
- Created in 2012
- 13 food systems specialists
- Michigan, national & international
- 90% of funding through grants
- Re-grantee as a member of SAFSF
- Convener of the Michigan Good Food Charter

Content Areas
- Farm to Early Care & Education (ECE)
- Farm to School & Institution
- Food procurement
- Food hubs
- Food policy (councils)
- Healthy food financing
- Healthy food access
- Food systems networks
- Equity - food systems
- Organic systems

Food Supply Chain – A way to think of the food system

In every part of the process, people's labor, input costs, distribution and other costs add to the value of the food we eat. Ideally for a resilient and sustainable food system, everyone who contributes to bringing food to your table needs to be respected and paid a living wage and work in safe conditions...
Community food systems
Food security
Food Access
Emergency food (food banks)
Food Sovereignty

Faith-based programs promoting food security
Additional Examples
- Muslim Youth Against Hunger
- Buddhist Global Relief
- Bread for the World
- Hazon
- Hindu American Foundation
- Catholic Rural Life (National Catholic Rural Life Conference)
- Plainsong Farm & Ministry (Michigan)
# EQUAL EXCHANGE

**Mission**

Build long-term trade partnerships that are economically just and environmentally sound, to foster mutually beneficial relationships between farmers and consumers and to demonstrate the contribution of worker cooperatives and Fair Trade to a more equitable, democratic and sustainable world.

**Interfaith Program**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baptist</th>
<th>Catholic</th>
<th>Church of the Brethren</th>
<th>Episcopal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friends Service Committee (Quaker)</td>
<td>Jewish</td>
<td>United Church of Christ</td>
<td>Methodist</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Products**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COFFEE</th>
<th>CHOCOLATE</th>
<th>TEA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Founded in 1986**

---

# U.S. Food Sovereignty Alliance

**Faith-based members**

- Presbyterian Hunger Program
- Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns
- United Methodist Committee on Relief

---

**Beyond emergency food:**

**Examples** of food systems programs that can build community resilience, create local ownership and job opportunities, and address root causes of poverty.
What is the Charter?

The Michigan Good Food Charter is a roadmap for a food system that is rooted in local communities and centered on good food.

HISTORY

Initially published in 2010, the Michigan Good Food Charter helped build momentum for efforts across Michigan to advance a food system that promotes equity, health, sustainability, and thriving economies.

2010 MICHIGAN GOOD FOOD CHARTER

Vision

Six Goals

25 Agenda Priorities

Good Food Is...

Healthy Affordable Fair Equal
Michigan Food System Collaboration Infrastructure

NETWORKS - PARTNERSHIPS
• Michigan Good Food Fund
• Michigan Local Food Council Network
• Michigan Farm to Institution Network
• Food Hub Network
• Farm to ECE Network
• MI Farmers Market Association
• Black Community Food Security Network
• Healthy Food Healthy Michigan
• Michigan Food and Farming Systems

PRIORITY AREAS
Results we Want to See in the Community

Food Access to Food Sovereignty
Everyone has the resources to access and afford healthy, culturally appropriate food and the ability to shape the food system that impacts them.

Food & Farm Business Viability
The food system supports a dynamic mix of local, regional, national and global food sources that offer opportunities for Michigan food and farm businesses of all scales.

Fair Wages & Economic Opportunity
People who grow, process, pack, transport, prepare, serve, and sell food have access to living wages, benefits, safe work environments, and pathways for career advancement and leadership.

Health Equity
The food system supports opportunities for everyone to be as healthy as possible, physically, mentally, socially and spiritually.

Sustainable Ecosystems
The food system protects air, water, and soil now and for future generations.

Climate Change Mitigation & Resilience
Communities are resilient in the face of climate change and the food system actively mitigates its impact on the climate.

Slide created by Lindsey Scalera - CRFS
Food Policy Councils

The How & Why they came to be

• Addressing gaps in local policies that focus on food
• Diverse network of stakeholders from across the food system working locally (regional/statewide) to improve food system outcomes and inform/change policy
• Policy changes at local and state government levels or through Native American tribal governments (food sovereignty projects)
• Emerged in 1980s (Knoxville, Tennessee, Hartford Connecticut, Toronto, Ontario)
Issues raised by MI food councils – responding to COVID 19

• Councils meet weekly – March – July (rather than monthly)
• Small farmers struggle to access CARES Act funding
• Local municipalities face zoning ordinance challenges
• Supply chains strained with outbreaks and pandemic purchasing
• Bottlenecks in meat processing
• Shift in school meals delivery and need
• Dramatic increase in food assistance need
Michigan Farm to Institution Network

Mission: Help institutions meet the 20% by 2020 Charter goal
Purpose: Space for learning, sharing and working together to help farm to institution programs grow

Michigan Farm to Institution Network
Building demand, readying supply, and cultivating connections
Thank you!

Rich Pirog  
Director  
MSU Center for Regional Food Systems  
rspirog@msu.edu

Colleen Matts  
Senior Farm to Institution Specialist  
MSU Center for Regional Food Systems  
matts@msu.edu