

Connecting up: Sustainable Food Communities

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If small is beautiful then.....?

- MLFW over 1500 new community food enterprises ...resilient & vibrant local food economies?
- Economies of scale; product range and volumes, shared distribution and logistics
- Retaining the ethical, environmental and social objectives eg. SUMA, Essential Trading, UK; Bio-Coop, France



Bio-Coop: a scaled up approach

- Multi-stakeholder cooperative
- National distribution / Logistics – 4 regional platforms
- Federation of 320 organic shops – 15% of organic market
- Approx 80:20 national: local produce



Is scaling up really connecting up?



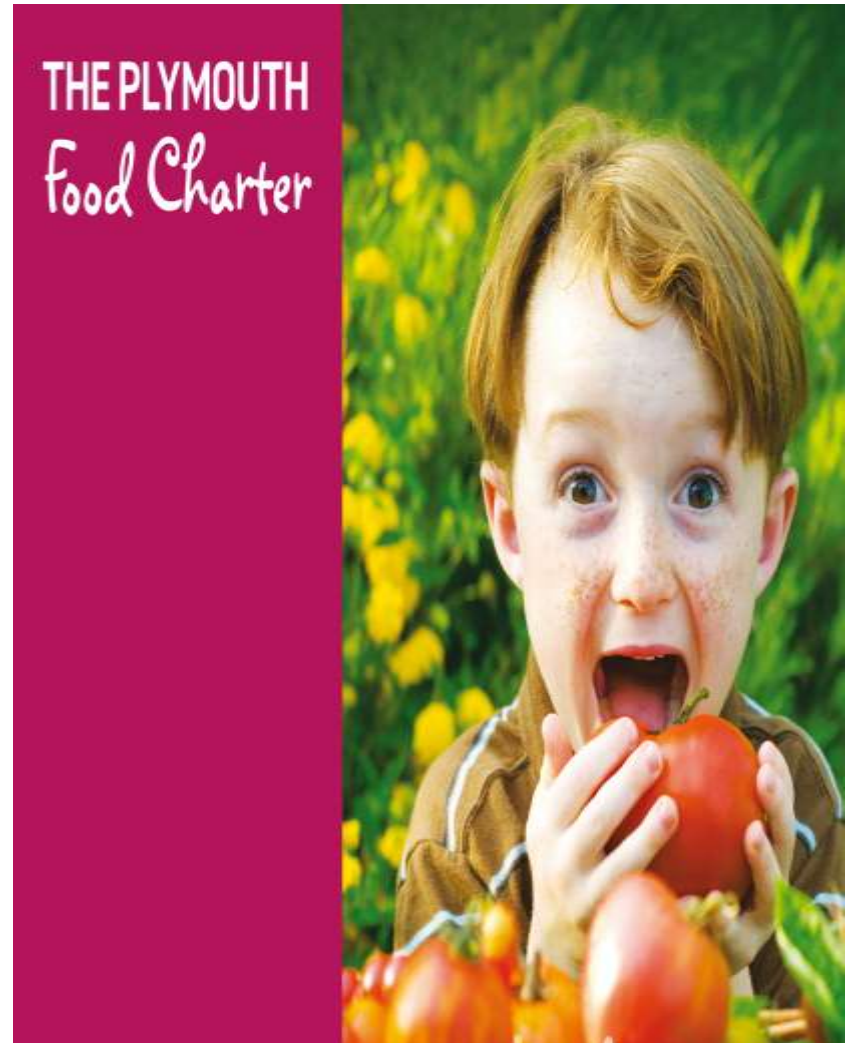
Transition Penwith Food Group, Cornwall – six food enterprises, collaborating; food directory – network, marketing; trade links

Exeter, Devon – 7 community food enterprises share skills and resources (*ref. SEARS*)

GAS, Italy – bottom up buying group network, website, producer contracts, 2,000 groups, 100,000 people
www.retegas.org

Sustainable Food City Plymouth: a joined up approach

- City-wide cross sector partnership 'Food Plymouth' – integrated approach to food
- Plymouth Food Charter- 10 ambitions - inclusive vehicle to raise awareness and encourage city wide participation
- Action Plan – key outcomes and actions to support : thriving local food economy, resilient communities, health & wellbeing, learning and skills, eco-footprint



What could the future look like?

- **Mondragon, Basque region, Spain:** 256 linked worker cooperatives
- **Our vision:** UK wide cooperative network of buying groups and ind. retailers supplied by local producers and national wholesalers /distributors
- **Multi-stakeholder social enterprises & cooperatives:** working with each other, alongside private & public sector



Thank you - comments & questions welcome 😊

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**Sustainable Food Cities;
Organic Buying Groups;
Community Supported
Agriculture**

www.soilassociation.org

**Local Food Systems,
Making Local Food Work**

www.makinglocalfoodwork.co.uk



Soil Association
healthy soil, healthy people, healthy planet