

# Community Forum on Food Security and the Social Economy

Greenwich, Nova Scotia

November 7th, 2007

Project # 3.2

## Sub Node Three Planning Committee Members:

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**Social Economy and Sustainability Research Network**  
**Partenariat sur l'économie sociale et la durabilité**



# Introduction

## Goals

- Disseminate findings of the research *Good Food Box: Current and Potential Contributions to the Social Economy* research project
- Share information about key projects happening in the region
- Identify key issues of concern related to food security and the social economy
- Explore opportunities and priorities for future research and action.
- Generate interest and identify key issues of concern and priorities for further research and action.

## Participants

- The forum brought together:
    - farmers
    - representatives from local community organizations
    - researchers
    - students
    - public health staff, and
    - community members
    - local politicians
- those already involved or with an interest in community food security and food systems in the Annapolis, Kings and Hants Counties, NS.



# Background and Rationale

## Specific Objectives:

- Clarify the relationship between community food security (CFS) and the social economy (SE)
- Gain understanding of CFS and how different local groups are involved
- Gain shared understanding of the barriers to creating a food secure community
- Identify resources and facilitate dialogue around opportunities to building CFS
- Generate action to help support food security in our local community
- Explore how the Social Economy and Sustainability Network can support community mobilization on food security and the social economy in Kings, Hants, & Annapolis Counties.

These objectives contribute to the SES/ESD Network's common understanding of *Community Mobilization around Issues of Common Concern: Food Security* – especially what inputs are needed to overcome obstacles and build capacity.

In addition, the forum familiarized food security practitioners and advocates with the social economy as a framework.



The logo for the Kids Action Program features a colorful illustration of diverse children and adults engaged in various activities like reading and playing. The text 'Kids Action Program' is written in a playful, multi-colored font above the illustration.

# Community/University Collaboration (partnership)

- Community, university and student partners involved with Sub Node Three were involved in the planning, development, implementation and evaluation of the Forum.
- All partners shared anticipated outcomes of:
  - knowledge mobilization within and beyond the partnership to the broader audience representatives;
  - Identification of priority action areas for building food security; and
  - Development of a call for proposals to initiate or support projects working in the priority action areas



# Forum Agenda

1. Introductory presentations to set the scene:
  - o What is Food Security? The Social Economy?
  - o Food Security and the Social Economy in Nova Scotia
  - o Introduction to 'A Continuum of Food Security Strategies'
2. Four facilitated 'break-out' groups to discuss and identify opportunities and barriers.
3. Identified opportunities and barriers then grouped into four main **priority action areas**.
3. Each priority action area became an Action Planning Group to draft concrete actions, by answering the following questions:
  - What actions need to happen to move this opportunity forward?
  - Who will make sure that each action happens?
  - Who should participate in the action?
  - What is the first next step and who will take responsibility for making it happen?



# Main Findings To Date

Four **priority action areas** were identified:

1. Education: Children; Public Awareness
2. Food Box Program: Expansion
3. Schools Groups: Building Partnerships
4. Agricultural Community and Non-Profit Organizations: Increasing Opportunities for Dialogue



# Deliverables (completed & planned)

## Presentations

- MSVU Lunch and Learn (Nov 07)
- MSVU Research Open House (Feb 08)
- Canadian Association of Food Studies Session on Food Security and the Social Economy (May 08)

## Reports

- Summary report including evaluation feedback

Call for Proposals (Apr 08)



# How Students Benefited from the Project

- Involvement:
  - MSVU Dietetic Intern, May - Aug, 2007
  - 2 SN3 Graduate RAs, Jan 2007- Oct 2008
  - 2 Acadia University Dietetic Interns
- Skills gained by students
  - Communication and presentation
  - Event Planning
  - Knowledge of the social economy and CSERP
  - Writing and reviewing research proposals



# Conclusions and Next Steps

- Call for research proposals addressing priority action areas (Apr 08)
- Selection and funding of proposals (Jun 08)
- Currently 3 new research projects underway covering each of these priority areas and 1 under development
- Follow up Forum being planned for Winter 09

