

‘Food Cultures’ Research

Commissioned by Schumacher College

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Aims of the research

To aid the transition to sustainable food systems

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

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

Sector consultation

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



Research

- ▶ **Identify target groups:**
 - via interviews, surveys and professional experience
- ▶ **Survey of target groups:**
 - Content
 - Format
 - Accessibility
- ▶ **Assessment of current opportunities**
 - All types of courses offering related content in the UK

Current Educational Opportunities

Course formats:

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

Current Educational Opportunities

Agricultural colleges and universities:

- ▶ Plant sciences
- ▶ Agribusiness (conventional)
- ▶ Agritech (conventional)
- ▶ Horticulture (conventional)

- ▶ FE & HE courses (1 - 4 years)
- ▶ Apprenticeships in horticulture.



Predominantly
conventional

Current Educational Opportunities

Practical Short Courses:

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

Current Educational Opportunities

Postgraduate programmes:

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

Educational Gaps Identified

- ▶ Food systems: supply and distribution, markets, etc
- ▶ Business management skills
- ▶ Co-operative models
- ▶ Principles of ecology and agroecology
- ▶ Nutrition
- ▶ Practical experience in agribusiness
- ▶ Holistic systems design skills

Demographics

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

Accessibility

- ▶ Cost
- ▶ Time
- ▶ Culture

Conclusions

- ▶ Theory
- ▶ Practice
- ▶ Business

- Affordable short courses, CPD
- Apprenticeships and traineeships
- Comprehensive professional courses



Future ideas at Dartington/Schumacher

- ▶ Link with other learning opportunities on the estate
- ▶ Extend Practical Sustainable Horticulture course
- ▶ BSc Sustainable Food and Farming Business: PT, FT, Modular
- ▶ Short course programme:
 - Credit-bearing modules
 - CPD
- ▶ Internships / Traineeships / Apprenticeships
- ▶ Incubation