GTL Project

GreenTecLab

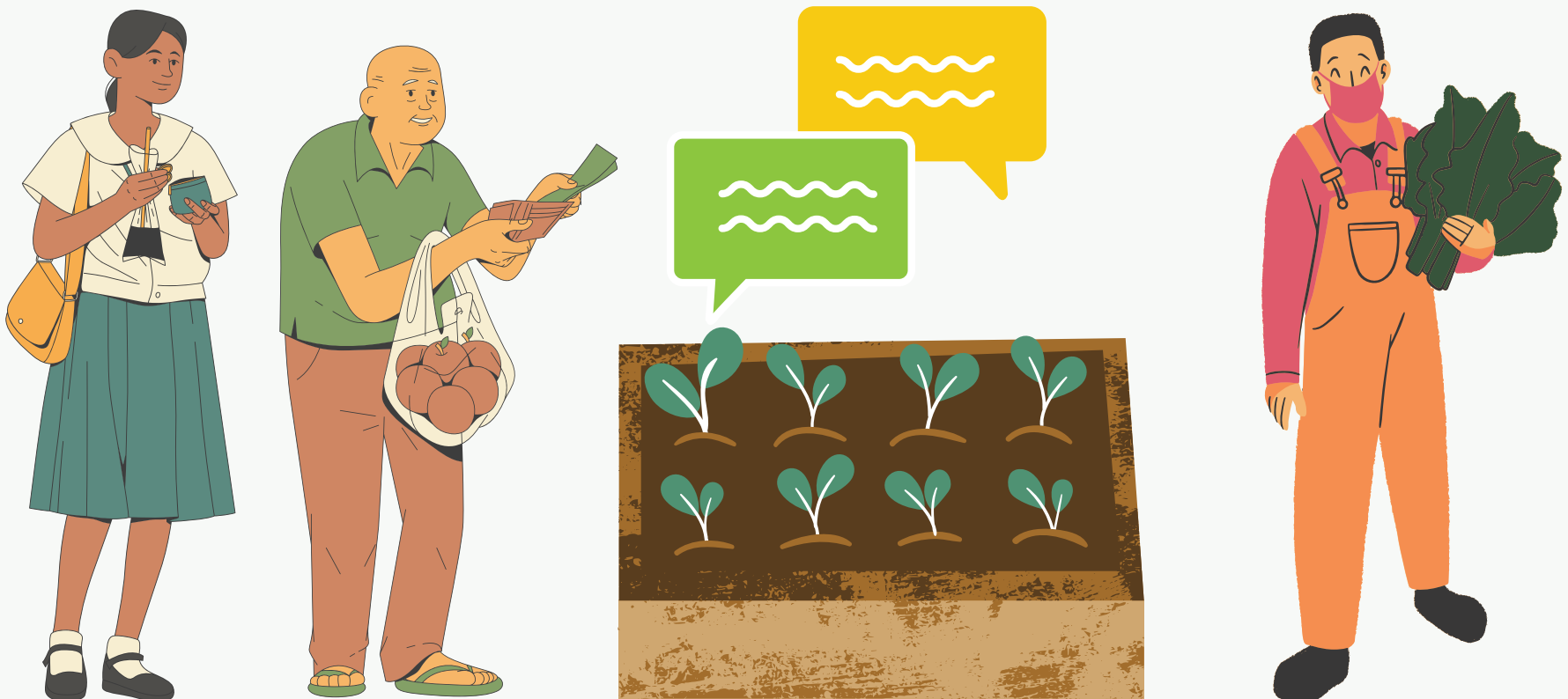
Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

Solidarity farming makes it easier to convert or start a new animal-, climate- and environmentally-friendly farm without much equity capital, without much debt and with a reduced risk.

1 What is Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)?

CSA is a form of organisation in agriculture in which a group of consumers cooperates at local level with one or more partner farmers.
The consumers give a purchase guarantee for the production (e.g. for half a season) and in return are involved in the production.

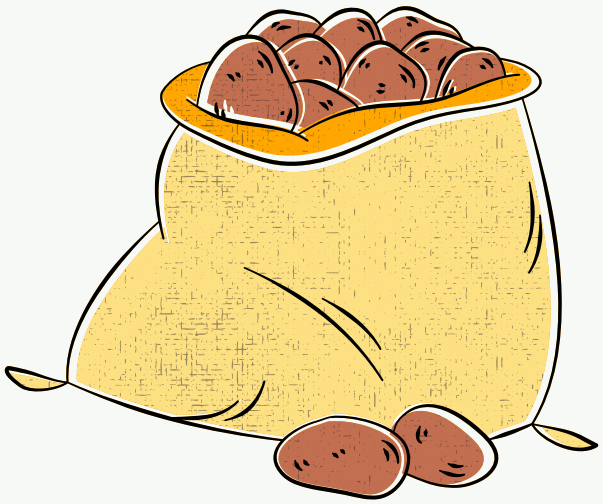
For example consumers get involved by cooperating and having a say in the choice of crops, cultivation methods and animal husbandry.



Financing is provided by the members of the CSA, who secure shares in the production and pay (monthly) contributions for it.

The amount of the budget (e.g. costs of farming & wage, insurances, investments, reserves) is determined annually by the farmer.
The amount of the respective membership fees is determined jointly.

In return, the members receive agricultural products.



In CSA members don't pay for individual product, but the entire agricultural business is financed.

2 Advantages of CSA

Advantages for farmers/producers

- planning security & support from a community
- shared risk that agricultural production implies
- secured income & thus the opportunity to engage in sustainable agriculture
- greater scope for their work e.g. application of good agricultural practice, which is not always possible under market constraints

- They experience more opportunities for co-determination in their daily work

2 Advantages of CSA

Advantages for the CSA

- protection from changes in the market
- use of products that would normally end up in the trash due to market norms
- creates awareness among consumers and thus far less food is thrown away
- offers a greater variety (e.g. rare vegetables, endangered breeds of domestic animals)

2 Advantages of CSA

Advantages for the members/consumers

- good quality products: fresh, diverse, seasonal & regional
- product(ion) transparency: where, how and at what cost is the food grown?
- promotion of regional sustainability: building economic structures that strengthen vibrant local agriculture
- access to experiential spaces and education: the opportunity to acquire knowledge about growing and producing food and about caring for the earth

2 Advantages of CSA

Advantages for the region

- higher quality of life due to the diversity in agriculture
- economical impulses, as the added value increasingly stays in the region
- initialising of further projects by bringing together the diverse skills of consumers (e.g. exchange rings, neighbourhood cafés, preserving meetings)

3 CSA and European Networks

- In the GTL partner countries, there are already networks on the topic of CSA that offer a wealth of information, offers and contacts

- If you want to learn more about CSA in different countries, you find more information at:
- German CSA network
- Slovakian CSA network
- Greek CSA network
- CSA Example of Spain

Any more questions on CSA?

Check out a publication produced as part of a project funded by the European Union.

Visit our website and become a future leader of the transition

GreenTecLab

- https://urgenci.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/CSA4EUrope_Handbook.pdf