Sustainable food in public procurement

Francesco Di Iacovo
UniPisa

Foodlink meeting Pisa
CoP Revaluing public procurement 15/18
February 2012
Food public procurement and sustainability: conceptual notes

• About embeddedness/disembeddedness
  – Modernisation and disembeddedness towards markets
  – Local organisation as a reaction to global driving forces in order to build resilient/responsible communities (food community security)

• About FPP
  – Local public food procurement to create a system of food production, distribution, and consumption that is not based exclusively on commodity relationships but more embedded in natural/local resources and values
  – “new moral economy of school food” that embraces “society and nature” through the incorporation of social, environmental, equity, and health issues into food procurement practices (Morgan and Sonnino, 2008)

• Too many expectation for FPP?
FPP main possible impacts

A gradual shift

- health prevention and safety
- ecological foot print
- education to nature and food culture
- support to local economy and civic agriculture
- enhance social connectivity, reciprocity and trust, in local quality life
- act for a paradigm shift towards sustainability and resilience
Possible attributes for sustainability

**Economic**
- Cost distribution and transparency
- Value for money
- Financial elements
- Local economy
- Job creation
- Moral economy

**Environment**
- Organic
- Local/seasonal
- Animal health and welfare
- Biodiversity
- Meat and fish impact
- Impact on land use and landscape
- Waste
- Energy
- Greenhouse gas emissions

**Social**
- Food safety
- Quality food
- Nutritional elements/human health
- Flexibility/adaptability
- Community food security
- Work conditions
- Education
- Cultural knowledge
- Social justice
- Equity/fair
Promoting sustainability

Planning
- Actors
  - Public
  - Private economic
  - Civic society/clients
- Cultural attitudes
- Policies/laws
  - EU/national
  - Regional/local
- Existing
  - Networks
  - Practices
  - Arenas for debate
  - Economic context

Managing
- Food attributes
  - Economic
  - Social/health
  - Environment
- Structures
  - Logistic
  - Equipments
  - Dining
- Communication/education/information
- Translation
- Rules/guidelines definition
- Agreements
- Waste management

Monitoring
- Rules control
- Tools for impact evaluation
  - Economic/finance
  - Social/health
  - Environment
Nodal points in FPP

• About sustainability itself two ways
  – A collective dis-embedded idea
    • Save the planet/ reduce the foot-print
    • Lack of connection/interest to the locality
    • More rationally oriented
  – A stronger connection with the locality
    • Community food security
    • Territorial oriented
    • More politically oriented

• About Logistic/distributors matters
  – “broadline” distributors
    • one-stop-shops which carry nearly all of the food, supplies, and equipment needed to operate a food service kitchen—
    • able to offer competitive prices, financial incentives, streamlined service, and the convenience of buying food and non-food items
  – direct face-to-face relationships with individual farmers
    • additional administrative and procurement (e.g., ordering, receiving, storing) work
    • Slow growth

• About collective knowledge on sustainability
  – More Hierarchical approaches
  – Active participation/involvement
Pathways of change in FPP

- Local arena
- Collective knowledge
- Local/broader diagnosis
- Agreements on sustainability attributes
- Campaigns and communication
- Logistic and broader organisation
- Good practices and impact evaluations

- Collective learning
  - Interpreters
  - Intermediators
  - Local/region intermediate
    - Engagements locally
      - Impacts
    - Broader intermediate
      - Engagement on broader market
      - Impacts

- Local organisational matters
- Internal organisational matters

- Social
- Economic
- Environment
Key dimensions in sustainable FPP

- Cultural
- Organisational
- Political
Just to stimulate our discussion