

Alternative Agro-Food Networks in Hungary



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Section B. The sustainable
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The FAAN project

- EU FP7
- „Facilitating Alternative Agro-Food Networks: Stakeholder Perspectives on Research Needs (2008-2010)”
- Cooperative research
- 5 country consortium: academic/CSO
- Hungarian members: SZIU Gödöllő, Védjegylet/Protect the Future

What makes an AAFN?

- Social cooperation
- Producers: Independence from mainstream agro-industrial system
- More environmentally/socially benign production methods
- Consumers: active citizenship

Public goods produced

- Social justice/solidarity bw producer and consumer
- Environmental improvement
- Local economic benefits
- Local heritage

Socio-historical environment in Hungary

- Loss of farmers skills in marketing and management
- General weaknesses of citizen participation
- Food and drink cca. 30% of household spendings
- Lifestyle-focused environmental movements emerging

AAFNs can take various forms...

Box schemes



Community gardens



Farmers' markets



On-farm sales



Agri-eco tourism



Current examples in Hungary

- Local markets surviving
- Local food festivals
- Box schemes
- Buyers groups
- Agro-eco tourism
- „Pick-it yourself”

Policy environment

- CAP first pillar payments and CMO's
- CAP second pillar: rural development programmes
- Hygienic regulations
- Trade laws
- Later to be expanded to public procurement, biodiversity protection

CAP first pillar

- Accession conditions in Copenhagen: inferior direct payments with „top-up“
- SAPS scheme applied
- No modulation, not even after 2013
- More analysis needed on CMO's (dairy quota) and subsidy schemes (SPS)

CAP second pillar

- 2004-06: NRDP and ARDOP
- Lip service to local food systems
- Detailing, execution: widely criticised
- 2007-13: NHRDP
- AAFNs are not among proclaimed priorities
- Funds distributed accordingly

Hygiene regulations I.

- 2004-06: little effort to lighten burdens for small scale producers
- In this period: informal marketing channels
- 2006: 3 min. joint decree for small scale food production, processing and marketing

Problem points of the smallholders decree

- Dairy and processed meat can only be sold directly to consumers
- On-farm slaughter only allowed for poultry and rabbit
- Selling of fresh meat only for poultry and rabbit
- Producers can only sell their own produce

Trading regulations

- Status of primary producers
- January 2008: obligation for tax number, give invoice
- Exemption for the lowest income group
- Market regulation in contradiction with the small scale producers' decree

Next steps

- Interviews with various stakeholders
- Comparative analysis on European level
- Policy proposals
- Future research agenda setting