



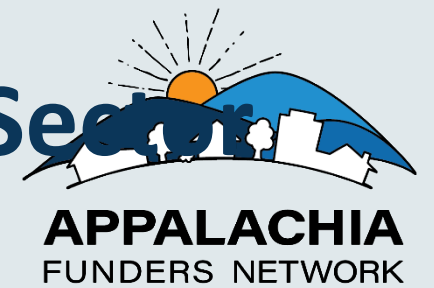
Food & Ag Systems Working Group

Presenter:
Christine Laporte, Sacharuna
Foundation



Appalachia Funders
NETWORK

The Power & Potential of the Food & Ag Sector



Intersection and Alignment:

- Health: Food access, diet, nutrition, and health
- Energy & Natural Resources: conservation, soil & water, carbon capture and energy production, land restoration, agroforestry/forest farming, farmland preservation
- Community Capacity: local engagement, leadership development, and small business
- Arts & Culture: foodways & farming heritage, local identity, agritourism

Economic Impact (CAN data from 2016)

- ✓ \$15.5 Million in sales by local producers
- ✓ \$10.9 Million in purchases by wholesale and institutional buyers
- ✓ \$1.7 Million in investment by local food & farm businesses
- ✓ 964 production-related jobs, including 797 year-round jobs

The role of funders in the Food & Ag sector



Non-Financial: support and participate in peer learning with practitioners, strategy development, advocacy, research, aligning investment approaches with other funders

Financial: strengthen the support ecosystem that will make this sector thrive and produce viable business and livelihoods:

- General operating funding to support organizational development, capacity-building, community organizing, and collaboration
- Project funding to support technical assistance, training, shared infrastructure, branding, and market development

Create the enabling environment for larger-scale investment and impact!

Focus Areas for Investment



- Agricultural Production
- Processing, Aggregation, and Distribution
- Food Access

These interconnected strategies focus grantmaking on increasing the capacity of this sector to absorb investment capital

Agricultural Production



Core components: Training, technical assistance, certification, access to capital, infrastructure, market development, branding

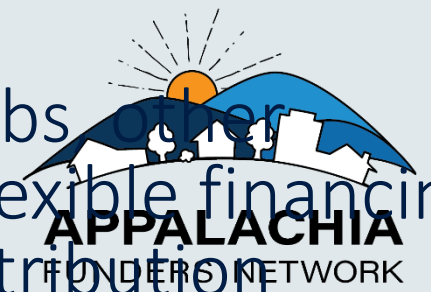


Results: Increased sales, job creation, business growth, more new and beginning farmers, land rights and farmland conservation

Leverage: \$1.2 Million POWER grant for the CAN project “Growing Food System Capacity and Scaling Economic Impact”

Processing, Aggregation, and Distribution

Core components: Food hubs, processing facilities and equipment, flexible financing, logistical management, distribution, prototyping, commercial/institutional partner development



Results: More value-added production, pathways to scale for growing food & farm businesses, sector efficiencies, regional collaboration

Leverage: \$1.5 Million POWER grant for the Appalachian Sustainable Development project “The Central Appalachian Food Enterprise Corridor”



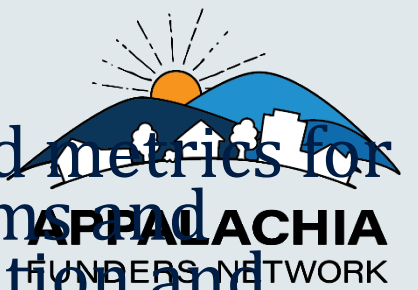
Food Access



Core components: Impact data and metrics for rural contexts, cost-sharing programs and incentives for fresh local food, donation and “seconds” purchasing programs with food banks & pantries, produce prescription programs, consumer education, farm to school efforts

Results: Access to affordable healthy food for low-income families, increased markets for local producers, improved diets and nutrition, public health outcomes

Leverage: FASWG Case Studies project on innovative approaches; CAN-Community Farm Alliance POWER proposal to replicate promising models



Opportunities for Engagement - 2018



- Learning calls around Farm Bill Advocacy, aggregation & distribution, craft beverage value chains
- Food Access case studies project
- Research, publications, convening

Join us tomorrow to set direction going forward!