

## Slow Food's contribution to the debate on the future of food and farming: final recommendations

**Commensurate bureaucratic workload and clarity of information:** readjust the bureaucratic workload so that it is **commensurate** with the reality of the dwelling. Rules and controls are fundamental to the well-functioning support measures and must be implemented, but in a commensurate way given the size of the farm. **Clarity and ease of access to information** on criteria for accessing the support measures must be guaranteed. Also, national and local authorities in charge to provide information to the beneficiaries on the existing measures should be **trained adequately**.

**Innovation & research, training and technical support:** dedicate innovation and research measures/funds to **support the promotion of agroecology** and the exchange of knowledge between farmers and researchers on equal terms. Innovation must respect food sovereignty and local knowledge, it should **foster the potential of producers** and not make them dependent on external inputs controlled by a few multinationals. Training in **business management and marketing** (labelling, eco-sustainable packaging etc.) must be provided, as well as stimulate **entrepreneurship** by supplying knowledge and (co-)funding for tools that help farmers to add value to their produce.

**Support young people:** ensure young people have a **decent income** in order to have enough security to plan their future, promote the **creation of networks** of young farmers and actors in the food system; **promote the training** of young farmers and entrepreneurs (with secondary school and university courses, short courses, lecture courses by farmers themselves); **promote knowledge transfer** from generation to generation; facilitate the **setting up of new businesses** by young people.

**Support marginal areas:** "marginal areas" need to be defined through participatory processes, considering all factors that determine a lower capacity to reach consumers, for social, organizational, logistical, environmental and other reasons. **Effective infrastructural recovery and development plans** in rural and deprived areas must be implemented, ensuring **Internet coverage**, through participatory processes of local development.



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**Public money for public goods:** food and farming systems that harm the environment, contribute to food waste and disrespect the wellbeing of workers and animals should not receive subsidies. Only **diversified agroecological farming systems** producing food for human and animal consumption and contributing to the socio-economic and environmental sustainability of their farms and regions should receive financial support. Producers who **preserve the traditional agricultural landscape** and **know-how** should be rewarded, as well as those who work in **marginal areas**, and who develop educational, cultural, social and tourist **activities**.

**Review quality schemes and hygiene rules:** review the definition of quality underpinning the “quality schemes” to include rigorous criteria of sustainability; introduce **specific training** for inspectors on traditional productions of artisanal foods; include obligatory provisions for **flexibility in legislative proposals** on hygiene rules guaranteeing simplified and proportionate rules for small producers and local food chains.

**Fair food supply chains:** fight the **exploitation of the labor force** and review the rules that regulate the supply chain to give all producers **fair bargaining power**. We need to create market channels for small- and medium-scale products; promote farmers’ markets, fair trade and alternative food networks based on direct selling. The use of local, healthy and agroecological products in **public and school canteens** must be promoted, as well as **environmental and food education** in schools.

**Fair land management:** guarantee mechanisms that allow new farmers to **access land**, including state-owned land and rental agreements that allow medium-long term planning - especially for pastures. Boost transparency in land purchasing deals and international investments in the land market, to counteract the phenomena of land grabbing and land concentration. Provide legal protection to farmers during acquisition processes.

**Policy coherence and consistency:** many of the obstacles faced by producers are related to **the lack of integration** and **coherence** between the CAP and other food-related policies (e.g. food safety; food waste; etc.): a systemic approach is needed to tackle food systems related issues. To ensure policy coherence and consistency, a **cross-sectorial** and **inter-institutional task force**, involving different Commission DGs and other EU institutions, must be created.

**Set clear objectives:** the governance of the new delivery model must guarantee democratic access to the support measures for small scale agroecological farmers



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and the younger generations: they should not be excluded by governance dynamics that favor only a few and hinder the entrance of newcomers. A different **set of indicators** must be developed to measure short, medium and long-term results based on environmental, economic and socio-cultural sustainability. The producers and the main food systems actors should be involved in the formulation of impact indicators, making sure that also **the voice of small and micro business is taken in due consideration**.

Finally, the narrative must be changed from food security to **food sufficiency**. The goal is no longer to feed the world, since today one third of the food produced worldwide is lost or wasted. The new challenge is to **guarantee fair access to resources** (land, seeds, water) and **fair access to food**.