

THE SOUTHERN WILLAMETTE BEAN AND GRAIN PROJECT

Project Design Principles

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- Encompasses four counties, including coastal and low cascade areas.
- **The project will be a large, co-operative effort of many small and medium sized producers (growers), processors, storage facilities, and distributors who are rooted in local communities, and organized to benefit the consumption of local products while supporting the efforts of everyone else involved.** (We anticipate that larger producers (growers) would be partners with only small parts of their production, processing, etc, acting as a small independent unit from their larger industrial farming base.)
- **Cooperative Community Supported Agriculture model in which consumers contract with producers, placing 1/3 of contract price up front (or some other percentage).** Shared costs across a community raises money to fund on-going, community held, 501 C5 organization which facilitates all interactions, organizing, moving contracted product, handling money, finding investors for cooperatively owned machines, buildings etc, and support for privately owned production tool etc, such as upgrades, needed repairs, etc.
- Membership is contingent upon entering into product contracts, paying up-front 1/3 or other contracted support fee, and participation at whatever level possible in the on-going, season to season, processes involved in insuring the development and production of locally-based beans, grains, and edible seeds.
- **Establish affiliation with Ten Rivers Food Web and Willamette Farm and Food Coalition which are 501 C3 corporations: Their joint fundraising and grant receiving capabilities should be used for bringing awareness to urban and rural communities regarding the needs, production intricacies, and organizational opportunities, particularly at neighborhood and small community levels, that can effectively build a locally based food system.** Education, assessment, and research are all functions that can be funded by a 501 C3 designation. Under education mentoring, interning and other types of information and skill sharing are refundable. **The actual building of the business of networks of local food production to consumption and their day to day maintenance and operation are functions of the 501 C5 community held organization focused by a board of directors and run by managers whose purpose is clearly stated.**
- **Transparency in fully reporting “Means of [agricultural] production” should be stipulated and written into all agreements.** If other than certified organic production methods are used, all inputs and methodologies should be agreed upon in contracts. Non-pollutive and biologically resilient methods should be a collective goal of the SWVBGP.
- **Product quality in terms of nutritional density should be routinely measured and recorded at all levels of production and distribution, as an essential basis**

for defining food quality, and to stimulate continual evolution and improvement of farming practices.

- **Decentralized production, processing, and distribution, and utilization of smaller acreage even within larger farm or production units should be a goal.**
- **Organizing urban, rural, and other styles of community-end-users to fully participate in a season to season contractual food process is required for this community-based local food system/network to function.**
- **Individual and community vitality is the ultimate goal of this project, within the context of biological resiliency.** Investors become members of this project not so much for personal gain (especially financial gain) but as doing the work entailed in community-wide agreements leading to vitality and well-being. Building and maintaining a secure locally-based food system satisfies needs for prosperity and recognition.