

Consumption | Individual communication

IC - (21060) - URBAN AND CAMPUS FOOD SYSTEM ALTERNATIVES AS SITES OF TRANSFORMATION AND CLIMATE ACTION

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Background and objectives

The industrialized, carbon-intensive food system exacerbates climate change, perpetuates social inequity and food insecurity, and threatens biodiversity. The present work seeks to propel paradigmatic shift in urban food system practices by utilizing the role of universities as urban centres of social and scientific innovation. We look at the feedback between pedagogy and governance as a means to shift students' relationship to food system and apply real change to surrounding communities, with a focus on mitigating climate change impact and empowering local food sovereignty as a means of climate adaptation.

Process and methods (for empirical research)

This project is a multi-year collaboration between postsecondary campuses across the City of Toronto examining key urban garden community organizations across Canada, that will generate findings, outputs and policy recommendations relevant to the pursuit of urban food and climate justice. It will involve a series of surveys, interviews and focus groups that will allow us to synthesize current strategies of innovation at pedagogical CFGS. We also draw data from Campus Farms Canada, a national network of campus growing space leaders from across Canada (co-founded by Classens).

Main results (or main arguments in the case of critical reviews)

We will present on how these spaces leverage education (broadly defined) to empower a new generation of eaters, growers, organizers, activists and citizens; how these activities spill out from campuses to effect broader urban change through policy and other levers; how CFGS can inform policy and other movement building initiatives.

Implications for research and practice/policy | Importance and originality of the contribution

This work will provide a framework for effective pedagogical-policy relations of food system transformation relevant to a variety of urban centres and scholarly communities. By the end of this multi-year study, policies will be co-created with our research participants and animated among local policy makers in collaboration with project partners. The project will also yield various pedagogical materials designed to emphasize equity, local food innovation, and climate action.

Palavras-chave : campus gardens, climate adaptation, food system innovation