

Case Study-Tackling Food Insecurity in Berlin

Reference

Zoll, F., Harder, A., Manatsa, L. N., & Friedrich, J. (2024). Motivations, changes, and challenges of participating in food-related social innovations and their transformative potential: Three cases from Berlin (Germany). *Agriculture and Human Values*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10460-024-10561-8>

Supporting Material

Berlin Case Study: Tackling Food Insecurity and Waste

Background:

Berlin, like many urban areas, faces significant challenges with food insecurity and waste. A diverse population, combined with economic disparities, results in uneven access to fresh, nutritious food. Additionally, the city grapples with high levels of food waste, exacerbating environmental issues.

Problem:

- Food Insecurity: Many residents, particularly in low-income areas, struggle to access affordable, healthy food.
- Food Waste: Berlin generates a large amount of food waste, contributing to environmental pollution and resource inefficiency.

Solutions Implemented:

1. Community Gardens:

- Established in various neighbourhoods, these gardens provide residents with the opportunity to grow their own produce.
- Benefits include increased access to fresh vegetables, community building, and educational opportunities about sustainable agriculture.

2. Cooperative Supermarkets:

- These member-owned stores allow consumers to make decisions about the products they stock, prioritising local and sustainably produced goods.
- Cooperative supermarkets also offer lower prices for members, making healthy food more accessible.

3. Food Waste Reduction Apps:

- Digital platforms like “Too Good To Go” connect consumers with surplus food from restaurants and grocery stores at reduced prices.
- These apps help reduce food waste by diverting food that would otherwise go to landfills to those who need it.

Outcomes:

- **Improved Food Security:** The initiatives have significantly improved access to fresh produce, particularly in underserved areas.
- **Enhanced Community Engagement:** Community gardens and cooperative supermarkets have strengthened community ties, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility among residents.
- **Reduced Food Waste:** Apps targeting food waste have successfully reduced the amount of food ending up in landfills, contributing to environmental sustainability.

Lessons Learned:

- **Community Involvement:** Engaging local communities in the planning and implementation of food security initiatives is crucial for success.
- **Sustainable Practices:** Promoting sustainable agricultural practices and responsible consumption can significantly impact food security and waste reduction.
- **Technology Integration:** Leveraging technology, such as food waste reduction apps, can enhance the efficiency and reach of food security efforts.