

AMPI CSA Network: Building Farmer Knowledge, Capacity and Local Food Sovereignty

Problem encountered and objective

Local food systems in Czechia face challenges such as unstable markets for small farmers, limited access to knowledge for new entrants, and fragmented relationships between producers and consumers. Many farmers struggle with economic uncertainty, limited time for training, and the absence of structured advisory support models tailored to community-based food systems. AMPI aims to address these barriers by developing a coordinated Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) network that strengthens farmer–consumer cooperation, builds capacities of new and existing farmers, and promotes resilient, community-led food systems. The objective is to provide stable markets, practical training, and advisory support, contributing to long-term food sovereignty and improved farm viability.

Main results / outcomes

AMPI's work has resulted in the creation of a strong national CSA network connecting around 50 CSA groups and thousands of consumers. It has created the first accredited Farm School for organic farming in Czechia, offering practical and experience-based education for new entrants. AMPI has established advisory and mentoring structures that improve production planning, logistics, direct sales, and risk-sharing mechanisms. The initiative has increased consumer awareness and trust, improved the economic resilience of small farmers, and demonstrated a replicable model for community-based food systems. Links between farmers and consumers have strengthened, reducing market vulnerability and fostering local food sovereignty.

Practical recommendations

Farmers and practitioners can adopt the AMPI CSA model to secure stable demand through long-term partnerships with consumers, reducing marketing workload and financial risk. New farmers can benefit from AMPI's training opportunities, practical placements, and mentoring to build essential skills in organic production, logistics, and community engagement. Advisors and policymakers can use the model to support small-scale agriculture, develop local food strategies, and integrate CSA approaches into AKIS structures. Communities and local authorities can replicate the model to strengthen local food production, reduce supply chain dependency, and improve social cohesion.

Further information

www.asociaceampi.cz

www.kpzinfo.cz

www.farmarskaskola.cz

About this abstract

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EU4Advice aims to lay the ground for effective capacity building of Short Food Supply Chain (SFSC) actors, by supporting advisors as catalysers of the knowledge flow from research to practice within an EU network of SFSC advisors, and by promoting the integration of SFSC advisors into national AKIS.

