

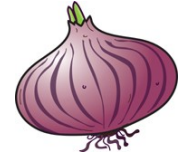
Involvement of Citizens in CSA

Maresa Bossano – CSA Network UK

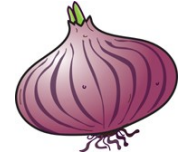


**COMMUNITY
SUPPORTED
AGRICULTURE**

What is CSA?



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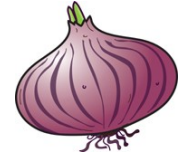


Community supported agriculture (CSA) is a partnership between farmers and consumers in which the responsibilities, risks and rewards of farming are shared.

CSA consists of a community of individuals who pledge support to a farm operation so that the farmland, in essence, becomes the community's farm, with the growers and consumers providing mutual support and sharing the risks and benefits of food production.

CSA helps to address increasing concerns about the lack of transparency, sustainability and resilience of our food system. It is one of the most radical ways that we can re-take control and ownership of our food system.

Involving local people

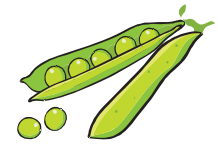


The approach can vary. Consumers, often described as CSA members, are closely linked to the farm and the production of their food, and provide support that goes beyond a straight forward marketplace exchange of money for goods.

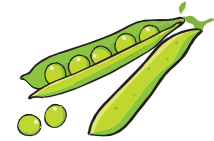
This involvement may be through:

- ownership or investment in the farm or business,
- sharing the costs of production,
- accepting a share in the harvest or
- providing labour.

Producer led



Producer led



A farmer offers a share of production in return for a fixed subscription.

The share may vary with the vagaries of production (so the risks and rewards are shared), while the subscription is generally payable in advance and for a relatively long term (providing secure income to the producer).

This is the most widely used approach and is also common in France and the USA.

Good examples of producer-led CSA farms include: Chagfood and Canalside Community Food.

Community led



Community led



A farming enterprise is set up and owned by the community, which takes on direct responsibility for production. Labour may be provided by volunteers and/or employed professionals.

Many smaller CSAs are completely community run as all the work is done by the members.

Produce may be distributed amongst the community and/or sold for the benefit of the enterprise, including using the share of the harvest model.

Stroud Community Agriculture is one of the most established CSA farms using this model.



Producer-community partnerships



Producer-community partnerships



The enterprise, owned by the community through a co-operative or similar structure, works in close partnership with existing producer(s) to provide a secure and long-term supply of produce to CSA members.

This model often occurs with an existing farm that gives part of their land to the community to use.

Good examples of this model are The Oak Tree Low Carbon Farm and Cambridge Cropshare.

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Community-owned farms



Community-owned farms

A farming enterprise is secured through community investment but does not necessarily trade primarily with the community members.

This could either occur with an existing farm that's been operating for a long time or a completely new farm where community shares are used to buy land.

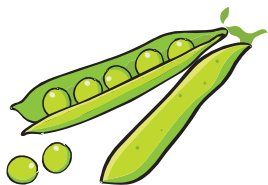
Even though the members or share holders may not be actively involved in the day to day running of the farm, community farms usually still organise events and volunteer days to keep people involved.

Fordhall Farm and The Community Farm are the best known examples of this model.

Key Ingredients for success



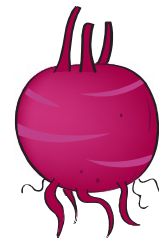
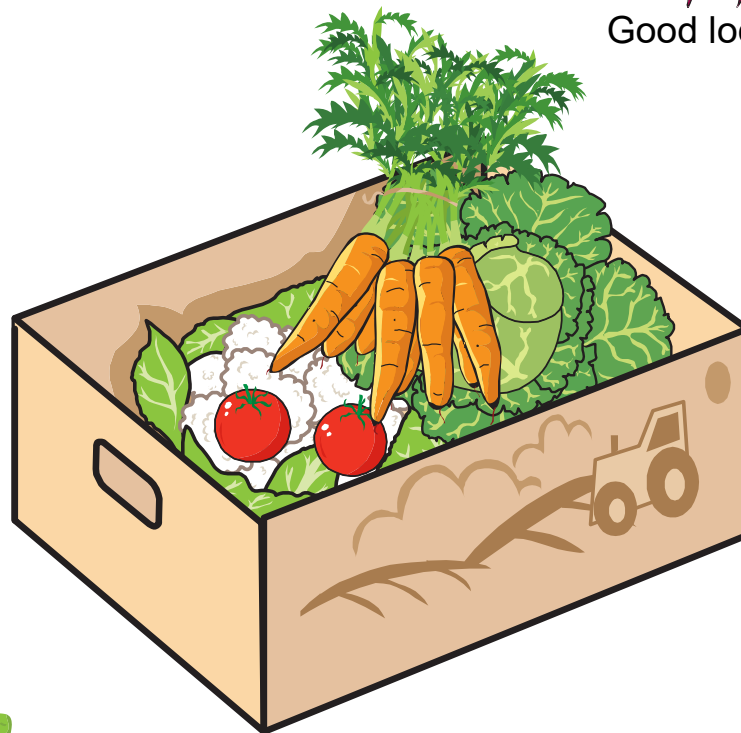
High quality,
good value produce



Committed
volunteers and staff



Marketing and publicity



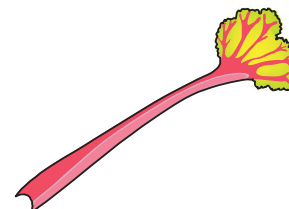
Good location



Partnership
working



Sufficient time
and resources



Finding out what
people want and need



Community
involvement