

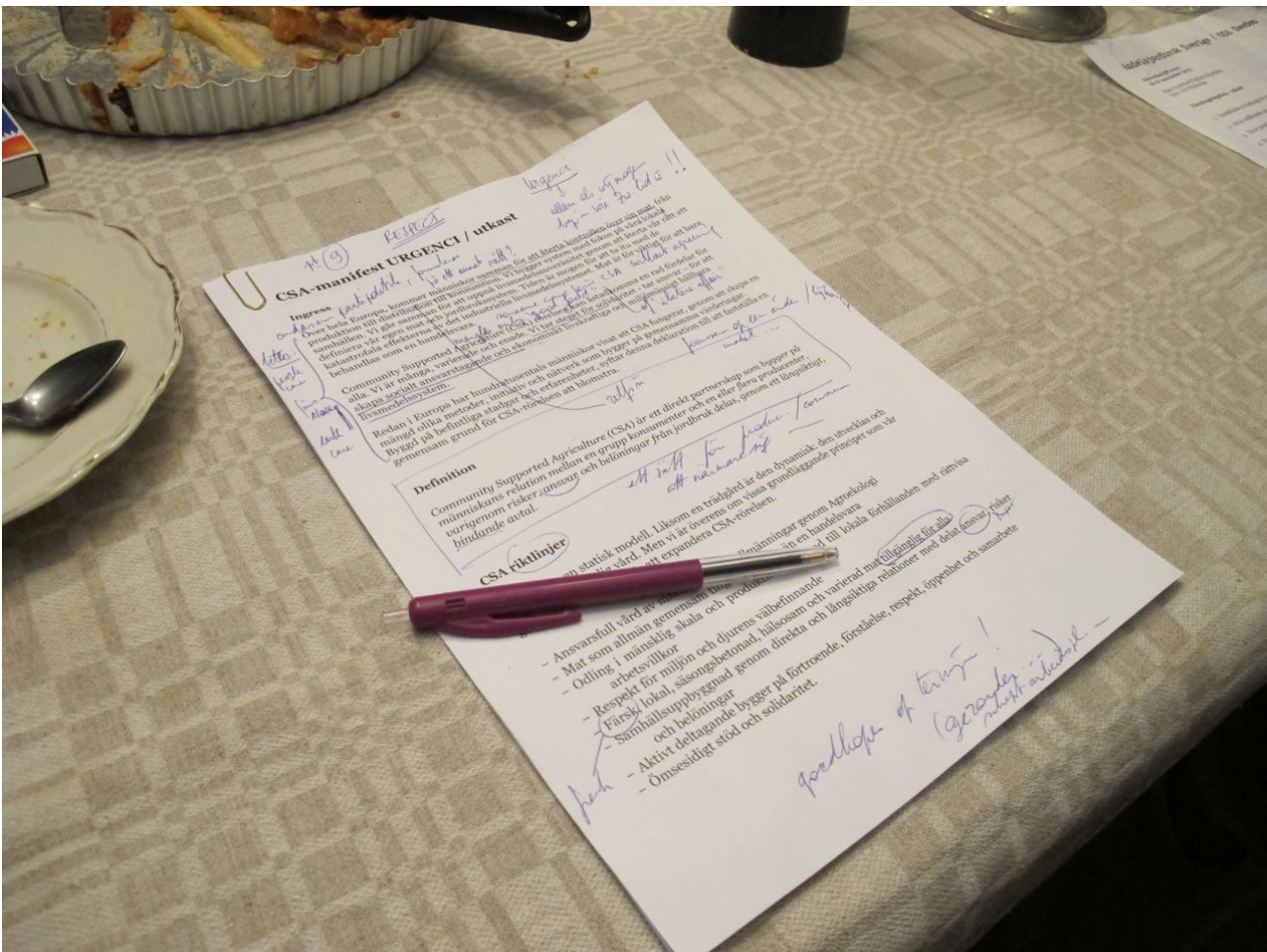
URGENCI – CSA Declaration draft

National consultation Sweden, 26-27 december 2015

Currently there's nine CSA's active in Sweden. The first CSA started in 2001. All other initiatives started in the period 2013-2015. On 26 and 27 november 2015, seven CSA-initiatives gathered in the south-east of Sweden, and met each other for the first time. The two others were unable to participate. Beforehand, all received a translation into Swedish of the current European CSA Charter's draft.

The CSA's presented themselves, discussed their set-up, members/shareholders, land, production, planning, shares and economy. They went through the current draft version of the European CSA Charter, to help shaping the European CSA-network, building on shared values. Finally they decided to start the Swedish network association “Andelsjordbruk Sverige / CSA Sweden. Generally speaking, they decided to make use of Urgenci's definition.

While discussing the current draft version of the European CSA Charter they decided to go through the document line by line, paragraph by paragraph. The remarks and suggestions, however, were placed directly in the text. First in Swedish, then back to English.



Most participants had difficulties with the current preamble, and wanted to change what is in Sweden considered to be “party political wording”, by statements with a more neutral tone.

From the Urgenci draft version (preamble):

- “(...) to regain control over their food (...)”
- “(...) reclaiming the right to our own food (...)”
- “(...) the time is ripe to address the disastrous effects (...)”
- “(...) stepping up in solidarity (...)”

Proposal from the national consultation in Sweden to replace loaded terms by more neutral/objective phrasing:

- “Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) creates **resilient systems** based on their respective local communities.”
- “Through CSA, we create ecologically, socially and economically **sustainable food systems**.”
- “Through CSA, farms and lands are managed in an economically and ecologically sustainable manner, **with a large measure of concern and social responsibility**.”

From the Urgenci draft version (preamble):

“Already in Europe hundreds of thousands of people have proven that CSA works, by creating a variety of practices, initiatives and networks, based on common values.”

Proposal from the national consultation in Sweden:

*“Already in Europe hundreds of thousands of people have proven that CSA works, by creating a variety of practices, initiatives and networks, **based on common values**.”*

Reason: the CSA-initiatives in Sweden are faced with participants/shareholders/eaters who have other reasons to participate than political, and who don't necessarily share common values. The reason for participating in a CSA-initiative is simply e.g. access to ecologically grown raw food, access to old vegetable varieties unavailable in stores.

From the Urgenci draft version (definition):

“Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a direct partnership based on the human relationship between a group of consumers and one or several producer(s), whereby the risks, responsibilities and rewards of farming are shared, through a long-term, binding agreement.”

All CSA-initiatives in Sweden have three characteristics in common: locally-produced, paid ahead, weekly delivery or harvest. They tend to share risks and rewards, but not necessarily to share responsibilities. (Alternatively, we could say that “sharing responsibilities” is perceived as being too hollow and in need of further elaboration.)

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From the Urgenci draft version (guiding principles):

- “Fresh, local, seasonal, healthy and diverse food accessible to all”

Swedish proposal:

- “Fresh, local, seasonal, healthy and diverse food **accessible to all**”