

‘Food Cultures’ Research

Commissioned by Schumacher College

Research by Caroline Aitken

Aims of the research

To aid the transition to sustainable food systems

- ▶ Assess current educational opportunities
- ▶ Identify unmet educational needs within sector

How do we help to get new entrants into sustainable food businesses and ensure they have the skills needed to succeed?

Current Educational Opportunities

Course formats:

- ▶ Level 2 (certificate)
- ▶ Level 3 (Diploma)
- ▶ Apprenticeships
- ▶ Foundation Degrees
- ▶ Bachelor Degrees
- ▶ Masters
- ▶ Short Courses

Current Educational Opportunities

Agricultural colleges and universities:

- ▶ Plant sciences
- ▶ Agribusiness
- ▶ Agritech
- ▶ Practical skills for conventional horticulture

FE & HE courses (1 - 4 years)

Some apprenticeships in practical horticulture.

Current Educational Opportunities

Practical Short Courses:

- ▶ Regenerative agriculture
- ▶ Ethical and sustainable animal husbandry
- ▶ Soil

Current Educational Opportunities

Postgraduate programmes:

- ▶ Sustainable food systems
- ▶ Food policy
- ▶ Sustainable food & natural resources

Sector consultation

- Farmers & growers
- Processors and distributors
- Food service & retail businesses
- Educators
- Food systems organisations



Huxhams Cross Farm



Grown in Tolnes



**Sustainable
Food Trust**

Educational Needs Identified

- ▶ Food systems overview
- ▶ Business skills
- ▶ Co-operative models
- ▶ Practical skills and labour
- ▶ Ecology
- ▶ Nutrition
- ▶ Real world experience
- ▶ Design

Suggested Topics

- ▶ Ecology
- ▶ Economics
- ▶ Socio-political context
- ▶ Business
- ▶ Systems design/permaculture
- ▶ Food culture
- ▶ Food policy
- ▶ Supply chain
- ▶ Food security
- ▶ Soil
- ▶ Regenerative agriculture

Demographics

- ▶ School leavers
- ▶ Existing farmers
- ▶ Food business entrepreneurs
- ▶ Graduates/career changers

Accessibility

- ▶ Cost
- ▶ Time
- ▶ Culture

Conclusions

Holistic approach:

- ▶ Theory
- ▶ Practice
- ▶ Business