



URGENCI

THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR
COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE

Presentation of the members of the URGENCI Delegation:

- **M. Oumar Diabaté, Mali**

Trained as a veterinary in the Soviet Union (Kazakhstan, Latvia, Moscow) in the late 1980s, Oumar Diabaté later returned to his homeland, Mali, and started family farming to survive while he was waiting for the recognition of his diplomas. Thanks to the hands-on experience he gained in vegetable growing, Oumar became several years ago a recognized trainer in agroecology.

Oumar is now focusing on a Local Food Stalls –project: the goal is to develop direct sales on Bamako markets for local small producers that are just starting organic production. His experience of developing context-sensitive CSA models in sub-Saharan Africa is absolutely unique. As such, the Millenium Foundation invited him to a conference several years ago.

- **M. Anthony Gao, China**

CEO of Marketing-Optimus consultant co.Ltd Beijing, Antony is a Consumer Representative of the Shared Harvest CSA farm in Beijing that he joined in 2011 with the firm intention of promoting sustainable living. This year, he was been invited to participate in the organizing committee of the 6th international CSA Conference that will take place on next November 15-22 in China. He acts as Program Coordinator to help CSA getting better development in China.

- **Ms Erika Jones, United States of America**

Executive Director of FairShare CSA Coalition in Madison, Wisconsin, a non-profit organization working with 50 CSA farms and over 25,000 farm members to build and support the CSA movement in the region. A self-proclaimed foodie, Erika joined her first CSA in 2006 while living in Berkeley, Calif. She returned to her native Wisconsin to pursue her interests in sustainable agriculture and food policy while completing her Master's degree through the La Follette School of Public Affairs at UW Madison. She is a committed advocate for creating a sustainable and just local food system and is excited to be part of this movement in her role with FairShare. Her other passions include cooking, eating, food preservation and craft beer.

- **Ms Isabelle St-Germain, Québec**

Deputy director of the NGO Equiterre focusing on ecological agriculture, fair trade, ecological transport and energy efficiency in Québec. Isabelle, BSc in biology, has been in a leadership role at Equiterre since joining the team in 1998 and she is responsible for all of the education and demonstration projects. She has initiated and developed awareness-raising campaigns and

environmental pilot projects, and overseen the publication of many reference documents.

Isabelle specializes in short food supply chains – a relationship between farmer and consumer where there is no more than one middleman – an expertise that she's applied to her work in community supported agriculture (CSA), fair trade and bringing local food into our hospitals, daycares and other institutions. An urban cyclist for two decades, she is also an advocate of active transportation.

- **Ms Narumi Yoshikawa, Japan**

Phd. of Agricultural Economy, vice manager and Lecturer of Waseda Environmental Institution of Waseda University, she's the Director of Global Environmental Forum.

After working to establish "public participation" for local ecological agriculture and welfare enhancement support program of farmers, completed co-research about rural ecological agriculture under with Xi'an Jiaotong University of China for two years under the mission of Japan Foundation. Started the education program for sustainable local agricultural development in Asia from 2008 in Japan. Recently tried to establish a partnership between urban and rural residence, create shared value of Agricultural Economy.

- **Ms Judith Hitchman, Ireland/France,**

Advocacy officer of the international CSA network Urgenci, she's very active bringing the CSA cause in international arenas among food sovereignty and solidarity economy activists. Since 2011, she's been representing Urgenci in the Civil Society Mechanism of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) –among other many activities. She has taken position on a number of issues that are important for CSA producers and consumers all over the world. Her report about the way CSA is increasingly identified and supported by some of the international institutions, but also increasingly targeted by corporate lobbies, might be a key element demonstrating the necessity of CSA networks.

- **Andrea Calori, Italy**

Milan Food **Policy** Project Manager since 2014, Andrea is an associate professor in urban planning at Polytechnic in Milano. Additionally, he has been working for several years now as a consultant on local food systems for municipalities in Europe and Latin America. His specialization is on designing food hubs and mapping to facilitate the connections between producers and consumers. Andrea can document the useful connections between public agencies and CSA networks. He is also one of the leaders of the GAS movement in Italy (GAS stands for Gruppo di Acquisto solidale, the Italian version of CSA) and, as such, was elected president of the International Committee of Urgenci in February 2010 in Kobe, Japan.

- **M. Jocelyn Parot, France**

Jocelyn has been working 6 years already as the General Secretary of Urgenci. Urgenci with its allies has been instrumental in offering a solid frame for face-to-face, farmers-to-farmers and consumers' meetings around the globe. The most extensive exchange programs have been led in Europe:

during the past 6 years, 70 missions and information tours have taken place in 20 different countries. CSA stakeholders have been offered the opportunity to travel abroad to share their experience: more than 350 international travels have been sponsored. These exchanges kept down to earth, no less than 200 farms have been visited, and 700 local farmers met. Based on the lessons learnt from these multilateral peer-based exchanges, Jocelyn is willing to share his vision of a worldwide CSA movement.

- **Ms Isabel Alvarez Vispo, Basque country**

Granddaughter and daughter of Galician peasants emigrated to Switzerland. Originally a teacher, she's been engaged for 8 years now on the food sovereignty issue. Since 2010, she works for the EHNE Bizkaia farmers union (that is part of COAG and La Via Campesina), developing Nekasarea, a network of groups of food production and consumption, and working on the field for training and gender sensitization. She participates in the working group on "Common Goods" of La Via Campesina Europe, mainly on the issue of peasant seeds.

- **Ms Perenyi Zsofia, Hungary**

International project coordinator and expert at TVE (Tudatos Vasarlok Kozhasznu Egyesulete, Association of Conscious Consumers) since 2009, Zsofi has an extensive experience in environmental education programmes and is in charge of developing the CSA project in Hungary.

Graduated as agricultural environmental management engineer, she's an active Board member of the European Network on CSA and Distribution Systems for Food Sovereignty since 2012 and of the Hungarian Food Sovereignty Network (2011). In 2013 facilitated more than 5 workshops and gave several presentations about CSA.

- **M. Stephan Pabst – Austria**

Activist at Agrar-Attac Austria and academic, graduated from a Master of Science at BoKU (Universität für Bodenkultur, Institut für nachhaltige Wirtschaftsentwicklung) in Vienna, Stephan is investigating on Analysing Food Citizenship in Austria: How does Community Supported Agriculture encourage political education and action?

- **Ms Claire Tauty - France**

Founding president of the regional AMAP network of Picardie (FAMAPP - Fédération des Associations de Maintien de l'Agriculture Paysanne de Picardie) since 2006, Claire is also Board member of the French MIRAMAP (Inter-regional AMAP network) and very active among the food justice movement in France. She is also coordinating the ETS (Echanges pour une Terre Solidaire) activities in the field of food education; and is involved in the Hungry for Rights project. Previously, she's been working for many NGOs abroad, especially in Latin America, dedicated to agricultural cooperation.