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Polish Innovation Foundation – Multimedia campaign Eat Wisely, Know What You Eat
– Short Food Supply Chains a source of innovation for agricultural and rural development.

Compendium of good practice in organising Short Food supply Chains (SFCs)¹

Summary

This Compendium of good practice presents a review of various organizational solutions for Short Food Chain (SFC) systems, which are used in Poland and internationally. There is no one ideal model or solution. SFC organisers must develop their own organisational solutions, taking advantage of the experience and solutions, which have been tested in the marketplace. Every successful SFC venture is based on adapting available solutions to the specifics, constraints and capabilities of the organisers, but also depends on working out own solutions. The experiences of SFC suggest that IT solutions are essential for achieving scale and sustainability of operations.

The Good Practice examples included in this Compendium seek to answer the following question: **What are the practical possibilities available to a small producer using non-industrial methods, to sell his/her products in the marketplace, so as to assure significant and regular income?**

The examples of good practice from Poland and internationally, which are presented in this report Focus on the following organisational solutions:

- Shops in rural areas, including on-farm shops
- Local farmers' markets
- Cooperatives
- Organisational innovations
- IT platforms

The good practice examples of IT platforms suggest that these need to be adapted to the changes taking place on the side of consumers, as well as to the circumstances and specifics of small and geographically-dispersed small farms. Solutions relating to logistics and sales based on own resources of the farmer or producer (packing, delivery) or of participating consumers – as in the case of cooperatives – have limited scope for scale-up, as their principal cost is the time and engagement of the produce in logistics and sales. Automation in the form of vending machines is a promising direction for scaling, but this still requires logistics solutions. A promising solution in this regard lies in information platforms that seek to make more efficient use of the logistical resources available from producers and consumers participating in a given SFC system.

¹ The organisation responsible for the content of this report is the Polish Innovation Foundation, which prepared this report as part of the project 'Multimedia Campaign Eat Wisely, Know What You Eat – Short Food Chains as sources of innovation for agricultural and rural development'. The author is Maria Gorzkowska-Mbeda from the IsoTech company, who prepared this report on the basis of materials made available by the Polish Environmental Partnership Foundation, the Polish Rural Forum and the Agricultural Advisory Centre in Minikow.