

CANADIAN RURAL REVITALIZATION FOUNDATION 2017,
NELSON

PLANNING FOR RESILIENCE: USING AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES TO ADDRESS FOOD SECURITY AND CREATE RURAL EMPLOYMENT

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RURAL POLICY LEARNING COMMONS

CAPR
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DES POLITIQUES RURALES

STRUCTURE OF THE PRESENTATION

- AN OVERVIEW OF MY RESEARCH
- A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF FOOD SYSTEMS AND FOOD SECURITY
- THE CURRENT STATE OF FOOD SECURITY IN BELIZE AND BC
- PRELIMINARY FINDINGS / POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

OVERVIEW OF MY RESEARCH

- QUEEN ELIZABETH II SCHOLARSHIP
- MASTER OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AT VANCOUVER ISLAND UNIVERSITY
- PASSION FOR FOOD SECURITY, SOVEREIGNTY AND RURAL COMMUNITIES
- ASSESSMENT OF STATE-SPONSORSHIP OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES AND THE IMPACT ON FOOD SECURITY AND RURAL EMPLOYMENT IN BELIZE AND CANADA

FOOD SYSTEMS & FOOD SECURITY



- FOOD SYSTEMS ARE THE PATHWAYS IN WHICH FOOD IS PRODUCED, CONSUMED, AND EXCRETED

- FOOD SECURITY AT IT'S BASIC LEVEL IS **ACCESS** TO FOOD

- THE NUMBER ONE FACTOR THAT DETERMINES HOUSEHOLD FOOD SECURITY IS **INCOME**

* physicalactivitynetwork.ca

Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life

–FAO WORLD FOOD SUMMIT, 1996

CURRENT STATE OF FOOD SECURITY IN BELIZE

- IN THE LAST DECADE THERE WAS A RISE IN THOSE LIVING IN POVERTY FROM 30% OF THE POPULATION TO 40% TODAY
- CULTURAL CHANGES IN DIET, POSSIBLE DUE TO INCREASED IMPORTATION OF PROCESSED FOODS
- 2 IN 5 CHILDREN DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THE RIGHT FOODS NEEDED TO GROW UP HEALTHY



CURRENT STATE OF FOOD SECURITY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

- SINCE WWII THERE HAS BEEN A REDUCTION IN BC'S ABILITY TO FEED ITSELF
- CHANGES IN DIET, FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS AND CHEAP OIL HAVE DAMAGED BC'S ABILITY TO FEED ITSELF
- AS MUCH AS 66% OF FOOD IN BC IS IMPORTED, COMBINED WITH AN INCREASINGLY STRATIFIED SOCIETY, WE ARE FURTHER BECOMING INSECURE

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS (BELIZE)

- A SITUATION GOING FROM BAD TO WORSE, YET FEW ARE TALKING ABOUT FOOD SECURITY ON A NATIONAL LEVEL
- COOPERATIVES ARE MISUNDERSTOOD, VIEWED AS A SOURCE OF CHARITY RATHER THAN A TOOL FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND BUSINESSES DEVELOPMENT
- AN UNDER RESOURCED COOPERATIVE DEPARTMENT THAT GENUINELY CARES, THIS PATTERN CAN BE SEEN THROUGHOUT MANY DEPARTMENTS AND NGO'S
- A NEED FOR EDUCATION FROM K - UNIVERSITY AND FOR FARMERS ON THE BENEFITS OF COOPERATION

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

- BRING COOPERATIVE EDUCATION INTO NATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMMING
- HANDHOLD A COUPLE COOPERATIVES THROUGH TO TRUE SUCCESS AS AN EXAMPLE OF THEIR IMPORTANCE
- SHARE MORE DATA WITH THE FARMERS, PARTICULARLY MARKET DATA
- BRING MORE WOMEN INTO THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT
- FOCUS ON ADDITIONAL VALUE ADDED PRODUCTION

THANK YOU

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