

## **CFS Movement Strengths, Challenges and Opportunities**

*From the CFSC Membership Meeting, Sunday Nov. 11, 2007. See <http://www.foodsecurity.org> for more information about the meeting.*

### **CHALLENGES**

#### Corporate control and concentration

Corporate concentration, \$ still buys things, Educating big business to see how food involves them, obesity as individual concern/problem, GMOs, corporate control of food systems

#### Including Multiple Sectors in the Food System

Framing Food issues in macro system ways to maximize outreach

Alliance building vs. Conflict

Diversity

Both/and alternatives

Multiple sectors use different languages – be relevant to each other

Multiple stakeholders inclusion and responsiveness

People not recognizing connections to food

Spiritual aspect of food gone

#### Building capacity and leadership development

Capacity, mentoring and leadership

How do we translate the demand for local product into citizen activism.

How to promote asset-based solutions

#### Cheap Food Policy & Mentality

Problems of cheap food – balance of wanting fair wage for farmers and affordable food

Changing Values around food prices/cheap food mentality

Cheap food rules

Problem of cheap food policies meeting needs of low-income folks and farms.

#### Funding

Funding new policies to become reality

Funding

Conflicts of interest (due to funding)

Competing priorities, agendas, funding streams

Limited funding streams and competitions

Sustainability Tax

#### Global Warming & Climate Change

Ground Water

Green solutions are very small

Global warming

Climate Change

#### Increasing youth participation

Increasing youth involvement and helping them earn and income

#### Co-option of terms

Co-option of local (walmarting)

Cop-opting of issues of mission and vision

Oppressors o-opting the work we've done

Polarization of local

Co-option of local

How keep meta-level infrastructure, supporting CFS concepts

Buying power of mainstream food system

Buy media

Looking at racism, classicism in the movement

Need analysis of race, poverty and ethnicity in the food system

Not dealing equitably with communities, especially those of color

Racism, Classicism, xenophobia

Limited power and influence – diversity within power

People most impacted (communities of color) are left out

Dynamics of white privilege in leadership

Intentional outreach to bring people of color into the movement

Emergency Food System is not a solution to Hunger

Blinders about real solutions to hunger

Institutionalized emergency food system

Food preparation skills and knowledge

Knowledge food prep, health, nutrition

Lack of interest and skills in food prep

Move towards processing in the name of food safety

Farmers and farmland infrastructure

Not enough farmers and farm land

Not enough infrastructure

Number of declining farmers

Farmer and farmland lost

Recreating infrastructure

Food Processing of local food

Not enough local product to meet demand

Saving farms and farm land

Fair prices and access for farmers

Saving farmers and growing new farmers, credit, real access, affordable

Growth of the community food movement without Coordination

How act and react as a movement to issues

Keeping control of the process

Demand to demonstrate quick successes

Limits ability to be strategic, long-term thinking

Growth of movement without coordination

Access of local food for everyone

Access to local, healthy food by all sectors

Disparities of power and wealth

Tension of affordability of local food

Not creating 2-tiered food system

Perceptual reality that local food is for elite

Size/scale of what we are trying to change

Developing a shared vision for the movement

Developing and sustaining a shared vision for the movement

Cannibalism – backstabbing within coalitions

Lack of Economic Data & Understandability

Lack of data for problems and solutions (especially with policy)  
Lack of hard data to prove our case with using local for economic development, health, etc.  
Real price of food and health  
Need to prove outcomes  
True economic viability – institutional beyond single person  
Inclusively of all communities in the Movement  
Trying to include all communities  
Multiple meanings of terminology  
Reaching engaging most affected communities  
Shared language – how we communicate inclusively  
How to create an inclusive movement  
Common understanding of terms  
Empowering various constituencies  
Helping food insecure to understand and get involved.

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

### Future Farmers

Want policy in place for people to be able to start farming  
Better policy administration for Future farmers  
Latest agriculture census – immigrant farmers growing fast  
Beginning farmers

### Cultural Awareness of Food

Cultural, social, and sacred aspects of food  
Activism through media –using media to get message across around local food  
Exposing real costs of food system  
Framing food issues in macro systems way to maximize outreach/understanding and personal responsibility  
People are sacred of not knowing where food comes from  
Communication tools available now  
Connecting policies to presidential campaign  
2008 Election issues on the table  
Living wage means to buy food  
Media and marketing of issues  
Growth in local food interest  
Media attention to local food  
Media awareness local food  
Media public interest  
Piggy-back onto the increased popularity of local and environment  
Demands for local exceeds production  
Consumer demand for local food  
Huge demand for local product  
From FAD to performance  
Positive response - from multiple interests –to good food  
Linking with other major movements and issue areas (global warming, physical activity)  
Health/ag, Climate nexus

Local food as major solution to crises: peak oil, climate change, water, obesity  
Farm bill content and energy  
Global warming  
Multi-sector interest in food issues  
Alliance of food sector and other issues real strong  
Obesity and global warming – opportunity for us to frame issues around connections to food  
Work with planning community to incorporate food issues  
Coalesce similar efforts (environmental, health, race) toward common goals  
Target diverse sectors to engage in food system work  
Increase interest from health community  
Food security regional and state alignment of issues  
Build on other movements (grow your own, climate change) and use as an entry point for CFS  
Connect with physical activity folks  
Build connections among multiple sectors  
Conference of Food Nutrition and Health initiated in 2009  
Changing the balance of power – democracy, community empowerment, thinking of food Democracy  
Creating a solidarity model  
Community empowerment  
Shifting the pendulum of power  
Social movement involves empowering beneficiaries  
Mid-scale farmers can be major part of food system solutions  
New Political Regime  
Including stakeholders in the process  
Food as human right  
Changing the national conversation, food security  
Immigrant rights movement  
Change through market mechanisms  
Working with corporations  
Multiple bottom line projects  
Food prices – learn from and scale up innovations  
Urban agriculture for job skills  
Connect local food to economic development  
Capture local food dollars in the community  
Reconnect farmers with successful established distribution models  
Youth farmers markets  
Farm to school  
Food production and processing – distribution at the local level  
Focus on farmers – working on supply side developing ideas  
Farm level food handling and distribution and safety  
Change through policy – from federal state and local  
National conversation will change  
Local state and federal policy organizing work  
State and federal policy  
Continued funding through CFP grants  
Federal policy  
Local food policy councils

Using available farmland for healthy food and diversity  
Develop political funding and strategy beyond farm bill  
Increased interest in the farm bill  
Looking beyond the farm bills – child nutrition authorization  
From local to Federal  
Diversity expand and change the movement – Increasing the diversity of leaders in this movement  
Bring in Youth  
Regions feeding cities  
Collective knowledge working together  
Engaging more farmers into the process  
Recognizing and building upon leadership in marginalized communities  
Anti-hunger commodity dependence  
Direct pathway for newcomers to be involved in the CFS movement  
Recognize and bring in leadership in the communities