



Welcome to our project

Sustainable Smallholders EU is an adult education initiative to empower and equip smallholders (and those who educate & support them) with skills and knowledge to improve the viability of their holdings by championing the local/heritage value of their produce, transforming their supply chain management and enhancing their environmental/climate action contributions in line with the UN's sustainable development goals.

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www.small-holders.eu

GUIDEBOOK TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

A practical guide to sustainable development for smallholder farmers

Practical guidance for small-scale farmers, breaking down the Sustainable Development Goals and providing good practices in key areas such as food security, sustainable agriculture, and climate.

Smallholders are key contributors to food security and nutrition, producing most of the food in many regions of the world and producing more food and nutrition in the world's most populous, and food-insecure regions. Their farms are better at promoting social equity and community well-being and 10.5 million farms in the EU in 2016 have advantages in terms of environmental sustainability and addressing climate change.

Sustainable Smallholders EU (SSEU) is an adult education initiative to empower and equip smallholders (and those who educate/support them) with skills and knowledge to improve the viability of their holdings by championing the local/heritage value of their produce, transforming their supply chain management and enhancing their environmental/climate action contributions in line with the UN's sustainable development goals.

Funded by Erasmus +, SSEU wants empower and equip smallholders with skills and knowledge to:

- 1 future proof their smallholdings by improving their long-term viability to not just protect the heritage value of their produce and livestock but use it as their USP
- 2 increase their profitability via more efficient and lucrative distribution channels such as collective supply approaches/routes to market and more conscious approaches/responses to consumer demand for sustainable, local and heritage products
- 3 improve their ongoing environmental, climate action and biodiversity work by focusing in on their approaches to food security, food waste; and sustainable agriculture
- 4 increase and diversify the way they contribute to global food demand in a resource-scarce world .



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The SSEU project specifically targets: Owners/staff of the smallholding sector, who have not traditionally had access to sustainability training.

Not only is there a lack of training available, there is also a lack of published best practice SDG approaches for smallholders. While many smallholders are aware of the need for increased sustainability and climate action etc. they are unsure how to implement sustainable development principles in their smallholdings. For low skilled and/or low educated smallholders, in fact, understanding, making sense of and implementing the SDG's is a big ask.

Sustainability, Farming and Community Education Bodies

Many farming and community education bodies offer training and supports to the farming sector, but lack the knowledge/pedagogical strategies to provide niche outreach support, training and guidance to promote the economic viability and sustainability of smallholdings.

Based on the needs of these target groups, SSEU wants to:

- 1** increase knowledge of sustainability practices
- 2** understand of the implications of sustainability/climate change with a focus on smallholder/local communities
- 3** enable the groups involved to embrace sustainable development and implement new or improved approaches to Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture, Food and Health, Food Waste, Climate and Environment and Innovative Technologies
- 4** empower and equip learners with skills and knowledge to become empowered sustainability changemakers with the ability and confidence to share their learning with other smallholder farmers resulting in the wider implementations of SDG's and the creation of a small but powerful ripple effect across Europe that creates powerful, sustainable change.



COMPENDIUM OF INSPIRATIONAL PRACTICE

Part of our practical guide to sustainable development for smallholder farmers.

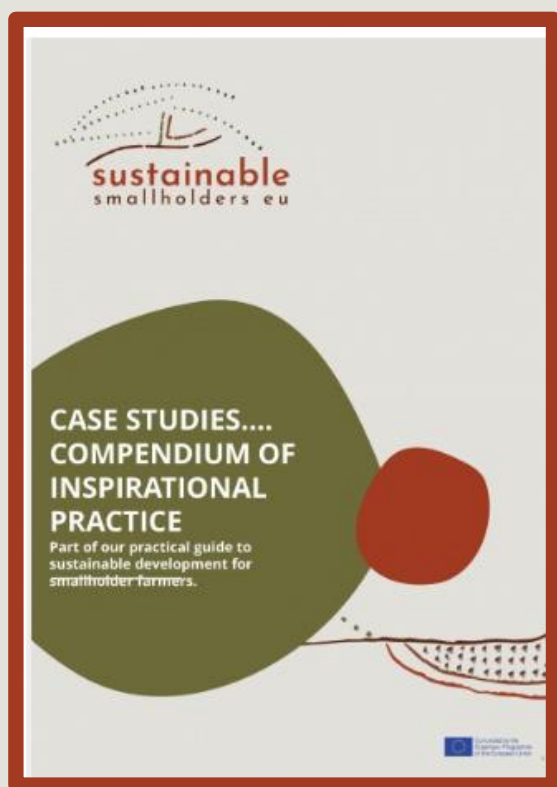
The **SUSTAINABLE SMALLHOLDERS EU COMPENDIUM OF INSPIRATIONAL PRACTICE** is part of our practical guide to sustainable development for smallholder farmers.

It seeks to contextualise some of the SDGs that are relevant to smallholder sustainability and to make them more achievable. The Compendium presents a collection of more than 30 case studies of smallholder farmers who have successfully implemented sustainable development innovations.

Each case study starts with their motivation to incorporate sustainable farming practices and, most importantly, showing what impacts and results have been achieved. The case studies come from 5 different countries: UK, Italy, Spain, Slovakia, and Ireland.

They represent motivational experiences for small-scale farmers who do not know how to implement sustainable farming practices, and who will be provided with a compendium highlighting the motivations that motivated the farmers in the case studies to develop sustainable practices and, above all, showing what impacts they achieved.

The sustainability practices of the case studies touch on the sustainable development objectives and topics developed by the Sustainable Smallholders project e.g efficient use of technology in agricultural production to reduce waste such as precision farming and the use of social media to promote business; implementation of partnerships with university bodies to research and study innovative sustainable techniques; and much more...



AN EXAMPLE OF WHO IS FEATURED IN OUR COMPENDIUM.....



Celtic Salads is a small 20-acre farm on the west coast of Ireland where the majority of farming consists of traditional pastoral farming of cattle and sheep. Donnacha Fahy, a 6th generation farmer, identified the need for locally produced large- leaf and micro salads for the catering industry as well as retail consumers in the area.

Celtic Salads have a sustainable business model that is not harming the natural environment while supplying the west coast with locally and sustainably produced product.



Kylemore Farmhouse Cheese is a farm diversification on the Roche Farm in Abbey, County Galway, Ireland. Teresa Roche is now the 5th generation to farm the family land in the Slieve Aughty Mountains. Teresa achieves her sustainability goals by implementing sustainable practices that both improve efficiency, sustainability, and the final product.

By utilising measures to reduce waste and the necessity for artificial fertilisers, Kylemore Farmhouse Cheese efficiently produce a cheese with a low carbon footprint while not causing any harm to the local environment.



Patchwork Pig - Jane Matthews runs a farm shop and farms rarebreed pigs, Ayrshire herds, sheep and chickens in the UK. She has all sorts of produce at the farmshop and the majority of the milk goes to a dairy, certified as organic and produced without antibiotics. The shop also features raw milk vending machines and has been selling pasteurised milk, ice cream, milkshakes, halloumi, as well as beef, pork and lamb.

They are also organic and it's very important to them to not use fertilizers or pesticides. With the vending machines, everything is vacuum packed, or tray wrapped – it's proving difficult to find sustainable packaging.



Albufera Foods - A company that has specialised in rice cultivation for generations in Spain. They have been growing rice in the ecological environment of the Albufera de Valencia, in the Marjal de Pego-Oliva and other areas of the Comunitat Valenciana for more than a century, always with the utmost respect for the environment. Over the years, they have been expanding their crops to other types of grains beyond rice, in order to meet the new needs of the market and society, always seeking adaptation and innovation, as well as a balance between tradition and innovation.



Fattoria Fiorentino is located in the town of Lucera, in the Monti Dauni, Italy, surrounded by wheat and olive fields as far as the eye can see. This estate is not only a cultivation of fine grain but a historical treasure chest, the memory of our past. In 2016, Michele and Chiara who own the farm started to transform the wheat in wholemeal flour with a stone mill which they also produce pasta slowly dry. Thanks to this new focus, they have been able to control all the steps of the supply chain in order not to depend any more from the unstable selling market prices of wheat.

“

If you're doing it all yourself, you grow into it and find your way. There isn't a place you can go to find out what you need to know.

”

FIND OUT MORE: CLICK TO DOWNLOAD
Guidebook to Sustainable Development
Goals
Compendium of Good Practices



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The partnership of the project consists of the following organisations:

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