

INTRODUCTION TO THE PROJECT SOCIAL BENEFICIAL FARMING

The host of the network meeting 23. November 2016 is Social Beneficial Farming, an ambitious but realistic project run by Organic Denmark and funded by The Villum Foundation, Denmark.

**THE PROJECT PERIOD IS
01. APRIL 2014 - 30. JUNE 2017**





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Background and objective

The project aims at developing new models for organizing organic agriculture. These models offer solutions for the challenges in both the organic agricultural sector and in society as a whole – for instance to help younger generations of farmers through generational change, to create jobs for more people that do not fit into ordinary jobs, to do landscaping and restore nature and biodiversity, to recirculate organic deposits and increase carbon in soils.

The models are all based on initiatives that promote cooperation between farmers and between farmers and land owners, citizens and municipalities. They include new forms of funding and shares ownership.

Method

Our approach has been to work with specific farms that have had a vision of implementing alternative forms of organization based on a cooperation and partnerships. For each of these cases we have completed a development process which has brought the farm closer to its vision. In many cases, we have established cooperation agreements between the partners involved as well as a practice for their cooperation. This has contributed to setting the frames for developing organic agriculture and making organic agriculture an attractive and realistic profession and way of life for more people.



VILLUM FONDEN X VELUX FONDEN

Results

Based on our casework, we have developed alternative models for organic farming. The models we have put into practice through our case work are:

Model	Description
Shared farm	Cooperation between established and younger farmer(s). A farm "inside the farm". The young farmer rents buildings and production units from the established farmer and is helped through generational change with limited means to buy land, animals and buildings. Typically, the young farmer is a milk producer and the established farmer a plant producer.
Operating cooperative	More specialized farmers cooperate on utilizing land as an ecosystem. The operating cooperative can lease land. The operating cooperative facilitates the up-start for young specialized farmers, and land is more intensively utilized.
Culture cooperative	Farmers cooperate locally, based on the same aims or culture i.e. low-cost milk production to gain a farmer culture with more individual freedom for the farmer.
Nature care	Steers and heifers from milk production grazes protected natural areas. The milk producer cooperates with the land owner. Can be combined with social agriculture for daily inspection or a union of citizens buying the products from nature care.
Local land fund	Citizens crowdfund local land, administered by a local land fund. Land is leased to younger farmers.
Folk shared farm	Citizens buy shares in an agricultural operation company. Citizens share the production risks in accordance with their individual share.
Payments in advance for products	Citizens pay in advance the production costs for a product. The Citizens can share the production risk.
Land fund	Citizens finance land administered by a land fund. No local relation.
Pension fund financing	The pension fund finances land and buildings and lease to farmer.
Social agriculture	Cooperation between farmer and municipality to establish social jobs at the farm.

Discussion and conclusion

The models above have been developed, based on the needs of the participants and their cooperation. Models for new organic farms can be developed in different ways than described above, depending on how the farmer is engaged. The models are all based on single cooperative relations. New agricultural farms are in the long run expected to develop into a combination of more of these models.

DSL GLOSSARY

Abonnement	<i>Subscription</i>	Interessentselskab	<i>General Partnership</i>
Afgræsning	<i>Grazing</i>	IVS	<i>Entrepreneurial Company</i>
Afsætning	<i>Sales</i>	Jordfond	<i>Land Fund</i>
Andele	<i>Shares</i>	Kommune	<i>Municipality</i>
Anpartsselskab	<i>Limited Liability Company</i>	Landbrug	<i>Farming/ Agriculture</i>
Borgerinddragelse	<i>Citizen Involvement</i>	Medejerskab	<i>Co-Ownership</i>
Bæredygtighed	<i>Ustainability</i>	Naturerhvervsstyrelsen	<i>The Danish Agrifish Agency</i>
Delelandbrug	<i>Share Farming</i>	Naturpleje	<i>Nature Conservation</i>
Driftsfællesskab	<i>Shared Operations</i>	Pensionsselskab	<i>Pension Fund</i>
Ejerskabsform	<i>Ownership Form</i>	Samarbejdsaftale	<i>Cooperation Agreement</i>
Finansiering	<i>Financing</i>	Samfundsnytte	<i>Social Utility</i>
Folkeaktier	<i>People Shares</i>	Socialøkonomi	<i>Social Economy</i>
Fondseje	<i>Fund Owned</i>	Udviklingskonsulent	<i>Development Consultant</i>
Forpagtning	<i>Lease</i>	Socialøkonomisk arbejdsplads	<i>Social jobs</i>
Frugtbarhed	<i>Fertility</i>	Socialøkonomisk virksomhed	<i>Social enterprise</i>
Fødevarerefællesskaber	<i>Food Cooperatives</i>	Almindelige arbejdsmarked	<i>Ordinary jobs</i>
Generationsskifte	<i>Succession-of-Generation</i>		
Gårdbutik	<i>Farmshop</i>		