

Community Food Enterprise



OVERVIEW

Community Food Enterprise: Local Success in a Global Marketplace is a jointly funded initiative of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation exploring emerging evidence that local ownership is a fundamental building block for long-term prosperity.

The 18-month research effort will culminate in a book published by the Wallace Center, presenting two dozen case studies for local ownership of food enterprises from around the globe. The selected enterprises, half domestic and half international, will show how global markets are shifting in favor of local food, small farmers, and food entrepreneurs.

The findings will be circulated through a major outreach and communications campaign that will:

- Build a working global network among local food practitioners and thinkers;
- Raise awareness among key decision makers, opinion leaders and development specialists worldwide, whether in government, industry, or philanthropy about the premise of local food businesses; and
- Inform entrepreneurs in rich and poor countries alike of successful (and unsuccessful) local business models.

A second stage of the project will promote a global brain trust of leading thinkers and doers who can expand and improve vi-

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY-OWNED FOOD ENTERPRISE?

A community-owned food enterprise (CFE) refers to any business, whether for-profit or nonprofit, in which ownership and control is locally based. This definition encompasses the following characteristics:

Local Ownership— Local owners of a CFE can be individuals, shareholders, partners, proprietors, or cooperative members. They also can be local institutions, including businesses, banks, investment funds, churches or charities. Some ownership in a CFE can be held by a local public agency, though not a majority.

Local Control— A CFE places most of the legal rights and responsibilities of the company in local hands (that is, 50% or more). It includes locally-controlled franchises and regionally proximate chains.

Proximity— Majority ownership of a CFE should reside in the smallest geographically defined jurisdiction— whether state, county, city, town or village— that enjoys real legal authority. In some dense urban settings a locality could be a district extending a few square miles, while in a sparsely populated region a locality can comprise hundreds of square miles.

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Economic Sustainability— A CFE aims to achieve economic sustainability and does not rely on grants or government subsidies.

Fair Food— Food produced and sold by a CFE should be grown in a way that respects and protects the environment, provides safe and healthy food for communities, and adds economic and social value to rural and urban communities.

This effort is overseen by John Fisk, Director of the Wallace Center at Winrock International, with research and analysis from Michael Shuman, author and Director of Research and Public Policy at the Business Alliance for Local Living Economies (BALLE). The communications strategy is being spearheaded by Anthony Garrett and Associates.

FEATURED ENTERPRISES

U.S.

California: Swanton Berry Farm

Louisiana: Anna Marie Seafood

Michigan: Zingerman's Community of Businesses

Minnesota: Lorentz Meats

Mississippi: Indian Springs Farmers Association

North Carolina: Weaver Street Market

Oklahoma: Oklahoma Food Coop

New York: Greenmarkets

Pennsylvania: White Dog Café

Vermont: Intervale Center

Virginia: Appalachian Sustainable Development's Appalachian Harvest

Wisconsin: Organic Valley Family of Farms

International

Canada: Akiwenzie's Fish & More

Croatia: The Mavrovic Companies

Ghana: Kuapa Kokoo

India: Sunstar Overseas Ltd

Malawi: Kasinthula Cane Growers Cooperative

Morocco: Ajddigue Women's Argan Cooperative

Nepal: Panchakanya Agriculture Cooperative, Ltd

Paraguay: Fundación Paraguaya's Self-Sufficient Organic Farm School

Philippines: National Onion Growers Cooperative Marketing Association (NOGROCOMA)

Sri Lanka: Cargills (Ceylon) Ltd

Thailand: Cabbages & Condoms

Zambia: Sylva Professional Catering Services Limited

For further information about Community Food Enterprise, including project updates, or to sign up for email updates, please visit www.wallacecenter.org/CFE

The **Wallace Center** supports entrepreneurs and communities as they build a new, 21st century food system that is healthier for people, the environment, and the economy. The Center builds and strengthens links in the emerging chain of businesses and civic efforts focused on making good food—healthy, green, fair, affordable food—an everyday reality in every community. **Winrock International** is a non-profit organization that works with people in the United States and around the world to empower the disadvantaged, increase economic opportunity, and sustain natural resources.

