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Food Security and Sustainability

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Using strategic development planning for agriculture to advance food security in agricultural territories in and around cities

The development of Food Belts of different kinds around an increasing number of cities (e.g. in Belgium, France and Canada) relates to the increasing importance given to local foodstuffs by several segments of the market for foodstuffs. How to put in place a Food Belt? There are several options and the introduction to this workshop will outline several of them. But the focus of the workshop will be on how to use a process known as strategic development planning involving farmers, social organizations and groups of citizens. The potential steps in this process will be presented and then the participants in the workshop will be asked to respond to a set of fundamental questions (in small groups of 5 to 6 participants) about the surroundings of one of the cities that they know where a Food Belt has yet to be put in place. The conclusions will of the different groups will be shared and a set of conclusions about how to start the strategic planning process for a Food Belt will be developed.

Biography

Christopher Bryant has almost 50 years of research experience in peri-urban agriculture (France, Canada and other countries) and 26 years research experience in adaptation of agriculture to climate change and variability as well as 30 years' experience in community development. He was a Professor in Geography, University of Waterloo for 20 years and Professor in Géographie, Université de Montréal for 24 years. He is also an Adjunct Professor in the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development at the University of Guelph, Canada.

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