

Problem encountered and objective

The Dutch CoP aims to support small-scale farmers (e.g., CSA farms) in gaining recognition and compensation for the farm's broader value, including soil health, biodiversity, water quality, and social cohesion, amid a national system focused on high-yield and efficient food systems.

Main Results and Outcomes

The Nationaal Voedselberaad (National food council, formerly simply called the Dutch CoP) brings together farmers, researchers, and organizations to promote sustainable farms and regional food systems. Despite challenges in forming a shared narrative, it organized a successful national event with 90 participants on local policy. Its focus is to influence municipal elections, advocating food as an overarching theme to address climate adaptation, biodiversity, social cohesion, and health. By reconnecting production with ecosystems, local food policy recognizes the broader value of sustainable farming and strengthens local networks while building community resilience through collaborative strategies.

Practical recommendations

- To support sustainable farming, focus on making the added value of soil-friendly, socially engaged farms visible to the public and policymakers.
- Foster broad, inclusive alliances around shared goals rather than narrow narratives to avoid excluding potential partners.
- Highlight positive impacts of small-scale farms in the context of societal challenges, such as soil health for healthy food and community benefits for healthy, resilient communities, to build momentum.
- Use regional events and networks to raise awareness and advocate for systemic change.
- Promote regional food systems that reward ecosystem services, enabling farmers to ask fair prices and collaborate with local stakeholders.
- Keep engagement strong by organizing around diverse themes and maintaining the collective spirit through shared ownership (e.g., by establishing a cooperative, paying the farmer in advance or adoption programs) and celebration of progress.



ABOUT SOILVALUES

SoilValues is a Horizon Europe project that will contribute to the development of successful soil health business models across the EU to improve soil quality and provide land managers with the necessary incentives.

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
KEY WORDS

Regional food systems, CSA farms, local food policy

USEFUL LINKS

 <https://soilvalues.eu/>

 info.soilvalues@kuleuven.be

 <https://zenodo.org/communities/heuropesoilvalues>

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