Milan Pact Awards 2018
Winning Practices

Highest Score

Ghent, Belgium: Foodsavers Ghent (submitted in Food Waste category)

Food waste reduction and recovery for both food and non-food use has become a major priority globally and cities are on the front lines of innovation. The highest scoring award in the 2018 Milan Pact Awards is for Ghent, Belgium and its Foodsavers program. Recovery of food leftovers for food banks by social organizations was not meeting the supply of leftovers from a variety of outlets. After two years of participatory planning to decide on the best business model, set goals and seek funding, the city government created Foodsavers to scale up food waste recovery. This is a platform linking supply and demand for leftover food in collaboration with social organizations and restaurants, food banks, retail and wholesale markets and even the farm level. Full participation of private, public and social sectors builds upon a foundation of an integrated approach to food governance with Ghent’s Food Council. Three different city departments collaborated and combined their budgets for the Foodsavers program. Clear targets were set not only for recovery of leftover foods for distribution, but also for climate change mitigation, social employment and fighting poverty. These were more than exceeded and Ghent’s integrated approach to food waste recovery is already a model for other municipalities inside and outside Europe.
Challenging Environment

Lima, Peru: Programa Lima Sostenible: Promoviendo la seguridad alimentaria/Sustainable Lima: Promoting Food Security (Governance)

A resilient and sustainable food system in the face of climate change can be extremely challenging for large metropolitan centers that have seen rapid unplanned growth overtaking nearby food production areas. One such city is Lima, Peru, a desert city of over 10 million inhabitants and the 5th largest city in Latin America. Recent impacts of severe weather, earthquake and drought have brought the sustainability of the food system and the food security of Lima to a priority level. Under the leadership of the City of Lima’s Economic Development Management department, a comprehensive approach to food system governance in a large city was launched. From an assessment of the urban and territorial food system, a multi-actor platform and core group were created to prioritize actions and coordinate programs. The core group convened by the municipality included representatives of the national Ministry of Agriculture, Production and Health, technical support from international organizations including the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and participation by public, private, academic, NGO and Civil Society organizations. Nearby rural jurisdictions and rural organizations were included in the planning of programs to protect valuable farmland and plan new markets and short supply chains. The legal framework include policies at the city level but also aligns with the National Food Security Strategy for Peru and with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for food security and nutrition (SDG 2), work and economic growth (SDG 8), sustainable cities (SDG 11) and responsible production and consumption (SDG 12). The results of early pilot projects and tracking of policy impacts include numbers of agriculture and fishery jobs retained, agricultural markets created, extent of protected land for agriculture and changes in consumer patterns of food consumption.
**Governance**

*Wanju, Republic of Korea: Local Food No. 1 Project*

Smaller cities can often innovate quickly in ways that promote win-win development for both rural and urban residents, especially when there are shared concerns about the future of the food system. The City of Wanju with a population of 100,000 is in a region of 700,000 near the capital of Seoul. Beginning in 2009, Wanju food policies and implementation teams pursued three linked goals to (1) provide a sustainable farming guarantee to 3,000 family farmers, (2) build a healthy local food system for the region, and (3) create jobs with social and economic benefits to the circular (urban and rural) economy. A comprehensive plan launched in 2009 aimed to restore agricultural productivity, promote local processing, create markets, strengthen public organizations and strengthen communication between producers and consumers. Results include creating new farming communities, cooperative farming teams, farming and food hubs, direct sales markets and a local food certification system to help build trust between producers and consumers. By 2017, over 2,000 farmers participated in the Local Food No. 1 Project, and over 3,000 jobs related to production, processing, distribution and marketing have been created along with 300 social economic organizations.

**Sustainable Diets and Nutrition**

*Parma, Italy: Giocampus Project/Fostering the Wellbeing of Future Generations*

Parma is an intermediate size city of just under half a million residents and sits in a diverse agricultural region in northern Italy. It was recognized in 2015 by UNESCO as a “Creative City of Gastronomy”. Despite its gastronomic history and reputation, childhood obesity and diet-related health problems have been significant trends as found in many other cities. In response the City of Parma created a uniquely broad coalition of organizations ten years ago, all involved with food education including the Municipality of Parma, the University of Parma and the Giocampus Project to promote and develop healthy eating and healthy physical activity in children. At the center of this coordination is the Giocampus Project that also includes the Italian Ministry of Education, the National Olympic Committee and many local institutions and companies, including financial support from the Barilla Foundation.
The program dynamically connects local food culture, food education, physical activity and environmental education. The content and methodology of the Giocampus education program, designed by a multidisciplinary Scientific Committee, builds on these connections through training, sport, plan and friendship to create in children and their families a culture of wellbeing. The success of the Giocampus project is demonstrated by data highlighting significant improvements in childrens’ physical and motor variables and in their knowledge of food and nutrition and consumption of healthier foods.

Social and Economic Equity

Belo Horizonte: Popular Restaurant Program – Catering to Street People

A medium-size city of 2.5 million, Belo Horizonte along with other Brazilian cities has a system of Popular Restaurants to serve low-income residents with lower cost nutritious foods. What is unique to Belo Horizonte and a national model is a set of policies and program innovations to serve free meals to homeless street people. Out of 9,700 meals a day, 2000 are provided to the homeless. Popular restaurants are more than a source of food, but also are multi-purpose spaces that strengthen citizen democracy and relations between public and government actors. Legal instruments institutionalizing this practice are tied to the responsibilities of the municipality as a duty bearer in relation to the Right to Food and Nutrition. Going further, the commitment extends to provide access to other food security programs and services including urban agriculture and training for commercialization of agroecological products as an economic development opportunity for low-income and homeless residents of the city.

Food Production

Sao Paulo: From the Land to the Table: Local sustainable development through school feeding

As the largest city in Latin America, Sao Paolo also has the largest municipal school feeding system with 2.2 milion meals served dialing to 1 million students. In 2017 Sao launched a comprehensive program to link food production to consumption, link the city to the countryside, and provide quality food to those most in need while strengthening the
ecosystem. Five goals are reflected in municipal laws approved in 2015 including 1) pedagogy for nutritional education, 2) local agricultural development, 3) sustainability through agroecology, 4) improving nutrition and food security, and 5) transparent bidding practices. Under the coordination of the Municipal Department of Education (CODAE), implementation of the new programme has included family farmers, technical assistance providers to help with transition to agroecological practices, and civil society. The City has committed to reducing the number of intermediaries to shorten the supply chain between farms and schools, organizing distribution with a fleet of 400 vehicles making 1200 deliveries a day to 1000 schools. Social inclusion in the project is incorporated into city laws that promote children’s and citizen engagement through participatory councils that partner with local government in improving school nutrition through agroecology. The power of public procurement is directed through municipal laws in Sao Paolo to multiple benefits including the health and nutrition of vulnerable children, family farm agriculture and the local economy, and the sustainability of natural resources and the environment.

Food Supply and Distribution

Seoul: Urban Rural Coexistence Public Meal Service Project

The role of city government in fostering inclusive urban-rural relations is attested to in the way Seoul, the capital of the Republic of Korea, has created a public food program that benefits both vulnerable urban consumers and small family farmers in this city of nearly 10 million. The Seoul Metropolitan Government (SMG) launched an ambitious strategy to link each of the city’s 25 urban districts with neighbouring rural production districts in order to provide healthy food at affordable prices for public meal service while providing a good income for farmers. Seoul has approached these twin objectives by reducing the number of intermediaries, setting up a public meal center in each district, and through urban rural dialogue, establishing prices, logistics and processing for public meals in daycare centers, child care centers and welfare facilities. Five divisions of city government coordinate their efforts and MOUs have been signed between city and local governments to coordinate food supply and distribution. In 2017 the first five districts were initiated in the “urban-rural coexistence public meal material procurement system”. This program is expected to expand to all 25 districts by 2020 through a process of planned production for “eco-friendly” meals by “urban-rural cooperation committees” linking each district and production region. The
use of eco-friendly practices is financially incentivized by the municipal procurement program. Finally, a joint public-private sector governance mechanism (SMG Public Meal Committee) including cooperatives and civil society, oversees policy deliberation, food safety monitoring along the urban-rural continuum, pricing policies and urban-rural exchanges.

**Food Waste**

**Turin: Progetto Organico Porta Palazzo: Towards Circular Markets**

To reach multiple environmental, social and economic objectives related to food waste, the City of Turin focused on the food waste generated by the largest and most culturally diverse food market in the city (and the largest open air market in Europe). An efficient waste collection system developed by a private partner and collection of food waste assisted by many volunteers organized by a nongovernmental nonprofit organization are primary partners to city government. Interactions between vendors and volunteers extend far beyond efficient waste management to include provision of greater food access to the poor and homeless, civic engagement and inclusion of new asylum seekers or new residents in the city, public education and awareness raising about the benefits of waste collection, composting and food recovery. Within just a few months from inception organic matter collected for compost increased dramatically. The volunteer brigade is the backbone of the program and their services have extended to other areas of needed support, even beyond the food market to the second-hand market. Ongoing multi-sector public and private management of the program is made possible with both the political commitment of the city and strong engagement of civil society.