

# FoodSHIFT2030 Public Webinar 21/01/21

## Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture

### Q&A

**Question:**

Utilisez-vous des abattoirs locaux?

Elsa Chiffard-Carricaburu 12:36 PM

oui, et nous sommes vigilants sur le fait que ce soit des structures respectueuses du bien-être animal; ils sont distants d'Avignon de 30 kms et de 120 kms.

**Question:**

Where and how far are the livestock farmers producing beef you contacted? (i.e. distance from Avignon, type of land: mountain/flat areas...)

Elsa Chiffard-Carricaburu 12:39 PM

First producer : a local an organic producer far from 30 kms (extensive production on a plain area), second producers : a group a producers located in moutains far away from 120 kms from us.

**Question:**

When you say that you are providing 20% of local food. How do you define the "local" territorial frame?

Elsa Chiffard-Carricaburu 12:40 PM

"Local" in our meaning reach 120 kms from our city!

**Question:**

How do you choose which farmers you work with (in the case if there are many farmers?)

Elsa Chiffard-Carricaburu 12:43 PM

Hello, we choose the producers regarding various criteria : type of production : extensive one, 0 OGM and soy food, +80% of beats food coming from the farm itself, transparency and mandatory possibility to be welcome on the farm and racial type (limousin and charolais in french :)

**Question:**

Hello Elsa, I am PhD researcher in Ireland working on a project in diet and sustainability. I am curious since the start of the program in Avignon has there been any reported improvement on diet: less obesity, type 2 diabetes or other food related illness, thanks for your presentation

Elsa Chiffard-Carricaburu 12:52 PM

Hello, thanks for your question but unfortunately there isn't any study at the moment that explored this question of impacts of our service of restoration on children' obesity and diabetes... Obviously we respect a national and strict legislation about the meals composition.

**Question:**

@Elsa - what other criteria do you use for defining local food, beside the distance of 120km? Thanks!

Elsa Chiffard-Carricaburu 12:49 PM

Good question :) Indeed quality is a more important criteria for us than the distance. We look on the production way of doing (sustainable) and gustative quality and mandatory possibility to be

welcome on the farm. It allows a reciprocal adaptation to our needs and to their possibilities. Is it clear enough for you?

**Question:**

Are you looking into vertical farming as well?

Elsa Chiffard-Carricaburu 12:55 PM

Here we aren't concerned by the agricultural lands missing... We have a lot of lands and the main question is more the human one as we will be missing farmers in the next years... Actually we have various projects of shared urban lands.

**Question:**

How are you addressing land access issues for community projects regarding land costs of 0.5-5 acres within peri-urban and urban lots in Barcelona? Thank you-

Sally Bourdon 01:00 PM

Thank you for your question. Fab Lab Barcelona doesn't directly deal with land access issues. With regard to the lots, we work with communities that typically already have a space available to them. Land is incredibly expensive in Barcelona and currently there is a large amount of building happening, in which old, historic buildings are torn down to make way for new, luxury apartments. In response, many communities have actually occupied illegally the plots and transformed the spaces into community gardens. Some of these spaces have then received support from the city. The city is also trying to reclaim certain spaces in the city to make way for urban gardening plots. The availability of land is also why there is so much interest in rooftop gardens. The city is currently pushing support for the development of rooftop gardens, but there are legislative restrictions which make this complicated.

In relation to peri-urban areas, land in certain spaces is rapidly being cleared for new construction. Peri-urban farmers are being pressured to sell their land, and without young people to carry it on and with the variability in yearly payout, many peri-urban farmers are being all but forced to sell. In baix llobregat, new train railways that cross the region has lowered the lands value and its desirability as agricultural land, creating new challenges for farmers.

It's a very complex question. Add on top a drought that this region has been experiencing for the past years, and you get an incredibly difficult situation for peri-urban farming communities.

**Question:**

For Avignon Lab: do you only use the AGRIOLOCAL platform for the meat supply or for all your food supply (ie. vegetables, fruits, dairy products, etc.)?

Utilisez-

vous la plateforme AGRIOLOCAL seulement pour l'approvisionnement en viande des cantines ou pour la totalité des repas (légumes, fruits, produits laitiers, etc.)?

Elsa Chiffard-Carricaburu 01:00 PM

Bonjour, la plateforme AGRIOLOCAL nous sert pour l'ensemble de nos premiers achats de matières premières. Pourquoi ? parce que les seuils d'achats autorisés par la législation des marchés publics limitent les nomenclatures d'achat à 25 000 euros annuel.

Nous formalisons ensuite notre relation partenariale avec les producteurs et agriculteurs via des marchés publics... avec toutes les contraintes européennes... notamment dans l'impossibilité d'écrire de façon claire no

tre volonté d'achat en proximité... Nous venons pour info de publier un marché pour des légumes frais prêt à l'emploi en local de 120 000 euros annuel reconductible 3 fois.

**Question:**

In percentage, how much is vertical farming contributing to the overall city food consumption (more or less?)

Rasmus Bjerngaard 12:57 PM

Still a tiny percentage but one that is increasing rapidly

**Question:**

@Rasmus: Any specific reason to have picked hydroponics instead of aquaponics?

Rasmus Bjerngaard 01:01 PM

We picked aeroponics over hydroponics because it is more precise and efficient. Aquaponics is very interesting but as it is an ecosystem it is a whole other challenge and business case to use. There is other reasons as well... We would like to combine with other circular elements (such as fish production) to continuously improve our climate footprint.

**Question:**

curiosity @Rasmus, where in barcelona are you building the vertical farm? and with who? thanks

Rasmus Bjerngaard 12:57 PM

Poble Nou. With a local partner.

**Question:**

NextFood: What type of crops can you grow en mass using aeroponics in the city?

Rasmus Bjerngaard 01:04 PM

As such we can grow anything and we grew hundreds of plants but not all make economically sense. The low hanging fruit (pun intended) are herbs and leafy greens. There are many other aspects in it, e.g. we grow many things that are not available in the markets and we grow it in ways (shape, taste, color etc) that are otherwise not available

Rasmus Bjerngaard 01:25 PM

5 m2 farm in 5 layers correspond to 1000 m2 farmland so en mass is possible

**Question:**

Hi, I heard about a law banning the sale of plants (and animal products?) that were grown within city borders of Barcelona, and the way people getting around it is selling plants in their pots.. I was trying to find this law without any success. Is this or similar laws preventing for-profit urban agriculture in Barcelona?

Sally Bourdon 01:16 PM

Hi thank you for your question. Currently, it is illegal to sell produce grown in urban soils. However, this law doesn't respond to how we're exploring new ways of growing. Also, it doesn't take into consideration that many of the peri-urban soil also faces contamination from pollution distributed principally from roadways. Additionally, anyone that is selling produce need to have approval at a hygiene level, an expensive and slow process which basically makes it impossible for individuals and small businesses to sell in the city.

Policy change in this area is something that the Food Tech 3.0 Foodshift Accelerator Lab is committing to supporting our stakeholders in pushing for change.

**Question:**

Hi Rasmus, what are the start-up costs of vertical farming? is the equipment expensive?

Rasmus Bjerngaard 01:05 PM

Yes and no. Compared to running a farm it is not but there is of course an up front cost. For that reason we made a scalable system where one can start small and add on

**Question:**

Hi Elsa - also Interested in dietary improvement.

Elsa Chiffard-Carricaburu 01:02 PM

Hello thanks for your question but unfortunately there isn't any study at the moment that explored this question of impacts of our service of restoration on children' obesity and diabetes... Obviously we respect a national and strict legislation about the meals composition.

**Question:**

For the Next Food project in Barcelona: One of the criticisms facing vertical aeroponic and hydroponic farming systems has been their high energy use, which has been said to make this economically unviable. Has this been an issue with your project?

Rasmus Bjerngaard 01:07 PM

Some plants are economically viable, others are not. It is improving rapidly.

Thanks Rasmus, i think it has so many positives, low Co2, high Yield, no soil damage, no pesticides. In Ireland where all these bar soil are a big issue verticle farming would be an excellent addition.

Rasmus Bjerngaard 01:10 PM

Agree :)

**Question:**

Is anyone monitoring nutritional quality of different types of urban food production?

Bjorn Low 01:10 PM

Yes we have a project with a local university looking at higher glucosinolate compounds in certain brassica vegetables grown in the urban setting. Food safety is more important to be tested for urban farming at this point due to pollution etc

**Question:**

Rasmus, i might have missed this info. can you tell us the volume of your production in vertical Farming systems? they seemed to be integrated e.g. in restaurants from the picture? do you also have larger production facilities?

Rasmus Bjerngaard 01:21 PM

We partner with local partners who run the farms and we can remote monitor and control the farm thereby making it easy for the local partner. The in-store mini farms can work by themselves but usually work in tandem with a larger local farm to have enough capacity without taking all the space in the shop. We both have small and large farms in a decentralised network.

**Question:**

Is there any mycology systems being explored in the foodshift urban project ?

Dirk Wascher 01:19 PM

We don't have yet an innovation case addressing mycology. However, we are in the process of identifying more innovation cases this month and it could well be that we take this up. I am soon publishing a report in which there is an example.

Sally Bourdon 01:19 PM

Here at IAAC there are a few mycology systems. In the Food Tech 3.0 FAL we are interested in promoting food tech that enables food production, elaboration, consumption and recycling in cities. We would love to hear more about open source tech that's out there.

**Question:**

Question for Dirk: where does one submit projects for consideration? do you provide help with funding etc. to projects you select?

Dirk Wascher 01:24 PM

Hi, with regard to getting involved within the FoodSHIFT project there will come - as I mentioned earlier - a process of inviting additional city regions to join and benefit from the FoodSHIFT findings and research tools. However, these cities will not receive funding - only 'in-kind' contributions. In order to get project submitted you would need to follow-up on the different funding opportunities and join a team. These are lengthy processes, but can lead to get involved yourself. Hope this has been helpful.

**Question:**

Do you think periurban agriculture serves the same social, inclusive functions as urban, community agriculture?

Sally Bourdon 01:27 PM

Here, space conditions function. If you have land and the goal is to produce food for X people, it might not meet these social goals. However, when you design a space with the goal of social inclusion, it will likely look different, and the production would consequently be different. I think in the case of Barcelona, peri-urban ag is geared toward production as opposed to social issues.

**Question:**

In the case of the Parc Agrari del Baix Llobregat farming lots are much larger and they are engaged in large production so I don't think they are so much focused on social issues

Sally Bourdon 01:28 PM

Yes, exactly. The peri-urban area including the Parc Agrari has a goal of agricultural production, whereas the urban agriculture spaces (i.e. community gardens) have more of a social goal and are therefore not designed to be as productive.

**Question:**

Any of you having an overview of the possibilities to grow on roof-tops, in regard to exciting sqm and potential for increasing the sqm? As roof-top farming also requires enforced construction of the building... it demands also policies for construction.

Sally Bourdon 01:30 PM

I recommend checking here: <https://www.uab.cat/web/GR-Sostenipra-1295852698491.html>

**Question:**

If I understand well, All these initiatives are sustain by collective and private action rather than municipal or public action. What about territorial approach and the partnerships required at that level?

Dirk Wascher 01:32 PM

We do have territorial approaches in place - such as agricultural parks and spatial dimensions of ecological footprint assessments to guide land use planning. Please follow-up on these issues on the FoodSHIFT2030 webpage. or contact us directly.