



## MODULE

# EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMPETENCE

### Unit 3 | Activity 1 Sustainable Farmer Action Planning Workshop



90min



- Pen and blank paper
- Access to internet

## DESCRIPTION

This activity will help you translate the concepts of collective action and sustainability into actionable plans that you can implement on your farm.

# THE ACTIVITY

## Sustainable Farmer Action Planning Workshop

Organise a workshop with local smallholder farmers who are interested in implementing collective action and sustainability practices on their farms.

**Introduction to Workshop:** Begin by explaining the purpose of the workshop: to transform ideas into practical actions that promote sustainability and collective impact.

**Recap Concepts:** Briefly recap the key concepts discussed earlier, such as multi-stakeholder initiatives, public-private partnerships, cross-sector collaborations, starting small, and staying informed about sustainability trends and policies.

**Identify Common Goals:** Facilitate a discussion to identify common sustainability goals among the participants. What challenges do they share? What goals do they want to achieve collectively?

**Brainstorm Action Ideas:** Encourage participants to brainstorm actionable ideas that align with the identified goals. These could include setting up community composting, organizing joint farmer's markets, or collaborating on shared irrigation systems.

**Break Down Ideas:** Work together to break down the brainstormed ideas into smaller, achievable steps. Discuss the resources, time, and expertise required for each action.

**Create Action Plans:** Assign participants to different action ideas based on their interests and expertise. Each participant should create a detailed action plan for their chosen idea, outlining tasks, timelines, required resources, and potential challenges.

**Share Action Plans:** Have each participant present their action plan to the group. Allow for feedback and suggestions to further refine the plans.

**Identify Collaborations:** During the sharing session, identify opportunities for collaboration among the participants' action plans. Are there actions that can complement or support each other?

**Discuss Challenges and Solutions:** Engage in a group discussion about potential challenges participants might face while implementing their action plans. Encourage the group to brainstorm solutions and provide insights.

**Set Milestones:** Together, establish milestones and timelines for the implementation of the action plans. This ensures that progress is monitored, and adjustments can be made if necessary.

**Commitment and Follow-Up:** Encourage participants to make a commitment to implementing their action plans. Discuss how the group can support each other and provide regular updates on progress.



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the ACORN consortium, and the Commission or Agence Erasmus+ France/Education Formation - 2E2F cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.  
Project number: 2021-1-FR01-KA220-ADU-000033693



# THE THEORY

## Creating Collective Action and Disruption: Empowering Sustainable Smallholder Farmers

In the vibrant world of smallholder sustainable farming, the power of collective action and disruption can bring sustainability to the forefront of the food industry. With the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) charting a course towards 2030, the doors have swung open to a new era of possibilities through multi-stakeholder initiatives, public-private partnerships, and cross-sector collaborations. Let's delve into how smallholder farmers can harness these strategies to make a lasting impact:

**Embrace Multi-Stakeholder Initiatives:** The SDGs have set the stage for partnerships that transcend traditional boundaries. By joining hands with governments, civil society, and the private sector, smallholder farmers can create a formidable force for change. Collaborate with local authorities, fellow farmers, NGOs, and businesses to address shared challenges, pool resources, and drive sustainable practices.

**Ignite Public-Private Partnerships:** The bridge between public and private sectors is a fertile ground for innovation. Forge alliances with local businesses, processors, and retailers through sustainable contracts. By supplying produce to local markets, you not only strengthen your community's economy but also spotlight sustainable practices, spreading the message of responsible farming far and wide.

**Cross-Sector Collaboration:** Break free from silos and explore collaborations beyond your industry. Engage with educators, researchers, and experts to exchange knowledge and pioneer fresh approaches. Cross-sector partnerships inject new insights into your practices and challenge the status quo, fostering an environment of continuous learning.

**Start Small, Dream Big:** Grand transformations often begin with small steps. Launch sustainability contracts with local businesses, committing to supply them with responsibly grown produce. These seemingly modest agreements can create ripples that inspire larger players to follow suit, resulting in a more sustainable food supply chain.

**Constant Education and Adaptation:** Staying attuned to societal sustainability trends and policies is pivotal. Invest time in continuous education—attend workshops, webinars, and seminars on sustainable farming practices. Keep your finger on the pulse of evolving policies and sustainability agendas, allowing you to align your initiatives with global goals.

**Amplify Your Voice:** Collective action is about more than just collaboration—it's about amplifying your voice. Participate in industry associations, community meetings, and public forums to advocate for sustainable farming practices. By making your voice heard, you contribute to shaping policies that support your efforts.

**Cultivate Community Bonds:** A strong community is the bedrock of collective action. Collaborate with neighbouring farmers, exchange experiences, and support each other's

sustainability initiatives. Together, you can magnify your impact and build a network that empowers all.

**Actionable Plans:** This activity helps participants turn abstract ideas into concrete action plans.

**Collaborative Efforts:** Identifying areas of collaboration enhances the collective impact of the farmers' initiatives.

**Realistic Approach:** Breaking down plans into smaller steps makes them more manageable and achievable.

**Shared Learning:** Participants learn from each other's ideas and experiences, enhancing their collective knowledge.

By engaging in this activity, smallholder farmers can actively translate the concepts of collective action and sustainability into practical steps. The shared commitment and support from the community create an environment where these plans can flourish, ultimately leading to positive change on their farms and in their wider agricultural community.

In the symphony of sustainability, smallholder farmers wield incredible influence. By embracing multi-stakeholder partnerships, public-private collaborations, and cross-sector innovation, you can steer the course of the food industry towards a brighter, more sustainable future. As you embark on this journey, remember that every small step you take resonates far beyond your farm, sending ripples of positive change across the agricultural landscape and inspiring others to follow your lead.

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