

# 60. “LEARNING BY DOING” SCHEME EXPOSING SCHOOLED CHILDREN TO FARMING ACTIVITIES IN FINLAND

ACTION AREA	UNIVERSAL FOOD ACCESS TO BUILD RESILIENCE
SOLUTION CLUSTER	PANDEMIC-RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS
THEMATIC AREA	PANDEMIC-RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS
SUBMITTED BY	FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY PRODUCERS, MTK & VALIO, DAIRY COMPANY

## WHAT ARE THE KEY THEMES THAT NEED TO BE CONSIDERED TO ADDRESS FOOD INSECURITY AND ENHANCE FOOD SYSTEMS RESILIENCY?

Virtual dairy village tell the route of milk from farm to local supermarkets.

The organisation of virtual dairy villages is one part of Yrityskylä (Business village), which is a learning environment for 15-year-old students with their teachers to compete in managing a company on the global markets. During the gameday, the teams manufacture and sell their products to customers and head the company for a period of one year. The winning team is the one that has been able to achieve the best reputation in addition to a good operating profit.

The Federation of Agricultural and Forestry Producers (MTK), together with the dairy company Valio, has established dairy villages to provide students with the opportunity to learn about the activities and decisions to be taken in the farming sector before the milk is delivered to the supermarket.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK CONSTITUTES SOCIAL RESILIENCE, ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE IN FOOD SYSTEMS? WHAT ARE THE CROSS-CUTTING SOLUTIONS BETWEEN ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE?

Our experiences with the business villages have been excellent. During the spring, nine-graders (15-year-old) have been able to test their skills in running a company. Young students have become familiar with how food is produced, what is the effect of production circumstances on food and what responsible business means are. Though this project, young students get to know the everyday life of the local dairy farms producing milk to Valio company. The Yrityskylä is a good way to show children what managing a dairy farm and responsible milk production are, as well as how to take care of animal welfare. Before the day at the virtual village, children can get familiar with the topic at school and also they discuss again after this experience. More information is available on the website [yrityskyla.fi](http://yrityskyla.fi)

## WHAT SOLUTIONS CAN WE PROPOSE TO ADDRESS FOOD INSECURITY AND PREVENT FUTURE SOURCES OF CONFLICT, MANAGE TENSIONS AND OTHER STRESSES IN FOOD SYSTEMS ?

Young people, who are the next-generation entrepreneurs, must be prepared to the new operating environment. New global challenges affect the operations of every business, including farming, either producing milk or other products. We live in a global environment where corporate responsibility for the

environment, the economy and social well-being is everyone's responsibility. Farmers are at the forefront of experiencing the challenges of climate change, which entrepreneurs need to be able to address on responsible manner.

#### WHAT IS THE POTENTIAL ACTION THAT COULD BE TAKEN?

Our vision with our partners: We want everybody to be a brave, inspired, & enterprising member of society.

#### WHO ARE THE MAIN ACTORS THAT WOULD PUT THIS ACTION INTO PLACE?

Policymakers (government), Private (businesses, etc.), Farmers, Farmers' Organization / Cooperatives

#### WHERE ARE MAIN AREAS IN WHICH THIS SOLUTION WOULD MAKE CHANGES

Food supply chains – Inputs; Food supply chains - Production; Food supply chains - Storage & Distribution; Food supply chains - Processing & Packaging; Food supply chains - Retail & Marketing; Individual consumer factors - Economic

#### WITHIN WHICH CATEGORY DOES THIS INTERVENTION MOST EASILY FALL?

Food research, processing, technology, Supply Chain Infrastructure, Consumer education, training, and awareness, Cross-cutting

#### IS THIS IDEA APPLICABLE TO A PARTICULAR GEOGRAPHY OR TYPE OF SETTING (E.G., SEMI-ARID AREAS, HIGHER- OR LOWER-INCOME COUNTRIES)?

No limitation to geographical areas, the practice can be replicated.

#### WHERE IS THIS IDEA COMING FROM?

Yrityskylä (Business village) is a Finnish learning concept which has been recognized as one of the world's best education innovation. Its story began in 2010. Through this project, we offer school children in grades six and nine positive experiences of working life, the economy and society and encourage entrepreneurship. To top it all off, Yrityskylä is based on a curriculum.

1. We teach Yrityskylä's learning concept to teachers
2. The teachers review the learning materials with their students at school.
3. Their classes participate in Yrityskylä's learning environment.
4. Back at school, the class goes over what they have learned and responds to feedback.

In 2019 the project reached:

- 5 % of Finland's sixth-graders
- 40 % of Finland's ninth-graders
- From close to 200 municipalities
- 10 locations
- The project has been implemented together with more than a hundred partners

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