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Call: Rural Renaissance – Fostering Innovation and Business Opportunities

Topic: RUR-13-2017 Building a future science and education system fit to deliver to practice

Grant agreement: No 771738

Duration: May 2018 to April 2022

Coordinator:

Dr Martin Melin, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Alnarp, Sweden

WEBSITE:

<https://www.nextfood-project.eu/>



Nextfood - Educating the next generation of professionals in the agrifood system

Practice Abstract #63: Visioning as core competency in Agroecological learning

Authors: Anshuman Das, Ritam Bhattacharya, Parthib Basu (Welthungerhilfe/University of Calcutta, India)

Visioning is a technique and a competency which helps us learn from the future. It is a process where the learner/stakeholders are assisted to appraise where they are now and where they can realistically expect to be in the future. This helps in setting up goals, identify current gaps and plan action points accordingly. It is an immensely helpful exercise which allows you to set a target and align the roadmap.

To introduce the idea of visioning to the learner, facilitators at the University of Calcutta, India, from NextFood Case 9 - Improving sustainability in farming and food systems by bringing in agroecological approach through action learning - conducted in the following steps:

- In small groups, ask the students to discuss from all perspectives what kind of community they want to live in.
- Coming back to plenary, each group makes one declarative one-sentence statement in present tense about how that desired community will be in the future. Repeat the process until all ideas are exhausted. Note all these down – that is the shared vision of the future community.
- Ask everyone to highlight some of the major differences between now and the future they have created. Figure out what are the actions we should initiate now to reach that desired community.

The similar exercise was done with the participating farmer, where the learner helped the farmer to draw a diagram of a dream farm and track back what should s/he do now to achieve that dream.



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Practice Abstract #63: La visión como competencia básica en el aprendizaje agroecológico

Authors: Anshuman Das, Ritam Bhattacharya, Parthib Basu (Welthungerhilfe/University of Calcutta, India)

La visión es una técnica y una competencia que nos ayuda a aprender del futuro. Se trata de un proceso en el que se ayuda al alumno o a las partes interesadas a evaluar dónde están ahora y dónde pueden esperar estar en el futuro de forma realista. Esto ayuda a establecer objetivos, a identificar las carencias actuales y a planificar los puntos de acción en consecuencia. Es un ejercicio enormemente útil que permite establecer un objetivo y alinear la hoja de ruta.

Para introducir la idea de la visión al alumno, los facilitadores de la Universidad de Calcuta (India), del caso 9 de NextFood - Mejorar la sostenibilidad de los sistemas agrícolas y alimentarios introduciendo el enfoque agroecológico mediante el aprendizaje en la acción, llevaron a cabo los siguientes pasos.

- En pequeños grupos, pida a los estudiantes que discutan desde todas las perspectivas el tipo de comunidad en la que quieren vivir.
- Al volver al plenario, cada grupo hace una declaración de una frase en tiempo presente sobre cómo será esa comunidad deseada en el futuro. Repite el proceso hasta que se agoten todas las ideas. Anota todas ellas: es la visión compartida de la futura comunidad.
- Pide a todos que destaqueen algunas de las principales diferencias entre el presente y el futuro que han creado. Averigua cuáles son las acciones que debemos iniciar ahora para alcanzar esa comunidad deseada.

Se hizo un ejercicio similar con el agricultor participante, en el que el alumno le ayudó a dibujar un diagrama de una granja de ensueño y a rastrear lo que debería hacer ahora para alcanzar ese sueño.