

Measuring the Impact- Cultivating Community Farming

Hi Community Farmers! We at CiCo Consulting have been commissioned by Co-operative Alternatives to measure the impact of the Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project 2022-2024.

We are utilising site visits, surveys, interviews, case studies and social value software to collect key data, which will be collated into a final impact measurement report for the overall CCF project.

Following our recently completed site visits, we are now distributing this initial impact survey for you to complete, which will be an excellent opportunity to demonstrate all the great work your CCF project has done to date.

As well as this survey and our recently completed site visits, there will be more opportunities to demonstrate further impacts later in the year.

If you would prefer to book a call with us to go through this survey, then please let us know and we would be happy to accommodate.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this initial impact survey. If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

What is the name of your Community Cultivating Farming (CCF) Project? *

Gortin Well-Being Collectice CIC

What is your name? *

Dave Rickford

What is the address of your CCF Project? *

62 Main Street, Gortin, BT79 8NH

What is the legal structure of your CCF organisation? *

- ☐ Community Benefit Society (CBS)
- ☒ Community Interest Company (CIC)
- ☐ Limited Company
- ☐ Registered Charity
- ☐ Unincorporated Constituted Group
- ☐ Co-Operative Society
- ☐ No Legal Structure
- ☐ Other: _____

Has there been any benefits or restrictions regarding your legal structure? *

For example, has it helped or hindered you in progressing/sourcing funding and support? If no legal structure, please give detail on any benefits or restrictions you have encountered relevant to having no legal structure in place

There seems to be plenty of funding available to CIC's, but I guess the only restriction has been that we are such a new company and don't have much track record/accounting history, which is often a requirement of some of the bigger funding schemes.

What is the focus of your CCF Project? *

- ☒ Horticulture
- ☐ Animal husbandry
- ☐ Social farming
- ☐ Market gardens and CSA
- ☒ Conservation and biodiversity
- ☐ Tourism
- ☒ Health & Wellbeing
- ☒ Other: Community forest garden

Which of the following best describes your status as an organisation just before you started to participate in the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project? Select all that apply.

*

- ☐ We didn't have a farm and no plans to start one
- ☒ We had an idea about developing a community farm, but didn't know where to begin
- ☐ We had plans in place and were ready to start the farm, but had not actually started delivering anything
- ☐ We were already functioning as a community farm (i.e. growing, developing your products or services)
- ☐ Other: _____

Select the top 3 reasons you **INITIALLY** engaged with the CCF Project *

- ☒ We wanted to develop/set up our own enterprise
- ☐ We wanted to diversify our existing business
- ☐ We wanted to develop a CSA scheme
- ☒ We wanted to learn skills on how to run an enterprise
- ☐ We wanted to learn skills on how to grow and manage land
- ☐ We wanted to increase our community outreach/involvement
- ☐ We wanted to access land
- ☐ We wanted to access funding
- ☒ We wanted to connect with like-minded people/projects
- ☐ Other: _____

Have you achieved what you initially set out to achieve? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

☒ Somewhat achieved what we set out to achieve

☐ Other: _____

Which of the following best describes the progress that your CCF project has made since you participated in the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project

*

- ☐ Our CCF project is up and running, and we are doing lots of projects, initiatives and growing! Quicker than we thought!
- ☐ Our CCF project has started, but with limited progress
- ☐ Our CCF project started, but we have since ceased, but we have since established an alternative project (i.e. one that was not the focus of your participation in the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project
- ☒ We are continuing to develop the CCF project, and making good progress
- ☐ We stopped trying to set up the CCF project, but still intend to try and start in the future
- ☐ We have stopped trying to set up the project completely
- ☐ Our project (which started prior to participating) is continuing to operate as before
- ☐ Other: _____

What, if any, obstacles have prevented you from having been able to progress your CCF project? *

- ☒ Lack of (enough) access to finance
- ☐ Not enough demand / could not find volunteers / customers
- ☐ Covid19
- ☐ Could not find partner(s)
- ☐ Could not find (good) land
- ☒ Not enough time to devote to set up
- ☐ More difficult than expected (e.g. felt you didn't have the skills required)
- ☐ The risks at this moment in time (e.g. cost of living, rising costs) are too great
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other: _____

Thinking specifically about the support you received through the CCF programme to date, how likely do you think it is that you would have started your CCF initiative anyway and achieved what you have, in the absence of participating in the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project

*

- ☐ We DEFINITELY WOULD NOT have started the CCF project
- ☐ We PROBABLY WOULD NOT have started the CCF project
- ☒ We would have started the CCF project, but at a SMALLER SCALE
- ☐ We would have started the CCF project, but at a LATER DATE
- ☐ We would have started the CCF project, but at a SMALLER SCALE and at a LATER DATE
- ☐ We PROBABLY would have started the CCF project in the SAME MANNER and timescale regardless of the support from Co-Op Alternatives
- ☐ We DEFINITELY would have started the CCF project in the same manner and timescale regardless of the support from Co-Op Alternatives
- ☐ Other: _____

As a result of the advice or support received to date, did you change your approach to any aspect of creating your CCF project? Would you say.. *

- ☒ Yes – a big change
- ☐ Yes – some change
- ☐ No – did not make any change
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Other: _____

Please give more detail on any changes to approach. Write N/A if not relevant *

Our initial idea was to set up a market garden, but we were struggling to find suitable land. Advice was given through the CCF project that made us look differently at what was immediately available to us. This led us in the direction of the forest garden project.

On balance, and in light of the support that you have received to help you develop your CCF initiative, do you consider that the advice and guidance received through the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project acted as 'tipping point' in helping you decide to start / grow / focus more on your project? *

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't Know

Please give more detail on your previous answer *

Tiziana pressed us to make a decision on a viable project. Our initial market garden idea was at a stand still and we were trying to force it to happen on land that wasn't suitable and with hindsight, would very likely have failed, due to the fractious relationship with that landowner. So, I was grateful that the advice given made us realise it wasn't right and to look for alternatives.

Please respond to the following statements *

	A Great Deal	A Lot	Moderately So	A Little	Not at All
The CCF programme of support has delivered for us	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The CCF programme of support responded to our needs/challenges/issues	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The CCF programme of support fulfilled our expectations	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As a direct impact of the CCF programme, our project has made progress	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have a clearer vision and mission	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have a better understanding of our business model	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have a better understanding of our governance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

governance

As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have a better understanding of our financial model



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our horticultural skills



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our animal husbandry knowledge



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our conservation and bio-diversity skills



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our land management



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our community engagement



As a direct impact of the CCF programme we have

CCF programme, we have
now (more) access to land



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we have
more focus and priorities



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we are
now more financially
resilient



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we have
now in place stronger
policies and procedures



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we have
now more volunteers and
community participation



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we are
more confident about
running our
enterprise/project



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we are
more confident in telling
people/funders about our
project



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we
collaborate more with other
organisations/people/proje
cts



organisations/people/proje
cts

In your opinion, on a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate your CCF Project's impact to date? *

Impact refers to the positive (or otherwise) changes (outputs and outcomes) that have occurred across your work and involvement in the Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project to date (within and across your programmes and community) and with your stakeholders (including users, beneficiaries, volunteers/staff/partners, etc.), and on the 'land', 'communities' and 'local economy'.

No Impact

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

6 ☐

7 ☐

8 ☒

9 ☐

10 ☐

Significant Impact

What prompted you to score the impact as you did? Please give as much detail as you can *

Its given us confidence to trust in our own abilities, to navigate the world of funding, governance, stakeholder engagement etc.....This world was completely alien to us a little over a year ago, and we didn't have a clue about the world of business or even any of the terms/language used. The seed funding was also really important and gave us a kick start, to purchase items that enabled us to progress our project.

In your opinion, on a scale of 1 to 10, would you say you achieved your desired outcomes to date? *

None Achieved

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☒

6 ☐

7 ☐

8 ☐

9 ☐

10 ☐

All Achieved

What were those outcomes achieved (if any). If no outcomes were achieved to date, then you can add details here about what outcomes you wanted to achieve at this stage, but didn't! *

We are still having issues with the legality of leasing the land. A solicitor is still in the process of drawing up an agreement. This process has taken

In your opinion, on a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate the difference your CCF Project has made to date? On the 'land', 'communities' and 'local economy' *

No Difference

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

6 ☐

7 ☐

8 ☒

9 ☐

10 ☐

A lot of Difference

What prompted you to score the difference as you did? Please provide as much detail as possible. *

We have started to improve the patch of land, even though we haven't acquired our lease agreement. We have planted over 30 fruit trees as a shelter belt around the site and have recently been awarded funding to purchase £1000 worth of appropriate trees and shrubs to start developing the site further. We have also been controlling some of the more 'troublesome weeds', through strimming and scything them before they go to seed, such as docks and nettles. We also held some volunteer days, to plant a living willow fence on one side of the site, which has enhanced the aesthetic quality of the area in general and created a habitat for countless insects/small mammals/birds. We've also gathered a good source of potential volunteers, for when the project really gets into gear. On the well-being and educational side of our project, we've held a couple of larger events for the community, namely a forage and feast event which had around 30 paying customers and a holistic fair evening in the local community centre, where we raised over £2000 for the business. We have also provided 2 educational workshops to a local school, teaching the children about trees, plants and biodiversity. This has given us the confidence to put ourselves out there for more future workshops. Our social media presence has vastly increased and we now have around 500 followers on Facebook, and people in the area have heard or know about Gortin Well-Being Collective.

SECTION 2: Community Engagement and Wellbeing

Did your CCF Project engage with any of the following groups? *

☒ Schools / Educational Organisations

☒ Charities / Non Profits

☒ Older People

☐ Minority Ethnicns

☐ Persons with Disabilities

☒ Local Families

☒ Young People

☐ None

☐ Other: _____

Please provide more detail on how your CCF Project engaged with the groups you noted above *

For example, how many people from each target group did you engage with? What activities were delivered together? Please include names of groups if possible, and a brief description of the activities delivered together. (Write N/A if not applicable: i.e if you did not engage with any groups/orgs).

We engaged with over a 100 children from P4 - P6 at our school workshops. We also presented a couple of smaller workshops to a funded programme for a group of 16, over-70 year olds. We had around 30 local people/families attend our forage and feast event, over a 100 attendees came to our holistic evening and a number of local volunteers (around 10), have been helping with our tree planting and basic site work on the land.

Overall, how many people have you engaged or interacted with through your CCF Project to date? Please provide a figure (This can be an estimation at this stage if exact data is not available). *

approx 250

Co-Design: Has your CCF Project engaged with communities/volunteers/members in co-designing new spaces? *

For example, your land and space developed to date. Please provide as much detail as possible in terms of how you have engaged with communities/volunteers/members in co-designing new spaces (Write N/A if not applicable).

yes, we have engaged with our local community, to start planting fruit trees around the site, and also to complete our willow fedge.

How many volunteering opportunities have been established through your CCF Project to date? *

Please only note the volunteering opportunities attributed to your CCF Project (and not your wider organisation if not directly or indirectly relevant to your CCF Project)

around 20 volunteering opportunities have been created with our direct CCF project work to date.

Are any of your CCF volunteers / workers from any of the following underrepresented groups? *



Older People



Minority Ethnicity



Persons with Disabilities



Young People



None



Persons from within (or formerly within) the criminal justice system



Other: _____

Approximately, how many volunteering hours have been dedicated to your CCF Project to date? *

Volunteer time dedicated from you, your team and wider volunteers (Give approx hours as required if exact data is not available at this stage).

approximately 200 hours

Please describe how your CCF activities promote Mental Health: For example, reducing social isolation, creating social connections, access to green spaces etc. *

Write N/A if not applicable

Our project is all about well-being, particularly mental health. Our holistic event was to try and introduce therapies/techniques to the wider public in order to improve their physical and mental well-being. Whenever we have been applying for further funding, we have been clear on our applications that the project is to reduce social isolation, to get volunteers out into nature/green spaces. We have also been striving to bring like-minded individuals together, to create new friendships and alliances and to also promote other small businesses that have been involved with our project. We believe that collaboration is key to our present and future success.

Please describe how your CCF activities promote Physical Health: For example, exercising, moving, breathing fresh air etc. *

Write N/A if not applicable

Our land project has enabled volunteers to get out into nature, through all kinds of weather, and promoted people of all different abilities, to engage with appropriate physical activities.

On a scale of 1 to 10, how has participating in the CCF Project improved your overall health and wellbeing? And the wellbeing of participants across your project.

*

No Improvement

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

6 ☐

7 ☒

8 ☐

9 ☐

10 ☐

A lot of Improvement

Did your CCF Project do any of the following in the community *

- ☒ We delivered Workshops in our community
- ☒ We hosted/delivered community engagement events
- ☒ We delivered Community wellness programmes
- ☒ We delivered environmental Conservation projects/practices in our community

☐ Other: _____

Please give more detail on your community projects / initiatives *

Please see previous answers of all the different projects/workshops we have delivered so far.

SECTION 3: Education

Please give detail on the training and skill-share workshops your CCF Project has been involved in, to date. *

For example, training/skill-share workshops attended and the number of attendees from your organisation. (Please include the Cooperative Alternative shared learning events and workshops attended as well as any other workshops/events attended).

I wasn't able to attend any skill sharing workshops, but learnt alot from the general meet ups, ranging from interview techniques, identifying our stakeholders, good governance and also being inspired from the different projects and sites that we visited.

Please detail how you have educated/passed knowledge on to your volunteers (including boards), members and customers. *

For example- About Horticulture, About Animal husbandry, About Social farming, About Market gardens and CSA, About Conservation and biodiversity, About Tourism, About Health & Wellbeing etc.

We have introduced locals to a myriad of new holistic therapies/therapists and shown people the natural resources that Gortin has to offer. Many people that have been to our events, didn't even know that Gortin had such a large and naturally abundant community site, and we know for sure that some of those same people have been coming back on a regular basis to our village. We've also introduced volunteers to the concept of forest gardens and that organically grown food can be produced in a way that enhances and improves the soil/land/environment/biodiversity, rather than just taking out of the land and replenishing it with synthetic chemicals, in order to continue the process.

Please detail any training or workshops YOUR project provided. *

Provide details on any sessions you led on, any qualifications received by those in attendance (if any) at your training and the number of people gaining qualifications/partaking in educational workshops. Please also note if anyone attending and / or receiving qualifications were from defined "underrepresented / disadvantaged groups".

We presented 2 workshops to children aged from 7 - 10. There were no qualifications given out as a result of our workshop, but we feel that we engaged and educated the children about trees, growing vegetables, improving biodiversity and planting particular plants that will attract pollinators and beneficial insects.

SECTION 4: Land & Environment

How much land has become accessible through your CCF Project to date? (hectares) *

For example, land that has come into your organisations management etc

0.33 hectares

Area of land given to food production? (hectares) *

0.33 hectares

Area of land given to conservation? (hectares) *

0.33 hectares

How much have you grown to date OUTDOORS (for example, in fields) *

Please detail the variety of crops, the type of crops and the amount of crops grown etc. If unsure, please estimate (If none, write N/A)

We have planted 30 fruit trees around the perimeter of our site, which include 3 varieties of apples (Boscoop, Katy and Discovery), Conference Pears and Victoria plums. The site already contains a large number of young tree saplings, which were planted before we took over.

How much have you grown to date INDOORS (for example, Greenhouses) *

Please detail the variety of crops, the type of crops and the amount of crops grown etc If unsure, please estimate (If none, write N/A)

N/A

What are your most important crops, in terms of volume (starting with the highest volume produced)? If unsure, please estimate. If none, * write N/A

Fruit trees at present, but we will be purchasing a number of edible and useful tree and shrub species in the near future with the £1000 grant we have been awarded. These will be forest garden type species, such as Autumn Olive, comfrey, hazels, willows, berry shrubs and more unusual, exotic edible species.

Does your CCF Project have any of the following organic systems in place? Please see formal definition via the following link: [Soil Association](#) *

- ☐ Crop Rotations
- ☐ Composting
- ☐ Cover Crops
- ☐ Integrated Pest Management
- ☐ Biological Control
- ☐ Organic Soil Amendments
- ☐ Water Conservation
- ☒ None of the Above
- ☐ Other:

Please give more detail on the organic systems you have in place *

All of the above will be implemented into the project in the future, we just haven't got there yet!

Does your CCF Project undertake any of the following regenerative farming practices? *

- ☒ Agroforestry Practices
- ☒ Perennial Species Planted
- ☒ Water Management Efforts
- ☐ None of the Above
- ☐ Other:

Please give more detail on the regenerative farming practices you undertake *

Forest gardens are a type of agroforestry practice, which involves planting predominantly perennial species. We also plan to harvest rainwater from a composting bay roof, and will be digging swales on the site to capture, store and distribute rain water to the site.

Does your CCF Project undertake any of the following: *



Soil Health Practices: For example Do you use green fertilizers, pesticides or natural methods, water usage / rain water etc. provide details on any soil testing carried out and the results



Agroecological Methods in place: For example, to mitigating climate change, reducing emissions, recycling resources and prioritising local supply chains



None of the Above

Give more detail to your previous selections *

We will be implementing the above practices, when our project gets fully underway.

Please detail any animal-rearing activities within your CCF Project to date *

Include specific animals, and number/quantity of animals. If applicable, provide any circular agriculture practices used, for example, regenerative grazing practices, local feed production, animal welfare and health or any value-added products, for example, wool. Please be as detailed as possible in your answer as we want to capture any reduced food miles

N/A

Tell us about any recycled material your CCF Project has used/produced to date *

Please provide a breakdown below if available and what it was used for, for example “0.2 tonnes (approximately) of plasterboard were used to construct our vegetable wash station”. Write N/A if not applicable.

N/A

SECTION 5: Financial and Enterprising Activities

Did your CCF Project contribute directly or indirectly to any of the following to date?

- ☐ Provided Full-Time Employment
- ☐ Provided Part-Time Employment
- ☐ Provided Work Placement Opportunities
- ☐ Supplied materials/produce to other businesses/VCSE groups
- ☒ Provided upskilling / Learning / Educational Opportunities
- ☐ Sold Goods / Generated Income / Farm Shop
- ☐ Supply Chain Contribution (e.g your CCF project contributed to the transfer of products somewhere along the line from “farm to fork”).
- ☐ We contributed to Agritourism
- ☐ We delivered a Community Supported Agriculture Scheme
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other: _____

Please give more detail on your selections *

Include any specific numbers for example P/T or F/T employment, and specific roles created if relevant. Give specific details for any of the other selections you have noted (how much, what, how, when etc)

We have delivered educational workshops to children, volunteers and older people.

What did you do, with the initial CCF seed funding? *

Our main purchase was a 6m bell tent, which we have been using and will continue to use in the future, a space to hold workshops, to shelter volunteers from inclement weather whilst working and to give ourselves a unique selling point and aesthetic appeal. We also purchased tools, such as 2 scythes and some soil blockers, and paid for our group insurance. We also purchased a pallet of compost which has been used for planting/growing demonstrations.

What benefits did the seed funding bring to your CCF Project and wider community/stakeholders? *

It enabled us to purchase insurance, in order to hold events and host volunteers, it provided equipment and tools to run workshops and the bell tent, to use as a bespoke space to host workshops and volunteers for the forest garden.

Please give detail of any other finance put into your CCF Project to date (Over and above the CCF seed funding) *

For example, match funding, other grants secured, own finance / fundraising etc. Write N/A if not applicable

We won a tender to deliver to workshops, which we were paid £500 for. We received £800 from the Rural Micro Capital Grant, which went on furnishing our bell tent and purchasing a solar generator and bell tent stove. We have just been awarded £1400 from the Live Here Love Here Small grant scheme and also £270 from the Council, community grants scheme, to be used on more tools and signage for the forest garden.

Give details of any return on investment for your organisation by partaking in the CCF Project to date? *

For example- What is your turnover? Has your turnover increased? What is your ratio between turnover from sales and grants? Write N/A if not applicable

We recieved around £2000 in sales from our holistic event, around £400 from our forage and feast event and £500 from our school workshops. Other money that came in was from funding - £1500 from CCF seed funding, £800 from the rural microgrant, and £1600 from the 2 most recent funding applications. So £2900 from sales and £3,900 from grants.

SECTION 6: Moving Forward

Between now, and the end of the CCF Project, what are your key priorities? *

For example, what do you hope to achieve over the next 6 to 8 months

We hope to secure our official lease agreement (which will cost £750 in solicitor fees), and to start proper work on the forest garden project. We will be planting trees, shrubs and ground cover plants on the site and finalising the design for the forest garden. We also hope to recruit a leading expert on forest gardens, to work on the project, potentially hold more bespoke workshops and to generate further publicity and interest through her network of contacts. We hope to establish a 'Friends of Gortin Forest Garden' group of volunteers, to help with work on the site. We will also be hosting a series of permaculture based workshops on topics such as soil health/composting, beneficial insects, water management and propagation, which will be run from the Gortin Community Garden, which is adjacent to our forest garden site. We have a plan to also host another Autumn forage/wild mushroom event and to potentially host a further Holistic evening. We also have plans to collaborate with some other local small businesses and host joint events and possibly a holistic retreat.

**Longer term, (after the Cultivating Community Farming project ends in 2024), do you have plans to expand/grow your CCF Project? If yes, *
how do you see your business growing? For example, More land use/ Increase production/ More customers/ More product lines/ More
volunteers, staff/ Other?**

In the long run, we hope to be able to turn the CCF project into an established business that will be able to pay 1 or 2 full-time salaries. I personally hope to transition from my full time job, working for Gortin Development Company, into a full time role with GWC. We want to establish ourselves as the main organisation in the area, concerned with climate change mitigation, food sovereignty and local production, and start selling a range of self-propagated forest garden plants, host garden tours and continue with training and bespoke workshops related to our business. We are also in early talks, to take over the running of Gortin Community Garden, which we will use for more organic food production and for hosting social farming type clients. We would also like to acquire/lease more land in order to create a market garden/community farm.

On the holistic side of the business, we hope to host more holistic events, collaborate with local therapists and host wellness/art retreats and create a well-being/holistic hub in the area, to provide access to therapies for local people.

**As part of the final Impact Report, we will include a number of case studies which are a great way of demonstrating impact. Would you be *
happy to provide a case study for your CCF Project?**



Yes



No



Not Sure (Please Provide More Detail on the requirements)

Would you like to add any further comments / thoughts at this stage? *

We only registered as a business about 2 weeks before we joined the CCF project. So, we were instantly thrown into a whole new world of jargon, terms and information that was alien to us. I feel our learning curve has been massive and we would like to thank the CCF project for enabling this to happen. One slight issue that we've found with the scheme, is that most of the other businesses are based towards the Belfast area, which has meant that there has been a lot of travelling for us to attend meet ups. We have felt slightly on the periphery of the project. However, all in all this whole experience has been really positive and I'm not sure how far along in our journey, we would have been if we hadn't been involved. We also hope to be able to use some of the data and statistics from this social impact report, to apply for more funding in the future.

This form was created inside Fundingi.

Google Forms

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Thank you for taking the time to complete this initial impact survey. If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

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L'Arche belast

What is your name? *

sean

What is the address of your CCF Project? *

36B manse road belfast Bt86sa

What is the legal structure of your CCF organisation? *

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- ☐ Other: _____

Has there been any benefits or restrictions regarding your legal structure? *

For example, has it helped or hindered you in progressing/sourcing funding and support? If no legal structure, please give detail on any benefits or restrictions you have encountered relevant to having no legal structure in place

help to get funding

What is the focus of your CCF Project? *

- ☒ Horticulture
- ☒ Animal husbandry
- ☒ Social farming
- ☒ Market gardens and CSA
- ☒ Conservation and biodiversity
- ☐ Tourism
- ☒ Health & Wellbeing
- ☐ Other:

Which of the following best describes your status as an organisation just before you started to participate in the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project? Select all that apply.

*

- ☐ We didn't have a farm and no plans to start one
- ☐ We had an idea about developing a community farm, but didn't know where to begin
- ☐ We had plans in place and were ready to start the farm, but had not actually started delivering anything
- ☒ We were already functioning as a community farm (i.e. growing, developing your products or services)

☐ Other: _____

Select the top 3 reasons you **INITIALLY** engaged with the CCF Project *

- ☐ We wanted to develop/set up our own enterprise
- ☐ We wanted to diversify our existing business
- ☐ We wanted to develop a CSA scheme
- ☐ We wanted to learn skills on how to run an enterprise
- ☐ We wanted to learn skills on how to grow and manage land
- ☒ We wanted to increase our community outreach/involvement
- ☒ We wanted to access land
- ☐ We wanted to access funding
- ☒ We wanted to connect with like-minded people/projects
- ☐ Other: _____

Have you achieved what you initially set out to achieve? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

☒ Somewhat achieved what we set out to achieve

☐ Other: _____

Which of the following best describes the progress that your CCF project has made since you participated in the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project

*

- ☐ Our CCF project is up and running, and we are doing lots of projects, initiatives and growing! Quicker than we thought!
- ☐ Our CCF project has started, but with limited progress
- ☐ Our CCF project started, but we have since ceased, but we have since established an alternative project (i.e. one that was not the focus of your participation in the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project
- ☒ We are continuing to develop the CCF project, and making good progress
- ☐ We stopped trying to set up the CCF project, but still intend to try and start in the future
- ☐ We have stopped trying to set up the project completely
- ☐ Our project (which started prior to participating) is continuing to operate as before
- ☐ Other: _____

What, if any, obstacles have prevented you from having been able to progress your CCF project? *

- ☐ Lack of (enough) access to finance
- ☐ Not enough demand / could not find volunteers / customers
- ☐ Covid19
- ☐ Could not find partner(s)
- ☒ Could not find (good) land
- ☐ Not enough time to devote to set up
- ☒ More difficult than expected (e.g. felt you didn't have the skills required)
- ☐ The risks at this moment in time (e.g. cost of living, rising costs) are too great
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other: _____

Thinking specifically about the support you received through the CCF programme to date, how likely do you think it is that you would have started your CCF initiative anyway and achieved what you have, in the absence of participating in the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project

*

- ☐ We DEFINITELY WOULD NOT have started the CCF project
- ☐ We PROBABLY WOULD NOT have started the CCF project
- ☐ We would have started the CCF project, but at a SMALLER SCALE
- ☒ We would have started the CCF project, but at a LATER DATE
- ☐ We would have started the CCF project, but at a SMALLER SCALE and at a LATER DATE
- ☐ We PROBABLY would have started the CCF project in the SAME MANNER and timescale regardless of the support from Co-Op Alternatives
- ☐ We DEFINITELY would have started the CCF project in the same manner and timescale regardless of the support from Co-Op Alternatives
- ☐ Other: _____

As a result of the advice or support received to date, did you change your approach to any aspect of creating your CCF project? Would you say.. *

- ☐ Yes – a big change
- ☐ Yes – some change
- ☒ No – did not make any change
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Other: _____

Please give more detail on any changes to approach. Write N/A if not relevant *

n/a _____

On balance, and in light of the support that you have received to help you develop your CCF initiative, do you consider that the advice and guidance received through the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project acted as 'tipping point' in helping you decide to start / grow / focus more on your project? *

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't Know

Please give more detail on your previous answer *

the support we got have really help push us on with the farm

Please respond to the following statements *

	A Great Deal	A Lot	Moderately So	A Little	Not at All
The CCF programme of support has delivered for us	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The CCF programme of support responded to our needs/challenges/issues	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The CCF programme of support fulfilled our expectations	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As a direct impact of the CCF programme, our project has made progress	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have a clearer vision and mission	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have a better understanding of our business model	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have a better understanding of our governance	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

governance

As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have a better understanding of our financial model



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our horticultural skills



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our animal husbandry knowledge



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our conservation and bio-diversity skills



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our land management



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our community engagement



As a direct impact of the CCF programme we have

CCF programme, we have
now (more) access to land



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we have
more focus and priorities



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we are
now more financially
resilient



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we have
now in place stronger
policies and procedures



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we have
now more volunteers and
community participation



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we are
more confident about
running our
enterprise/project



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we are
more confident in telling
people/funders about our
project



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we
collaborate more with other
organisations/people/proje
cts



organisations/people/proje
cts

In your opinion, on a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate your CCF Project's impact to date? *

Impact refers to the positive (or otherwise) changes (outputs and outcomes) that have occurred across your work and involvement in the Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project to date (within and across your programmes and community) and with your stakeholders (including users, beneficiaries, volunteers/staff/partners, etc.), and on the 'land', 'communities' and 'local economy'.

No Impact

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

6 ☐

7 ☐

8 ☒

9 ☐

10 ☐

Significant Impact

What prompted you to score the impact as you did? Please give as much detail as you can *

having the support of the CCF team has really help me to move forward with the project

In your opinion, on a scale of 1 to 10, would you say you achieved your desired outcomes to date? *

None Achieved

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

6 ☐

7 ☐

8 ☒

9 ☐

10 ☐

All Achieved

What were those outcomes achieved (if any). If no outcomes were achieved to date, then you can add details here about what outcomes you wanted to achieve at this stage, but didn't! *

we have move a good bit on with getting our land and we have been able to build a great veg wash and wood store from the grant money

In your opinion, on a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate the difference your CCF Project has made to date? On the 'land', 'communities' and 'local economy' *

No Difference

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

6 ☒

7 ☐

8 ☐

9 ☐

10 ☐

A lot of Difference

What prompted you to score the difference as you did? Please provide as much detail as possible. *

as we are still working towards the field it hasn't had as big an difference as we would have hope but once we get the land it will really make a massive difference to our Community

SECTION 2: Community Engagement and Wellbeing

Did your CCF Project engage with any of the following groups? *

☒ Schools / Educational Organisations

☒ Charities / Non Profits

☒ Older People

☒ Minority Ethnicity

☒ Persons with Disabilities

☒ Local Families

☒ Young People

☐ None

☐ Other:

Please provide more detail on how your CCF Project engaged with the groups you noted above *

For example, how many people from each target group did you engage with? What activities were delivered together? Please include names of groups if possible, and a brief description of the activities delivered together. (Write N/A if not applicable: i.e if you did not engage with any groups/orgs).

I am already working with all these groups and they all are very keen for us to start up our market gardens/farm

Overall, how many people have you engaged or interacted with through your CCF Project to date? Please provide a figure (This can be an estimation at this stage if exact data is not available). *

at the moment i would have 80 people in the garden week to week. with at least another 150+ visiting over the year from community groups.

Co-Design: Has your CCF Project engaged with communities/volunteers/members in co-designing new spaces? *

For example, your land and space developed to date. Please provide as much detail as possible in terms of how you have engaged with communities/volunteers/members in co-designing new spaces (Write N/A if not applicable).

yes we try to involve everyone by having group talks about the space and through the use of mood boards

How many volunteering opportunities have been established through your CCF Project to date? *

Please only note the volunteering opportunities attributed to your CCF Project (and not your wider organisation if not directly or indirectly relevant to your CCF Project)

none as off yet

Are any of your CCF volunteers / workers from any of the following underrepresented groups? *

- ☐ Older People
- ☐ Minority Ethnicity
- ☐ Persons with Disabilities
- ☐ Young People
- ☒ None
- ☐ Persons from within (or formerly within) the criminal justice system
- ☐ Other: _____

Approximately, how many volunteering hours have been dedicated to your CCF Project to date? *

Volunteer time dedicated from you, your team and wider volunteers (Give approx hours as required if exact data is not available at this stage).

N/A

Please describe how your CCF activities promote Mental Health: For example, reducing social isolation, creating social connections, access to green spaces etc. *

Write N/A if not applicable

gardening and being outside help with mental health as well as working as part of a friendly and supportive group

Please describe how your CCF activities promote Physical Health: For example, exercising, moving, breathing fresh air etc. *

Write N/A if not applicable

by working in the garden we support exercise, walking

On a scale of 1 to 10, how has participating in the CCF Project improved your overall health and wellbeing? And the wellbeing of participants across your project.

*

No Improvement

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

6 ☐

7 ☐

8 ☒

9 ☐

10 ☐

A lot of Improvement

Did your CCF Project do any of the following in the community *

- ☒ We delivered Workshops in our community
- ☐ We hosted/delivered community engagement events
- ☐ We delivered Community wellness programmes
- ☒ We delivered environmental Conservation projects/practices in our community
- ☐ Other: _____

Please give more detail on your community projects / initiatives *

we have done some community apple press to help stop food waste as well as having community meet up to talk about how to make the community more environmentally friendly

SECTION 3: Education

Please give detail on the training and skill-share workshops your CCF Project has been involved in, to date. *

For example, training/skill-share workshops attended and the number of attendees from your organisation. (Please include the Cooperative Alternative shared learning events and workshops attended as well as any other workshops/events attended).

I have been to most of the CCF workshops as well as some work shops run by Nourish ni, grow in, national trust, Nffnuk.

Please detail how you have educated/passed knowledge on to your volunteers (including boards), members and customers. *

For example- About Horticulture, About Animal husbandry, About Social farming, About Market gardens and CSA, About Conservation and biodiversity, About Tourism, About Health & Wellbeing etc.

we always like to share our skills with all who come to the garden weather its showing them how to grow organically

Please detail any training or workshops YOUR project provided. *

Provide details on any sessions you led on, any qualifications received by those in attendance (if any) at your training and the number of people gaining qualifications/partaking in educational workshops. Please also note if anyone attending and / or receiving qualifications were from defined "underrepresented / disadvantaged groups".

we have done a number of work shop that are all growing or wood work related but we are unable to give out Qualifications for the work shops

SECTION 4: Land & Environment

How much land has become accessible through your CCF Project to date? (hectares) *

For example, land that has come into your organisations management etc

we are still in talks for the 4.5 acres of land

Area of land given to food production? (hectares) *

1 hectars

Area of land given to conservation? (hectares) *

we will be working with nature on the whole site so near 2 hectares

How much have you grown to date OUTDOORS (for example, in fields) *

Please detail the variety of crops, the type of crops and the amount of crops grown etc. If unsure, please estimate (If none, write N/A)

we grow a whole range of veg and flowers

How much have you grown to date INDOORS (for example, Greenhouses) *

Please detail the variety of crops, the type of crops and the amount of crops grown etc. If unsure, please estimate (If none, write N/A)

we grow a wide range of indoor veg, fruits, house plants and bedding to be sold in the spring

What are your most important crops, in terms of volume (starting with the highest volume produced)? If unsure, please estimate. If none, *
write N/A

most of our indoor veg such as tomatoes, peppers, cumpers

Does your CCF Project have any of the following organic systems in place? Please see formal definition via the following link: [Soil Association](#) *

- ☒ Crop Rotations
- ☒ Composting
- ☒ Cover Crops
- ☒ Integrated Pest Management
- ☒ Biological Control
- ☒ Organic Soil Amendments
- ☒ Water Conservation
- ☐ None of the Above
- ☐ Other:

Please give more detail on the organic systems you have in place *

we run the garden on and organic and no dig principles

Does your CCF Project undertake any of the following regenerative farming practices? *

- ☐ Agroforestry Practices
- ☐ Perennial Species Planted
- ☒ Water Management Efforts
- ☐ None of the Above

☒ Other: we catch rain water of all the roofs

Please give more detail on the regenerative farming practices you undertake *

we try to practice no dig gardening

Does your CCF Project undertake any of the following: *

- ☒ Soil Health Practices: For example Do you use green fertilizers, pesticides or natural methods, water usage / rain water etc. provide details on any soil testing carried out and the results
- ☒ Agroecological Methods in place: For example, to mitigating climate change, reducing emissions, recycling resources and prioritising local supply chains
- ☐ None of the Above

Give more detail to your previous selections *

we try to work with nature where ever we can. we recycle and upcycle as much as we can

Please detail any animal-rearing activities within your CCF Project to date *

Include specific animals, and number/quantity of animals. If applicable, provide any circular agriculture practices used, for example, regenerative grazing practices, local feed production, animal welfare and health or any value-added products, for example, wool. Please be as detailed as possible in your answer as we want to capture any reduced food miles

we keep poultry and hatch chicks

Tell us about any recycled material your CCF Project has used/produced to date *

Please provide a breakdown below if available and what it was used for, for example "0.2 tonnes (approximately) of plasterboard were used to construct our vegetable wash station". Write N/A if not applicable.

we use a lot of recycled timber for the construction of our veg wash shed

SECTION 5: Financial and Enterprising Activities

Did your CCF Project contribute directly or indirectly to any of the following to date?

- ☐ Provided Full-Time Employment
- ☐ Provided Part-Time Employment
- ☐ Provided Work Placement Opportunities
- ☐ Supplied materials/produce to other businesses/VCSE groups
- ☒ Provided upskilling / Learning / Educational Opportunities
- ☐ Sold Goods / Generated Income / Farm Shop
- ☐ Supply Chain Contribution (e.g your CCF project contributed to the transfer of products somewhere along the line from “farm to fork”).
- ☐ We contributed to Agritourism
- ☐ We delivered a Community Supported Agriculture Scheme
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other: _____

Please give more detail on your selections *

Include any specific numbers for example P/T or F/T employment, and specific roles created if relevant. Give specific details for any of the other selections you have noted (how much, what, how, when etc)

we have done gardening session with people

What did you do, with the initial CCF seed funding? *

we built a veg wash area, wood store and pottery shed

What benefits did the seed funding bring to your CCF Project and wider community/stakeholders? *

it has giving us another work space and work shop

Please give detail of any other finance put into your CCF Project to date (Over and above the CCF seed funding) *

For example, match funding, other grants secured, own finance / fundraising etc. Write N/A if not applicable

we have had to use some of our own money and staffing to build the shed

Give details of any return on investment for your organisation by partaking in the CCF Project to date? *

For example- What is your turnover? Has your turnover increased? What is your ratio between turnover from sales and grants? Write N/A if not applicable

N/A

SECTION 6: Moving Forward

Between now, and the end of the CCF Project, what are your key priorities? *

For example, what do you hope to achieve over the next 6 to 8 months

we hope to get the land and start work on our market garden

**Longer term, (after the Cultivating Community Farming project ends in 2024), do you have plans to expand/grow your CCF Project? If yes, *
how do you see your business growing? For example, More land use/ Increase production/ More customers/ More product lines/ More
volunteers, staff/ Other?**

we plan to seat up and run a profitable community garden

**As part of the final Impact Report, we will include a number of case studies which are a great way of demonstrating impact. Would you be *
happy to provide a case study for your CCF Project?**



Yes



No



Not Sure (Please Provide More Detail on the requirements)

Would you like to add any further comments / thoughts at this stage? *

n/a

This form was created inside Fundingi.

Google Forms

Measuring the Impact- Cultivating Community Farming

Hi Community Farmers! We at CiCo Consulting have been commissioned by Co-operative Alternatives to measure the impact of the Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project 2022-2024.

We are utilising site visits, surveys, interviews, case studies and social value software to collect key data, which will be collated into a final impact measurement report for the overall CCF project.

Following our recently completed site visits, we are now distributing this initial impact survey for you to complete, which will be an excellent opportunity to demonstrate all the great work your CCF project has done to date.

As well as this survey and our recently completed site visits, there will be more opportunities to demonstrate further impacts later in the year.

If you would prefer to book a call with us to go through this survey, then please let us know and we would be happy to accommodate.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this initial impact survey. If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

What is the name of your Community Cultivating Farming (CCF) Project? *

Azora Community Farm

What is your name? *

Julie Hoey

What is the address of your CCF Project? *

c/o Hoey, 70 Hillsborough Road, Lisburn BT28 1JJ

What is the legal structure of your CCF organisation? *



Community Benefit Society (CBS)



Community Interest Company (CIC)



Limited Company



Registered Charity



Unincorporated Constituted Group



Co-Operative Society



No Legal Structure



Other:

Has there been any benefits or restrictions regarding your legal structure? *

For example, has it helped or hindered you in progressing/sourcing funding and support? If no legal structure, please give detail on any benefits or restrictions you have encountered relevant to having no legal structure in place

it has hindered us getting a new bank account

What is the focus of your CCF Project? *

- ☐ Horticulture
- ☐ Animal husbandry
- ☐ Social farming
- ☐ Market gardens and CSA
- ☐ Conservation and biodiversity
- ☐ Tourism
- ☒ Health & Wellbeing
- ☐ Other:

Which of the following best describes your status as an organisation just before you started to participate in the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project? Select all that apply.

*

- ☐ We didn't have a farm and no plans to start one
- ☐ We had an idea about developing a community farm, but didn't know where to begin
- ☐ We had plans in place and were ready to start the farm, but had not actually started delivering anything
- ☒ We were already functioning as a community farm (i.e. growing, developing your products or services)
- ☐ Other: _____

Select the top 3 reasons you **INITIALLY** engaged with the CCF Project *

- ☐ We wanted to develop/set up our own enterprise
- ☐ We wanted to diversify our existing business
- ☐ We wanted to develop a CSA scheme
- ☒ We wanted to learn skills on how to run an enterprise
- ☐ We wanted to learn skills on how to grow and manage land
- ☐ We wanted to increase our community outreach/involvement
- ☐ We wanted to access land
- ☒ We wanted to access funding
- ☒ We wanted to connect with like-minded people/projects
- ☐ Other: _____

Have you achieved what you initially set out to achieve? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

☒ Somewhat achieved what we set out to achieve

☐ Other: _____

Which of the following best describes the progress that your CCF project has made since you participated in the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project

*

- ☐ Our CCF project is up and running, and we are doing lots of projects, initiatives and growing! Quicker than we thought!
- ☐ Our CCF project has started, but with limited progress
- ☐ Our CCF project started, but we have since ceased, but we have since established an alternative project (i.e. one that was not the focus of your participation in the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project
- ☐ We are continuing to develop the CCF project, and making good progress
- ☒ We stopped trying to set up the CCF project, but still intend to try and start in the future
- ☐ We have stopped trying to set up the project completely
- ☐ Our project (which started prior to participating) is continuing to operate as before
- ☐ Other: _____

What, if any, obstacles have prevented you from having been able to progress your CCF project? *

- ☐ Lack of (enough) access to finance
- ☐ Not enough demand / could not find volunteers / customers
- ☐ Covid19
- ☐ Could not find partner(s)
- ☒ Could not find (good) land
- ☐ Not enough time to devote to set up
- ☒ More difficult than expected (e.g. felt you didn't have the skills required)
- ☐ The risks at this moment in time (e.g. cost of living, rising costs) are too great
- ☐ None
- ☒ Other: we had governance issues which we had to address as a priority

Thinking specifically about the support you received through the CCF programme to date, how likely do you think it is that you would have started your CCF initiative anyway and achieved what you have, in the absence of participating in the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project

*

- ☐ We DEFINITELY WOULD NOT have started the CCF project
- ☒ We PROBABLY WOULD NOT have started the CCF project
- ☐ We would have started the CCF project, but at a SMALLER SCALE
- ☐ We would have started the CCF project, but at a LATER DATE
- ☐ We would have started the CCF project, but at a SMALLER SCALE and at a LATER DATE
- ☐ We PROBABLY would have started the CCF project in the SAME MANNER and timescale regardless of the support from Co-Op Alternatives
- ☐ We DEFINITELY would have started the CCF project in the same manner and timescale regardless of the support from Co-Op Alternatives
- ☐ Other: _____

As a result of the advice or support received to date, did you change your approach to any aspect of creating your CCF project? Would you say.. *

- ☐ Yes – a big change
- ☐ Yes – some change
- ☐ No – did not make any change
- ☒ Don't know
- ☐ Other: _____

Please give more detail on any changes to approach. Write N/A if not relevant *

n/a _____

On balance, and in light of the support that you have received to help you develop your CCF initiative, do you consider that the advice and guidance received through the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project acted as 'tipping point' in helping you decide to start / grow / focus more on your project? *

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't Know

Please give more detail on your previous answer *

being in a cohort gives you impetus to keep going when things are hard

Please respond to the following statements *

	A Great Deal	A Lot	Moderately So	A Little	Not at All
The CCF programme of support has delivered for us	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The CCF programme of support responded to our needs/challenges/issues	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The CCF programme of support fulfilled our expectations	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As a direct impact of the CCF programme, our project has made progress	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have a clearer vision and mission	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have a better understanding of our business model	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have a better understanding of our governance	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

governance

As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have a better understanding of our financial model



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our horticultural skills



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our animal husbandry knowledge



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our conservation and bio-diversity skills



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our land management



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our community engagement



As a direct impact of the CCF programme we have

CCF programme, we have
now (more) access to land



As a direct impact of the
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resilient



As a direct impact of the
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As a direct impact of the
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As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we are
more confident about
running our
enterprise/project



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we are
more confident in telling
people/funders about our
project



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we
collaborate more with other
organisations/people/proje
cts



organisations/people/proje
cts

In your opinion, on a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate your CCF Project's impact to date? *

Impact refers to the positive (or otherwise) changes (outputs and outcomes) that have occurred across your work and involvement in the Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project to date (within and across your programmes and community) and with your stakeholders (including users, beneficiaries, volunteers/staff/partners, etc.), and on the 'land', 'communities' and 'local economy'.

No Impact

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

6 ☐

7 ☒

8 ☐

9 ☐

10 ☐

Significant Impact

What prompted you to score the impact as you did? Please give as much detail as you can *

although our project struggled throughout, having the focus of CCF, the expertise of the leadership team to hand and the benefit of others in the group cheering you on made a positive difference to the impact.

In your opinion, on a scale of 1 to 10, would you say you achieved your desired outcomes to date? *

None Achieved

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

6 ☒

7 ☐

8 ☐

9 ☐

10 ☐

All Achieved

What were those outcomes achieved (if any). If no outcomes were achieved to date, then you can add details here about what outcomes you wanted to achieve at this stage, but didn't! *

greater clarity on land strategy; stronger governance; growing our support base

In your opinion, on a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate the difference your CCF Project has made to date? On the 'land', 'communities' and 'local economy' *

No Difference

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

6 ☐

7 ☒

8 ☐

9 ☐

10 ☐

A lot of Difference

What prompted you to score the difference as you did? Please provide as much detail as possible. *

I think having the project may have kept us going when we were experiencing difficulties

SECTION 2: Community Engagement and Wellbeing

Did your CCF Project engage with any of the following groups? *

☐ Schools / Educational Organisations

☐ Charities / Non Profits

☒ Older People

☐ Minority Ethnic

☐ Persons with Disabilities

☒ Local Families

☒ Young People

☐ None

☐ Other: _____

Please provide more detail on how your CCF Project engaged with the groups you noted above *

For example, how many people from each target group did you engage with? What activities were delivered together? Please include names of groups if possible, and a brief description of the activities delivered together. (Write N/A if not applicable: i.e if you did not engage with any groups/orgs).

regular weekly volunteer sessions held throughout growing season.

Overall, how many people have you engaged or interacted with through your CCF Project to date? Please provide a figure (This can be an estimation at this stage if exact data is not available). *

30

Co-Design: Has your CCF Project engaged with communities/volunteers/members in co-designing new spaces? *

For example, your land and space developed to date. Please provide as much detail as possible in terms of how you have engaged with communities/volunteers/members in co-designing new spaces (Write N/A if not applicable).

n/a

How many volunteering opportunities have been established through your CCF Project to date? *

Please only note the volunteering opportunities attributed to your CCF Project (and not your wider organisation if not directly or indirectly relevant to your CCF Project)

volunteer sessions held throughout growing season open to up to 15 people each week.

Are any of your CCF volunteers / workers from any of the following underrepresented groups? *



Older People



Minority Ethnicity



Persons with Disabilities



Young People



None



Persons from within (or formerly within) the criminal justice system



Other:

Approximately, how many volunteering hours have been dedicated to your CCF Project to date? *

Volunteer time dedicated from you, your team and wider volunteers (Give approx hours as required if exact data is not available at this stage).

20 hours a week

Please describe how your CCF activities promote Mental Health: For example, reducing social isolation, creating social connections, access to green spaces etc. *

Write N/A if not applicable

access to open green space, trees, fruit bushes etc. Social time sharing food and drink is part of every volunteer session.

Please describe how your CCF activities promote Physical Health: For example, exercising, moving, breathing fresh air etc. *

Write N/A if not applicable

Physical activity is part of every session; volunteers can choose to engage at various levels. We moved a huge polytunnel from our old site to the new one which was a major undertaking by volunteers.

On a scale of 1 to 10, how has participating in the CCF Project improved your overall health and wellbeing? And the wellbeing of participants across your project.

*

No Improvement

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☒

6 ☐

7 ☐

8 ☐

9 ☐

10 ☐

A lot of Improvement

Did your CCF Project do any of the following in the community *

- ☐ We delivered Workshops in our community
- ☒ We hosted/delivered community engagement events
- ☐ We delivered Community wellness programmes
- ☐ We delivered environmental Conservation projects/practices in our community
- ☐ Other: _____

Please give more detail on your community projects / initiatives *

the move to the new site meant a series of sessions for the volunteer community which build a sense of shared purpose

SECTION 3: Education

Please give detail on the training and skill-share workshops your CCF Project has been involved in, to date. *

For example, training/skill-share workshops attended and the number of attendees from your organisation. (Please include the Cooperative Alternative shared learning events and workshops attended as well as any other workshops/events attended).

we have attended all sessions with between 1 and 3 attendees at each.

Please detail how you have educated/passed knowledge on to your volunteers (including boards), members and customers. *

For example- About Horticulture, About Animal husbandry, About Social farming, About Market gardens and CSA, About Conservation and biodiversity, About Tourism, About Health & Wellbeing etc.

We have shared events with volunteers on whatsapp, in face to face chat and on social media.

Please detail any training or workshops YOUR project provided. *

Provide details on any sessions you led on, any qualifications received by those in attendance (if any) at your training and the number of people gaining qualifications/partaking in educational workshops. Please also note if anyone attending and / or receiving qualifications were from defined "underrepresented / disadvantaged groups".

n/a

SECTION 4: Land & Environment

How much land has become accessible through your CCF Project to date? (hectares) *

For example, land that has come into your organisations management etc

1

Area of land given to food production? (hectares) *

0.7

Area of land given to conservation? (hectares) *

0.3

How much have you grown to date OUTDOORS (for example, in fields) *

Please detail the variety of crops, the type of crops and the amount of crops grown etc. If unsure, please estimate (If none, write N/A)

sprouts, kale, chard, kolhrabi, potatoes, salad greens - enough for volunteers to take home

How much have you grown to date INDOORS (for example, Greenhouses) *

Please detail the variety of crops, the type of crops and the amount of crops grown etc. If unsure, please estimate (If none, write N/A)

tomatoes, cucumbers, squashes, alpine strawberries, dill, parsley, peas, beetroot - enough for volunteers to take home

What are your most important crops, in terms of volume (starting with the highest volume produced)? If unsure, please estimate. If none, *
write N/A

tomatoes

Does your CCF Project have any of the following organic systems in place? Please see formal definition via the following link: [Soil Association](#) *

- ☐ Crop Rotations
- ☒ Composting
- ☐ Cover Crops
- ☐ Integrated Pest Management
- ☐ Biological Control
- ☐ Organic Soil Amendments
- ☒ Water Conservation
- ☐ None of the Above
- ☐ Other:

Please give more detail on the organic systems you have in place *

use of organic seeds and seed saving; rainwater harvesting; use of no-dig and organic methods of growing; composting on new site

Does your CCF Project undertake any of the following regenerative farming practices? *

- ☐ Agroforestry Practices
- ☐ Perennial Species Planted
- ☐ Water Management Efforts
- ☒ None of the Above
- ☐ Other: _____

Please give more detail on the regenerative farming practices you undertake *

n/a

Does your CCF Project undertake any of the following: *

- ☒ Soil Health Practices: For example Do you use green fertilizers, pesticides or natural methods, water usage / rain water etc. provide details on any soil testing carried out and the results
- ☒ Agroecological Methods in place: For example, to mitigating climate change, reducing emissions, recycling resources and prioritising local supply chains
- ☐ None of the Above

Give more detail to your previous selections *

use of nettles and comfrey to make plant feed; no-dig; rainwater harvesting; recycling or old materials; borrowing; buying second hand; buying local.

Please detail any animal-rearing activities within your CCF Project to date *

Include specific animals, and number/quantity of animals. If applicable, provide any circular agriculture practices used, for example, regenerative grazing practices, local feed production, animal welfare and health or any value-added products, for example, wool. Please be as detailed as possible in your answer as we want to capture any reduced food miles

n/a

Tell us about any recycled material your CCF Project has used/produced to date *

Please provide a breakdown below if available and what it was used for, for example "0.2 tonnes (approximately) of plasterboard were used to construct our vegetable wash station". Write N/A if not applicable.

pallets for compost systems; generally we source needs from within our community (so seek free materials, plants etc from volunteers and members of the public)

SECTION 5: Financial and Enterprising Activities

Did your CCF Project contribute directly or indirectly to any of the following to date?

- ☐ Provided Full-Time Employment
- ☐ Provided Part-Time Employment
- ☐ Provided Work Placement Opportunities
- ☐ Supplied materials/produce to other businesses/VCSE groups
- ☒ Provided upskilling / Learning / Educational Opportunities
- ☐ Sold Goods / Generated Income / Farm Shop
- ☒ Supply Chain Contribution (e.g your CCF project contributed to the transfer of products somewhere along the line from “farm to fork”).
- ☐ We contributed to Agritourism
- ☐ We delivered a Community Supported Agriculture Scheme
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other: _____

Please give more detail on your selections *

Include any specific numbers for example P/T or F/T employment, and specific roles created if relevant. Give specific details for any of the other selections you have noted (how much, what, how, when etc)

each volunteer session has an educational aspect; we aim to inspire volunteers to grow more at home, so as well as the crops they take home, they also grow at home and share with other volunteers.

What did you do, with the initial CCF seed funding? *

Seeds, Compost; wood to construct beds in Polytunnel ; seed trays; tools, polytunnel repairs and some seating.

What benefits did the seed funding bring to your CCF Project and wider community/stakeholders? *

good equipment and we were able to make progress more quickly; builds confidence

Please give detail of any other finance put into your CCF Project to date (Over and above the CCF seed funding) *

For example, match funding, other grants secured, own finance / fundraising etc. Write N/A if not applicable

n/a

Give details of any return on investment for your organisation by partaking in the CCF Project to date? *

For example- What is your turnover? Has your turnover increased? What is your ratio between turnover from sales and grants? Write N/A if not applicable

n/a

SECTION 6: Moving Forward

Between now, and the end of the CCF Project, what are your key priorities? *

For example, what do you hope to achieve over the next 6 to 8 months

increase no of volunteers attending weekly sessions; secure two new Board members; rename the project and relaunch; employ someone on a sessional basis for 6 hours a week; consolidate our working practices on the current site and continue to seek land.

**Longer term, (after the Cultivating Community Farming project ends in 2024), do you have plans to expand/grow your CCF Project? If yes, *
how do you see your business growing? For example, More land use/ Increase production/ More customers/ More product lines/ More
volunteers, staff/ Other?**

Increase production, staffing and no of volunteers

As part of the final Impact Report, we will include a number of case studies which are a great way of demonstrating impact. Would you be ^{*} happy to provide a case study for your CCF Project?

☐

Yes



No

☐

Not Sure (Please Provide More Detail on the requirements)

Would you like to add any further comments / thoughts at this stage? ^{*}

it's been a hard time for our project but having the support, friendship and expert advice from the CCF team has made it better.

This form was created inside Fundingi.

Google Forms

Measuring the Impact- Cultivating Community Farming

Hi Community Farmers! We at CiCo Consulting have been commissioned by Co-operative Alternatives to measure the impact of the Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project 2022-2024.

We are utilising site visits, surveys, interviews, case studies and social value software to collect key data, which will be collated into a final impact measurement report for the overall CCF project.

Following our recently completed site visits, we are now distributing this initial impact survey for you to complete, which will be an excellent opportunity to demonstrate all the great work your CCF project has done to date.

As well as this survey and our recently completed site visits, there will be more opportunities to demonstrate further impacts later in the year.

If you would prefer to book a call with us to go through this survey, then please let us know and we would be happy to accommodate.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this initial impact survey. If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

What is the name of your Community Cultivating Farming (CCF) Project? *

Farm & Feast (at The Edible Flower)

What is your name? *

Jo Facer

What is the address of your CCF Project? *

121 Middle Road, Saintfield, BT247LS

What is the legal structure of your CCF organisation? *

- ☐ Community Benefit Society (CBS)
- ☐ Community Interest Company (CIC)
- ☒ Limited Company
- ☐ Registered Charity
- ☐ Unincorporated Constituted Group
- ☐ Co-Operative Society
- ☐ No Legal Structure
- ☐ Other: _____

Has there been any benefits or restrictions regarding your legal structure? *

For example, has it helped or hindered you in progressing/sourcing funding and support? If no legal structure, please give detail on any benefits or restrictions you have encountered relevant to having no legal structure in place

Hindered - We have not been illegible for funding / grant due to our limited company status

What is the focus of your CCF Project? *

- ☐ Horticulture
- ☐ Animal husbandry
- ☐ Social farming
- ☒ Market gardens and CSA
- ☐ Conservation and biodiversity
- ☐ Tourism
- ☐ Health & Wellbeing
- ☐ Other:

Which of the following best describes your status as an organisation just before you started to participate in the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project? Select all that apply.

*

- ☐ We didn't have a farm and no plans to start one
- ☐ We had an idea about developing a community farm, but didn't know where to begin
- ☐ We had plans in place and were ready to start the farm, but had not actually started delivering anything
- ☒ We were already functioning as a community farm (i.e. growing, developing your products or services)

☐ Other: _____

Select the top 3 reasons you **INITIALLY** engaged with the CCF Project *

- ☐ We wanted to develop/set up our own enterprise
- ☒ We wanted to diversify our existing business
- ☒ We wanted to develop a CSA scheme
- ☐ We wanted to learn skills on how to run an enterprise
- ☐ We wanted to learn skills on how to grow and manage land
- ☐ We wanted to increase our community outreach/involvement
- ☐ We wanted to access land
- ☐ We wanted to access funding
- ☒ We wanted to connect with like-minded people/projects
- ☐ Other: _____

Have you achieved what you initially set out to achieve? *

☒ Yes

☐ No

☐ Somewhat achieved what we set out to achieve

☐ Other: _____

Which of the following best describes the progress that your CCF project has made since you participated in the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project

*

- ☒ Our CCF project is up and running, and we are doing lots of projects, initiatives and growing! Quicker than we thought!
- ☐ Our CCF project has started, but with limited progress
- ☐ Our CCF project started, but we have since ceased, but we have since established an alternative project (i.e. one that was not the focus of your participation in the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project
- ☐ We are continuing to develop the CCF project, and making good progress
- ☐ We stopped trying to set up the CCF project, but still intend to try and start in the future
- ☐ We have stopped trying to set up the project completely
- ☐ Our project (which started prior to participating) is continuing to operate as before
- ☐ Other: _____

What, if any, obstacles have prevented you from having been able to progress your CCF project? *

- ☐ Lack of (enough) access to finance
- ☐ Not enough demand / could not find volunteers / customers
- ☐ Covid19
- ☐ Could not find partner(s)
- ☐ Could not find (good) land
- ☐ Not enough time to devote to set up
- ☐ More difficult than expected (e.g. felt you didn't have the skills required)
- ☐ The risks at this moment in time (e.g. cost of living, rising costs) are too great
- ☐ None

☒ Other: Lack of resources - not able / willing to employ more people

Thinking specifically about the support you received through the CCF programme to date, how likely do you think it is that you would have started your CCF initiative anyway and achieved what you have, in the absence of participating in the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project

*

- ☐ We DEFINITELY WOULD NOT have started the CCF project
- ☐ We PROBABLY WOULD NOT have started the CCF project
- ☐ We would have started the CCF project, but at a SMALLER SCALE
- ☐ We would have started the CCF project, but at a LATER DATE
- ☐ We would have started the CCF project, but at a SMALLER SCALE and at a LATER DATE
- ☒ We PROBABLY would have started the CCF project in the SAME MANNER and timescale regardless of the support from Co-Op Alternatives
- ☐ We DEFINITELY would have started the CCF project in the same manner and timescale regardless of the support from Co-Op Alternatives
- ☐ Other: _____

As a result of the advice or support received to date, did you change your approach to any aspect of creating your CCF project? Would you say.. *

- ☒ Yes – a big change
- ☐ Yes – some change
- ☐ No – did not make any change
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Other: _____

Please give more detail on any changes to approach. Write N/A if not relevant *

It has inspired me to keep going! And I think Farm & Feast will continue to grow and change for the better due to the CCF project. I don't think I'd be considering continuing Farm & Feast into the 2024 season without the support that the CCF project has given me.

On balance, and in light of the support that you have received to help you develop your CCF initiative, do you consider that the advice and guidance received through the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project acted as 'tipping point' in helping you decide to start / grow / focus more on your project? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ Don't Know

Please give more detail on your previous answer *

Not as a tipping point back at the start of the CCF Project (spring 2022) but I do think it's acting as a tipping point now, coming towards the end of the 2023 season. Starting something is relatively easy! Creating something that is sustainable in the long-term is harder.

Please respond to the following statements *

	A Great Deal	A Lot	Moderately So	A Little	Not at All
The CCF programme of support has delivered for us	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The CCF programme of support responded to our needs/challenges/issues	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The CCF programme of support fulfilled our expectations	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As a direct impact of the CCF programme, our project has made progress	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have a clearer vision and mission	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have a better understanding of our business model	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have a better understanding of our governance	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

governance

As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have a better understanding of our financial model



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our horticultural skills



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our animal husbandry knowledge



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our conservation and bio-diversity skills



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our land management



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our community engagement



As a direct impact of the CCF programme we have

CCF programme, we have
now (more) access to land



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we have
more focus and priorities



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we are
now more financially
resilient



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we have
now in place stronger
policies and procedures



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we have
now more volunteers and
community participation



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we are
more confident about
running our
enterprise/project



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we are
more confident in telling
people/funders about our
project



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we
collaborate more with other
organisations/people/proje
cts



organisations/people/proje
cts

In your opinion, on a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate your CCF Project's impact to date? *

Impact refers to the positive (or otherwise) changes (outputs and outcomes) that have occurred across your work and involvement in the Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project to date (within and across your programmes and community) and with your stakeholders (including users, beneficiaries, volunteers/staff/partners, etc.), and on the 'land', 'communities' and 'local economy'.

No Impact

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

6 ☐

7 ☐

8 ☐

9 ☐

10 ☒

Significant Impact

What prompted you to score the impact as you did? Please give as much detail as you can *

A large number of my volunteers and CSA members tell me regularly how Farm & Feast has improved their physical and mental health and that it has changed the way that their family cooks and eats.

In your opinion, on a scale of 1 to 10, would you say you achieved your desired outcomes to date? *

None Achieved

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

6 ☐

7 ☐

8 ☒

9 ☐

10 ☐

All Achieved

What were those outcomes achieved (if any). If no outcomes were achieved to date, then you can add details here about what outcomes you wanted to achieve at this stage, but didn't! *

To run our CSA successfully for 15 families in year 1 (2022) and for 30 families in year 2 (2023). To set up a successful and popular volunteering scheme.
To achieve organic certification for the farm.

In your opinion, on a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate the difference your CCF Project has made to date? On the 'land', 'communities' and 'local economy' *

No Difference

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

6 ☐

7 ☐

8 ☐

9 ☐

10 ☒

A lot of Difference

What prompted you to score the difference as you did? Please provide as much detail as possible. *

Farm & Feast has created at least 1 part-time job (60% FTE). It has created a vibrant and active community of volunteers and members. And it supports the operation of a 7-acre organically-certified farm which is creating a productive, ecologically diverse and balanced ecosystem.

SECTION 2: Community Engagement and Wellbeing

Did your CCF Project engage with any of the following groups? *

☐ Schools / Educational Organisations

☐ Charities / Non Profits

☒ Older People

☒ Minority Ethnicity

☐ Persons with Disabilities

☒ Local Families

☒ Young People

☐ None

☐ Other:

Please provide more detail on how your CCF Project engaged with the groups you noted above *

For example, how many people from each target group did you engage with? What activities were delivered together? Please include names of groups if possible, and a brief description of the activities delivered together. (Write N/A if not applicable: i.e if you did not engage with any groups/orgs).

We haven't actively engaged with the above groups, but they have engaged with us as members of our CSA and as volunteering

Overall, how many people have you engaged or interacted with through your CCF Project to date? Please provide a figure (This can be an estimation at this stage if exact data is not available). *

In 2022 we had 15 families (49 people) as paying members. In 2023 that increased to 31 families (83 people). We have run numerous volunteering sessions with between 2 and 9 people attending each. To date, people have attended exactly 500 volunteering slots. 41 people are part of our Volunteer VIP list and attend regularly. The rest of the 500 slot have been filled by people who attend just once or twice as time allows.

Co-Design: Has your CCF Project engaged with communities/volunteers/members in co-designing new spaces? *

For example, your land and space developed to date. Please provide as much detail as possible in terms of how you have engaged with communities/volunteers/members in co-designing new spaces (Write N/A if not applicable).

Yes. With volunteers and our members we've reshaped the land, built new growing areas, moved tonnes of small stones, built dry-stone walls and dead hedges, built a firepit and created a rainbow wall. People have engaged as part of our "Farm and Feast Saturdays" and during volunteer sessions.

How many volunteering opportunities have been established through your CCF Project to date? *

Please only note the volunteering opportunities attributed to your CCF Project (and not your wider organisation if not directly or indirectly relevant to your CCF Project)

We have run volunteer sessions on 71 days in 2022 and 2023 to date and 500 volunteers have been attended over those 71 days.

Are any of your CCF volunteers / workers from any of the following underrepresented groups? *



Older People



Minority Ethnicity



Persons with Disabilities



Young People



None



Persons from within (or formerly within) the criminal justice system



Other:

Approximately, how many volunteering hours have been dedicated to your CCF Project to date? *

Volunteer time dedicated from you, your team and wider volunteers (Give approx hours as required if exact data is not available at this stage).

1600

Please describe how your CCF activities promote Mental Health: For example, reducing social isolation, creating social connections, access to green spaces etc. *

Write N/A if not applicable

Our volunteer sessions and our farm & feast members get a chance to 1) learn something new 2) Get more active 3) Be outside and surrounded by nature and plants and 4) Be part of a community, do things with others - All of which I believe have a positive effect on mental health.

Please describe how your CCF activities promote Physical Health: For example, exercising, moving, breathing fresh air etc. *

Write N/A if not applicable

Our volunteers and members are involved in farming activities that involve gentle (or less gentle if they are keen) physical work outside in the fresh air. Our volunteers and members eat the vegetables we grow, taste recipes we've designed and feel inspired to cook our produce for themselves and their families.

On a scale of 1 to 10, how has participating in the CCF Project improved your overall health and wellbeing? And the wellbeing of participants across your project.

*

No Improvement

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

6 ☐

7 ☐

8 ☐

9 ☐

10 ☒

A lot of Improvement

Did your CCF Project do any of the following in the community *

- ☐ We delivered Workshops in our community
- ☐ We hosted/delivered community engagement events
- ☐ We delivered Community wellness programmes
- ☐ We delivered environmental Conservation projects/practices in our community

☒ Other: No

Please give more detail on your community projects / initiatives *

n/a

SECTION 3: Education

Please give detail on the training and skill-share workshops your CCF Project has been involved in, to date. *

For example, training/skill-share workshops attended and the number of attendees from your organisation. (Please include the Cooperative Alternative shared learning events and workshops attended as well as any other workshops/events attended).

Attended 4 CCF learning events with an average of 2 attendees per event.

Please detail how you have educated/passed knowledge on to your volunteers (including boards), members and customers. *

For example- About Horticulture, About Animal husbandry, About Social farming, About Market gardens and CSA, About Conservation and biodiversity, About Tourism, About Health & Wellbeing etc.

About organic horticulture, market gardens and CSA, recipes and seasonal eating.

Please detail any training or workshops YOUR project provided. *

Provide details on any sessions you led on, any qualifications received by those in attendance (if any) at your training and the number of people gaining qualifications/partaking in educational workshops. Please also note if anyone attending and / or receiving qualifications were from defined "underrepresented / disadvantaged groups".

No formal training workshops provided.

SECTION 4: Land & Environment

How much land has become accessible through your CCF Project to date? (hectares) *

For example, land that has come into your organisations management etc

2.8 hectares of land is managed by our project

Area of land given to food production? (hectares) *

0.5 hectares

Area of land given to conservation? (hectares) *

0.27 hectares

How much have you grown to date OUTDOORS (for example, in fields) *

Please detail the variety of crops, the type of crops and the amount of crops grown etc. If unsure, please estimate (If none, write N/A)

Outdoor crops include: Basil

Beetroot

Borage

Broad bean

Broccoli

Brussel sprouts

Cabbage

Calendula

Carrots

Cauliflower

Celeriac

Celery

Chard

Chervil

Chicory

Coriander

Cornflower

Courgette

Dill

Fennel

French marigold

Garlic

Green Bean (Climbing)

Green Bean (Dwarf)

Jerusalem Artichoke

Kai Lan

Kale

Kohlrabi

Landcress

Leek

Lettuce

Mouli
Mustards
Nasturtium
Onion
Pak Choi
Parsley
Parsnip
Peas
Peashoots
Potatoes
Radicchio
Radish
Red Cabbage
Red Onion
Romanesco
Runner Bean
Scallions
Shallots
Spinach
Sprouting Broccoli
Squash
Turnip

We have produced enough produce to fill 275 vegetable boxes (worth £20 to £25) in 2022 (over 20 weeks). And in addition by the end of the 2023 season will have grown vegetables for 800 vegetables boxes (over 30 weeks).

How much have you grown to date INDOORS (for example, Greenhouses) *

Please detail the variety of crops, the type of crops and the amount of crops grown etc. If unsure, please estimate (If none, write N/A)

Aubergine

Chilli peppers

Sweet peppers

Tomato

Cucumber

Basil

Salad leaves

Early Broad beans

Early Potatoes

We have 1 polytunnel with is 24ft x 64 ft. And provide enough indoor produce for the vegetable boxes described above.

**What are your most important crops, in terms of volume (starting with the highest volume produced)? If unsure, please estimate. If none, *
write N/A**

Salad leaves are most important because I think they are so much better than shop-bought and people love them. They are the one item that is included in every vegetable share over the season.

Does your CCF Project have any of the following organic systems in place? Please see formal definition via the following link: [Soil Association](#) *

- ☒ Crop Rotations
- ☒ Composting
- ☐ Cover Crops
- ☒ Integrated Pest Management
- ☐ Biological Control
- ☒ Organic Soil Amendments
- ☒ Water Conservation
- ☐ None of the Above
- ☒ Other: Organic certification

Please give more detail on the organic systems you have in place *

We have achieved our organic certification on 1 January 2023.

Does your CCF Project undertake any of the following regenerative farming practices? *

- ☐ Agroforestry Practices
- ☒ Perennial Species Planted
- ☐ Water Management Efforts
- ☐ None of the Above
- ☒ Other: No dig.

Please give more detail on the regenerative farming practices you undertake *

Regenerating the land through soil improvement is one of our highest priorities.

Does your CCF Project undertake any of the following: *

- ☒ Soil Health Practices: For example Do you use green fertilizers, pesticides or natural methods, water usage / rain water etc. provide details on any soil testing carried out and the results
- ☐ Agroecological Methods in place: For example, to mitigating climate change, reducing emissions, recycling resources and prioritising local supply chains
- ☐ None of the Above

Give more detail to your previous selections *

See email with various attachments.

Please detail any animal-rearing activities within your CCF Project to date *

Include specific animals, and number/quantity of animals. If applicable, provide any circular agriculture practices used, for example, regenerative grazing practices, local feed production, animal welfare and health or any value-added products, for example, wool. Please be as detailed as possible in your answer as we want to capture any reduced food miles

No animals.

Tell us about any recycled material your CCF Project has used/produced to date *

Please provide a breakdown below if available and what it was used for, for example "0.2 tonnes (approximately) of plasterboard were used to construct our vegetable wash station". Write N/A if not applicable.

Stone from onsite and timber from onsite demolitions used to build vegetable supports, compost heaps, a celebration solstice arch, salad wash station, benches, firepits, dry stone walls & raised beds.

SECTION 5: Financial and Enterprising Activities

Did your CCF Project contribute directly or indirectly to any of the following to date?

- ☐ Provided Full-Time Employment
- ☒ Provided Part-Time Employment
- ☐ Provided Work Placement Opportunities
- ☐ Supplied materials/produce to other businesses/VCSE groups
- ☐ Provided upskilling / Learning / Educational Opportunities
- ☒ Sold Goods / Generated Income / Farm Shop
- ☐ Supply Chain Contribution (e.g your CCF project contributed to the transfer of products somewhere along the line from “farm to fork”).
- ☐ We contributed to Agritourism
- ☒ We delivered a Community Supported Agriculture Scheme
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other: _____

Please give more detail on your selections *

Include any specific numbers for example P/T or F/T employment, and specific roles created if relevant. Give specific details for any of the other selections you have noted (how much, what, how, when etc)

The project created a P/T role (our assistant grower) who worked 3 days a week.

What did you do, with the initial CCF seed funding? *

Funded the majority of our polytunnel in spring 2022.

What benefits did the seed funding bring to your CCF Project and wider community/stakeholders? *

The polytunnel allowed us to set up our CSA.

Please give detail of any other finance put into your CCF Project to date (Over and above the CCF seed funding) *

For example, match funding, other grants secured, own finance / fundraising etc. Write N/A if not applicable

All other funding was provided by our own finance.

Give details of any return on investment for your organisation by partaking in the CCF Project to date? *

For example- What is your turnover? Has your turnover increased? What is your ratio between turnover from sales and grants? Write N/A if not applicable

Our CSA turnover was approx £11k in 2022 and hopefully will be around £25k in 2023

SECTION 6: Moving Forward

Between now, and the end of the CCF Project, what are your key priorities? *

For example, what do you hope to achieve over the next 6 to 8 months

Complete a successful 2023 growing season and make bigger and better plans for 2024.

**Longer term, (after the Cultivating Community Farming project ends in 2024), do you have plans to expand/grow your CCF Project? If yes, *
how do you see your business growing? For example, More land use/ Increase production/ More customers/ More product lines/ More
volunteers, staff/ Other?**

Yes. More land used for growing, expanding into perennial vegetables, more members and more volunteers. Workshops and other ways for people to get involved. Also, I plan to turn our project into a social enterprise (currently a ltd company)

**As part of the final Impact Report, we will include a number of case studies which are a great way of demonstrating impact. Would you be *
happy to provide a case study for your CCF Project?**



Yes



No



Not Sure (Please Provide More Detail on the requirements)

Would you like to add any further comments / thoughts at this stage? *

No thank you. I will send you an email with additional reports and document that will hopefully be of use.

This form was created inside Fundingi.

Google Forms

Measuring the Impact- Cultivating Community Farming

Hi Community Farmers! We at CiCo Consulting have been commissioned by Co-operative Alternatives to measure the impact of the Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project 2022-2024.

We are utilising site visits, surveys, interviews, case studies and social value software to collect key data, which will be collated into a final impact measurement report for the overall CCF project.

Following our recently completed site visits, we are now distributing this initial impact survey for you to complete, which will be an excellent opportunity to demonstrate all the great work your CCF project has done to date.

As well as this survey and our recently completed site visits, there will be more opportunities to demonstrate further impacts later in the year.

If you would prefer to book a call with us to go through this survey, then please let us know and we would be happy to accommodate.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this initial impact survey. If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

What is the name of your Community Cultivating Farming (CCF) Project? *

Glenside Farm

What is your name? *

Malini Colville

What is the address of your CCF Project? *

11A Gransha Close Comber BT23 5RB

What is the legal structure of your CCF organisation? *

- ☐ Community Benefit Society (CBS)
- ☒ Community Interest Company (CIC)
- ☐ Limited Company
- ☐ Registered Charity
- ☐ Unincorporated Constituted Group
- ☐ Co-Operative Society
- ☐ No Legal Structure
- ☐ Other: _____

Has there been any benefits or restrictions regarding your legal structure? *

For example, has it helped or hindered you in progressing/sourcing funding and support? If no legal structure, please give detail on any benefits or restrictions you have encountered relevant to having no legal structure in place

Several funders will fund a CIC - gives us credibility rather than just being a farm. Directors are able to get some remuneration which helps in terms of delivering with low funds.

What is the focus of your CCF Project? *

- ☐ Horticulture
- ☒ Animal husbandry
- ☒ Social farming
- ☐ Market gardens and CSA
- ☒ Conservation and biodiversity
- ☐ Tourism
- ☒ Health & Wellbeing
- ☐ Other:

Which of the following best describes your status as an organisation just before you started to participate in the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project? Select all that apply.

*

- ☐ We didn't have a farm and no plans to start one
- ☐ We had an idea about developing a community farm, but didn't know where to begin
- ☐ We had plans in place and were ready to start the farm, but had not actually started delivering anything
- ☐ We were already functioning as a community farm (i.e. growing, developing your products or services)

☒ Other:

We had a farm and had delivered a couple of things but wanted to grow what we did and have more clarity in our vision, mission and values.

Select the top 3 reasons you **INITIALLY** engaged with the CCF Project *

- ☐ We wanted to develop/set up our own enterprise
- ☐ We wanted to diversify our existing business
- ☐ We wanted to develop a CSA scheme
- ☒ We wanted to learn skills on how to run an enterprise
- ☐ We wanted to learn skills on how to grow and manage land
- ☒ We wanted to increase our community outreach/involvement
- ☐ We wanted to access land
- ☐ We wanted to access funding
- ☒ We wanted to connect with like-minded people/projects
- ☐ Other: _____

Have you achieved what you initially set out to achieve? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

☒ Somewhat achieved what we set out to achieve

☐ Other: _____

Which of the following best describes the progress that your CCF project has made since you participated in the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project

*

- ☐ Our CCF project is up and running, and we are doing lots of projects, initiatives and growing! Quicker than we thought!
- ☐ Our CCF project has started, but with limited progress
- ☐ Our CCF project started, but we have since ceased, but we have since established an alternative project (i.e. one that was not the focus of your participation in the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project
- ☐ We are continuing to develop the CCF project, and making good progress
- ☐ We stopped trying to set up the CCF project, but still intend to try and start in the future
- ☐ We have stopped trying to set up the project completely
- ☐ Our project (which started prior to participating) is continuing to operate as before
- ☒ Other: We are continuing to develop the CCF project and making some progress - more in some areas than others.

What, if any, obstacles have prevented you from having been able to progress your CCF project? *

- ☒ Lack of (enough) access to finance
- ☐ Not enough demand / could not find volunteers / customers
- ☐ Covid19
- ☐ Could not find partner(s)
- ☐ Could not find (good) land
- ☐ Not enough time to devote to set up
- ☐ More difficult than expected (e.g. felt you didn't have the skills required)
- ☐ The risks at this moment in time (e.g. cost of living, rising costs) are too great
- ☐ None

☒ Other: The lack of capacity - need a larger team

Thinking specifically about the support you received through the CCF programme to date, how likely do you think it is that you would have started your CCF initiative anyway and achieved what you have, in the absence of participating in the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project

*

- ☐ We DEFINITELY WOULD NOT have started the CCF project
- ☐ We PROBABLY WOULD NOT have started the CCF project
- ☒ We would have started the CCF project, but at a SMALLER SCALE
- ☐ We would have started the CCF project, but at a LATER DATE
- ☐ We would have started the CCF project, but at a SMALLER SCALE and at a LATER DATE
- ☐ We PROBABLY would have started the CCF project in the SAME MANNER and timescale regardless of the support from Co-Op Alternatives
- ☐ We DEFINITELY would have started the CCF project in the same manner and timescale regardless of the support from Co-Op Alternatives
- ☐ Other: _____

As a result of the advice or support received to date, did you change your approach to any aspect of creating your CCF project? Would you say.. *

- ☐ Yes – a big change
- ☒ Yes – some change
- ☐ No – did not make any change
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Other: _____

Please give more detail on any changes to approach. Write N/A if not relevant *

We have realised due to capacity that some of the project may take longer to develop - eg the conservation area.

On balance, and in light of the support that you have received to help you develop your CCF initiative, do you consider that the advice and guidance received through the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project acted as 'tipping point' in helping you decide to start / grow / focus more on your project? *

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't Know

Please give more detail on your previous answer *

CCF has given us support to think through our vision, mission and values and move forward accordingly. We would not have this clarity if we did not have the support of CCF. Also helped us with prioritising and being realistic in implementing our project plan.

Please respond to the following statements *

	A Great Deal	A Lot	Moderately So	A Little	Not at All
The CCF programme of support has delivered for us	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The CCF programme of support responded to our needs/challenges/issues	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The CCF programme of support fulfilled our expectations	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As a direct impact of the CCF programme, our project has made progress	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have a clearer vision and mission	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have a better understanding of our business model	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have a better understanding of our governance	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

governance

As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have a better understanding of our financial model



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our horticultural skills



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our animal husbandry knowledge



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our conservation and bio-diversity skills



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our land management



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our community engagement



As a direct impact of the CCF programme we have

CCF programme, we have
now (more) access to land



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we have
more focus and priorities



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we are
now more financially
resilient



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we have
now in place stronger
policies and procedures



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we have
now more volunteers and
community participation



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we are
more confident about
running our
enterprise/project



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we are
more confident in telling
people/funders about our
project



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we
collaborate more with other
organisations/people/proje
cts



organisations/people/proje
cts

In your opinion, on a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate your CCF Project's impact to date? *

Impact refers to the positive (or otherwise) changes (outputs and outcomes) that have occurred across your work and involvement in the Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project to date (within and across your programmes and community) and with your stakeholders (including users, beneficiaries, volunteers/staff/partners, etc.), and on the 'land', 'communities' and 'local economy'.

No Impact

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

6 ☒

7 ☐

8 ☐

9 ☐

10 ☐

Significant Impact

What prompted you to score the impact as you did? Please give as much detail as you can *

I feel we have a long way to go but moving in the right direction albeit slowly.

In your opinion, on a scale of 1 to 10, would you say you achieved your desired outcomes to date? *

None Achieved

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

6 ☒

7 ☐

8 ☐

9 ☐

10 ☐

All Achieved

What were those outcomes achieved (if any). If no outcomes were achieved to date, then you can add details here about what outcomes you wanted to achieve at this stage, but didn't! *

We would like to get to a point of having someone employed with us and for us to deliver programmes consistently throughout the week/ year.

In your opinion, on a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate the difference your CCF Project has made to date? On the 'land', 'communities' and 'local economy' *

No Difference

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

6 ☒

7 ☐

8 ☐

9 ☐

10 ☐

A lot of Difference

What prompted you to score the difference as you did? Please provide as much detail as possible. *

We are being recognised and we are delivering but this needs to grow with more programmes being established. The conservation area has yet to be developed

SECTION 2: Community Engagement and Wellbeing

Did your CCF Project engage with any of the following groups? *

☐ Schools / Educational Organisations

☒ Charities / Non Profits

☒ Older People

☒ Minority Ethnicity

☒ Persons with Disabilities

☒ Local Families

☒ Young People

☐ None

☒ Other: Adoptive and foster families.

Please provide more detail on how your CCF Project engaged with the groups you noted above *

For example, how many people from each target group did you engage with? What activities were delivered together? Please include names of groups if possible, and a brief description of the activities delivered together. (Write N/A if not applicable: i.e if you did not engage with any groups/orgs).

Tour means seeing the animals, feeding some animals and hearing about animal husbandry including pedigree showing from the farmer.

Refreshments help in terms of community building

Older people - 12 people - from a church in E. Belfast came for a tour and refreshments

Minority Ethnic groups - 12 Syrian refugee women and 2 children - tour and Refreshments. Funded by Footprints Women Centre Belfast

15 - asylum seekers from a hotel in Bangor - tour and refreshments

3 - asylum seekers every Friday for 8 weeks - learning about animal husbandry Funded by Good Relations

20 people including children connected to Farmbox in Belfast - refugees and asylum seekers - tour, refreshments and activity for children

12 people - came to see the farm and have their Ramadan meal at the farm

- 10 adults and 11 kids came for an afternoon - refugee families for a tour and games and craft afternoon

3 families have come for a tour with young people/ adults with learning difficulties.

1 young person - with I'll health comes once a week to help on the farm as a participant. He is using the time as experience for an online course on Animal Care

In Sept we had an open day and we had 167 people including children. 30 were from the local area. Others included connections, those that had visited, commissioners and stakeholders.

Adoptive and foster families - had four visits and hired space. Used for retreat time, lunch, children and young people activities, community building - each visit included 30 including children.

Kids group from Belfast came for Christmas activities. 31 people including children. 10 families

10 came for wreath making workshop.

Overall, how many people have you engaged or interacted with through your CCF Project to date? Please provide a figure (This can be an * estimation at this stage if exact data is not available).

167 - for open afternoon & 225 people/ children for other sessions.

Co-Design: Has your CCF Project engaged with communities/volunteers/members in co-designing new spaces? *

For example, your land and space developed to date. Please provide as much detail as possible in terms of how you have engaged with communities/volunteers/members in co-designing new spaces (Write N/A if not applicable).

Began discussions with GroundworksNI and Conservation NI and Playboard NI re play area and polytunnel. But not developed as yet.

How many volunteering opportunities have been established through your CCF Project to date? *

Please only note the volunteering opportunities attributed to your CCF Project (and not your wider organisation if not directly or indirectly relevant to your CCF Project)

3 asylum seekers - every Friday for 8 weeks

1 young person volunteering every week

12 volunteers to support events - mainly friends mor family

Are any of your CCF volunteers / workers from any of the following underrepresented groups? *

- ☒ Older People
- ☒ Minority Ethnicity
- ☐ Persons with Disabilities
- ☒ Young People
- ☐ None
- ☐ Persons from within (or formerly within) the criminal justice system
- ☐ Other: _____

Approximately, how many volunteering hours have been dedicated to your CCF Project to date? *

Volunteer time dedicated from you, your team and wider volunteers (Give approx hours as required if exact data is not available at this stage).

724 hours including 2 days given by me

Please describe how your CCF activities promote Mental Health: For example, reducing social isolation, creating social connections, access to green spaces etc. *

Write N/A if not applicable

Reduce social isolation by creating connections and community. Access to green spaces and animals - therapeutic. Safe space. All welcome. Helps feel part of community and for refugees and asylum seekers gives hope for the future as they feel part of NI. Many from agricultural backgrounds so good to see how games work here.

Please describe how your CCF activities promote Physical Health: For example, exercising, moving, breathing fresh air etc. *

Write N/A if not applicable

Walk around the farm. Fresh air on the farm. Refreshments outside

On a scale of 1 to 10, how has participating in the CCF Project improved your overall health and wellbeing? And the wellbeing of participants across your project.

*

No Improvement

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

6 ☐

7 ☒

8 ☐

9 ☐

10 ☐

A lot of Improvement

Did your CCF Project do any of the following in the community *

- ☒ We delivered Workshops in our community
- ☒ We hosted/delivered community engagement events
- ☐ We delivered Community wellness programmes
- ☐ We delivered environmental Conservation projects/practices in our community
- ☒ Other: Hosted space hire,

Please give more detail on your community projects / initiatives *

See above - Our space has been hired out, we have done a community open afternoon, we have had workshops, we have hosted events/groups, facilitated individual and families to visit.

SECTION 3: Education

Please give detail on the training and skill-share workshops your CCF Project has been involved in, to date. *

For example, training/skill-share workshops attended and the number of attendees from your organisation. (Please include the Cooperative Alternative shared learning events and workshops attended as well as any other workshops/events attended).

I was part of the UnLtd Awards so attended lots of online training - sharing your story, fundraising, measuring impact, outcomes, networking, vision, mission and values training

Part of social farming - First Aid, Safeguarding, Health and Safety

Part of WorkWest training - impact, social media, vision

CCF shared learning events - attended all except most recent on fundraising

CCF hosted with our directors a day focussed on vision, mission and values and one on strategic planning

Please detail how you have educated/passed knowledge on to your volunteers (including boards), members and customers. *

For example- About Horticulture, About Animal husbandry, About Social farming, About Market gardens and CSA, About Conservation and biodiversity, About Tourism, About Health & Wellbeing etc.

Shared info at directors meeting

Had annual directors planning days to key into certain areas

One to one sharing with key volunteers

Please detail any training or workshops YOUR project provided. *

Provide details on any sessions you led on, any qualifications received by those in attendance (if any) at your training and the number of people gaining qualifications/partaking in educational workshops. Please also note if anyone attending and / or receiving qualifications were from defined "underrepresented / disadvantaged groups".

N/A

SECTION 4: Land & Environment

How much land has become accessible through your CCF Project to date? (hectares) *

For example, land that has come into your organisations management etc

8 acres access with another 2.5 for conservation which has yet to be developed

Area of land given to food production? (hectares) *

None - at present

Area of land given to conservation? (hectares) *

2.5 acres - yet to develop

How much have you grown to date OUTDOORS (for example, in fields) *

Please detail the variety of crops, the type of crops and the amount of crops grown etc. If unsure, please estimate (If none, write N/A)

N/A

How much have you grown to date INDOORS (for example, Greenhouses) *

Please detail the variety of crops, the type of crops and the amount of crops grown etc If unsure, please estimate (If none, write N/A)

N/A

**What are your most important crops, in terms of volume (starting with the highest volume produced)? If unsure, please estimate. If none, *
write N/A**

N/A

Does your CCF Project have any of the following organic systems in place? Please see formal definition via the following link: [Soil Association](#) *

- ☐ Crop Rotations
- ☐ Composting
- ☐ Cover Crops
- ☐ Integrated Pest Management
- ☐ Biological Control
- ☐ Organic Soil Amendments
- ☐ Water Conservation
- ☒ None of the Above
- ☐ Other:

Please give more detail on the organic systems you have in place *

N/A

Does your CCF Project undertake any of the following regenerative farming practices? *

- ☐ Agroforestry Practices
- ☐ Perennial Species Planted
- ☐ Water Management Efforts
- ☒ None of the Above
- ☐ Other: _____

Please give more detail on the regenerative farming practices you undertake *

N/A

Does your CCF Project undertake any of the following: *

- ☒ Soil Health Practices: For example Do you use green fertilizers, pesticides or natural methods, water usage / rain water etc. provide details on any soil testing carried out and the results
- ☒ Agroecological Methods in place: For example, to mitigating climate change, reducing emissions, recycling resources and prioritising local supply chains
- ☐ None of the Above

Give more detail to your previous selections *

We have soil testing for the animals and recycling on the farm and at events

Please detail any animal-rearing activities within your CCF Project to date *

Include specific animals, and number/quantity of animals. If applicable, provide any circular agriculture practices used, for example, regenerative grazing practices, local feed production, animal welfare and health or any value-added products, for example, wool. Please be as detailed as possible in your answer as we want to capture any reduced food miles

We have 44 pedigree Blue Texal sheep in the community space area, 1 goat and had 12 hens.

On our other site we have 50 pedigree Aberdeen Angus (cows, calves, bulls).

Animals are for showing and for pedigree so not food production

Tell us about any recycled material your CCF Project has used/produced to date *

Please provide a breakdown below if available and what it was used for, for example “0.2 tonnes (approximately) of plasterboard were used to construct our vegetable wash station”. Write N/A if not applicable.

N/A

SECTION 5: Financial and Enterprising Activities

Did your CCF Project contribute directly or indirectly to any of the following to date?

- ☐ Provided Full-Time Employment
- ☐ Provided Part-Time Employment
- ☒ Provided Work Placement Opportunities
- ☐ Supplied materials/produce to other businesses/VCSE groups
- ☒ Provided upskilling / Learning / Educational Opportunities
- ☐ Sold Goods / Generated Income / Farm Shop
- ☐ Supply Chain Contribution (e.g your CCF project contributed to the transfer of products somewhere along the line from “farm to fork”).
- ☐ We contributed to Agritourism
- ☐ We delivered a Community Supported Agriculture Scheme
- ☐ None
- ☒ Other: Pedigree welfare and animal husbandry education. Showing at Balmoral Show

Please give more detail on your selections *

Include any specific numbers for example P/T or F/T employment, and specific roles created if relevant. Give specific details for any of the other selections you have noted (how much, what, how, when etc)

I give approx two days a week to the project .

We have had an intern from Ulster University for 12 weeks and a young person for work experience as part of his animal care course

We show at Balmoral Show and so take volunteers and directors to this event

What did you do, with the initial CCF seed funding? *

Resource the community space and begin to develop the paly space for children

What benefits did the seed funding bring to your CCF Project and wider community/stakeholders? *

Gives us acceleration to create the space for the community. Gave opportunity to welcome groups in a comfortable setting.

Please give detail of any other finance put into your CCF Project to date (Over and above the CCF seed funding) *

For example, match funding, other grants secured, own finance / fundraising etc. Write N/A if not applicable

We have had donations from supporters

Had money connected to UnLtd Award

Give details of any return on investment for your organisation by partaking in the CCF Project to date? *

For example- What is your turnover? Has your turnover increased? What is your ratio between turnover from sales and grants? Write N/A if not applicable

N/A - still in early stage

SECTION 6: Moving Forward

Between now, and the end of the CCF Project, what are your key priorities? *

For example, what do you hope to achieve over the next 6 to 8 months

To develop a play area and a growing area - need someone to facilitate this

**Longer term, (after the Cultivating Community Farming project ends in 2024), do you have plans to expand/grow your CCF Project? If yes, *
how do you see your business growing? For example, More land use/ Increase production/ More customers/ More product lines/ More
volunteers, staff/ Other?**

Develop the conservation area and programmes connected to it - nature walks, therapeutic space,

As part of the final Impact Report, we will include a number of case studies which are a great way of demonstrating impact. Would you be ^{*} happy to provide a case study for your CCF Project?

☐

Yes

☐

No

☒

Not Sure (Please Provide More Detail on the requirements)

Would you like to add any further comments / thoughts at this stage? ^{*}

No except thank you for allowing us to be on this journey with CCF - its been a real support

This form was created inside Fundingi.

Google Forms

Measuring the Impact- Cultivating Community Farming

Hi Community Farmers! We at CiCo Consulting have been commissioned by Co-operative Alternatives to measure the impact of the Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project 2022-2024.

We are utilising site visits, surveys, interviews, case studies and social value software to collect key data, which will be collated into a final impact measurement report for the overall CCF project.

Following our recently completed site visits, we are now distributing this initial impact survey for you to complete, which will be an excellent opportunity to demonstrate all the great work your CCF project has done to date.

As well as this survey and our recently completed site visits, there will be more opportunities to demonstrate further impacts later in the year.

If you would prefer to book a call with us to go through this survey, then please let us know and we would be happy to accommodate.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this initial impact survey. If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

What is the name of your Community Cultivating Farming (CCF) Project? *

Native Tree and Plant Nursery

What is your name? *

Tara O'Hara

What is the address of your CCF Project? *

39 North Street

What is the legal structure of your CCF organisation? *

- ☐ Community Benefit Society (CBS)
- ☐ Community Interest Company (CIC)
- ☐ Limited Company
- ☒ Registered Charity
- ☐ Unincorporated Constituted Group
- ☐ Co-Operative Society
- ☐ No Legal Structure
- ☐ Other: _____

Has there been any benefits or restrictions regarding your legal structure? *

For example, has it helped or hindered you in progressing/sourcing funding and support? If no legal structure, please give detail on any benefits or restrictions you have encountered relevant to having no legal structure in place

No

What is the focus of your CCF Project? *



Horticulture



Animal husbandry



Social farming



Market gardens and CSA



Conservation and biodiversity



Tourism



Health & Wellbeing



Other:

Which of the following best describes your status as an organisation just before you started to participate in the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project? Select all that apply.

*

- ☐ We didn't have a farm and no plans to start one
- ☒ We had an idea about developing a community farm, but didn't know where to begin
- ☐ We had plans in place and were ready to start the farm, but had not actually started delivering anything
- ☐ We were already functioning as a community farm (i.e. growing, developing your products or services)
- ☐ Other: _____

Select the top 3 reasons you **INITIALLY** engaged with the CCF Project *

- ☐ We wanted to develop/set up our own enterprise
- ☒ We wanted to diversify our existing business
- ☐ We wanted to develop a CSA scheme
- ☐ We wanted to learn skills on how to run an enterprise
- ☐ We wanted to learn skills on how to grow and manage land
- ☐ We wanted to increase our community outreach/involvement
- ☒ We wanted to access land
- ☐ We wanted to access funding
- ☒ We wanted to connect with like-minded people/projects
- ☐ Other: _____

Have you achieved what you initially set out to achieve? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

☒ Somewhat achieved what we set out to achieve

☐ Other: _____

Which of the following best describes the progress that your CCF project has made since you participated in the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project

*

- ☐ Our CCF project is up and running, and we are doing lots of projects, initiatives and growing! Quicker than we thought!
- ☐ Our CCF project has started, but with limited progress
- ☐ Our CCF project started, but we have since ceased, but we have since established an alternative project (i.e. one that was not the focus of your participation in the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project
- ☒ We are continuing to develop the CCF project, and making good progress
- ☐ We stopped trying to set up the CCF project, but still intend to try and start in the future
- ☐ We have stopped trying to set up the project completely
- ☐ Our project (which started prior to participating) is continuing to operate as before
- ☐ Other: _____

What, if any, obstacles have prevented you from having been able to progress your CCF project? *

- ☐ Lack of (enough) access to finance
- ☐ Not enough demand / could not find volunteers / customers
- ☐ Covid19
- ☐ Could not find partner(s)
- ☒ Could not find (good) land
- ☒ Not enough time to devote to set up
- ☐ More difficult than expected (e.g. felt you didn't have the skills required)
- ☒ The risks at this moment in time (e.g. cost of living, rising costs) are too great
- ☐ None
- ☒ Other: Covid and cost of living making setting up and operating another new enterprise more difficult

Thinking specifically about the support you received through the CCF programme to date, how likely do you think it is that you would have started your CCF initiative anyway and achieved what you have, in the absence of participating in the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project

*

- ☐ We DEFINITELY WOULD NOT have started the CCF project
- ☐ We PROBABLY WOULD NOT have started the CCF project
- ☐ We would have started the CCF project, but at a SMALLER SCALE
- ☐ We would have started the CCF project, but at a LATER DATE
- ☐ We would have started the CCF project, but at a SMALLER SCALE and at a LATER DATE
- ☐ We PROBABLY would have started the CCF project in the SAME MANNER and timescale regardless of the support from Co-Op Alternatives
- ☐ We DEFINITELY would have started the CCF project in the same manner and timescale regardless of the support from Co-Op Alternatives
- ☒ Other: We may have started something that would have been unsustainable as we had not appreciated the business model

As a result of the advice or support received to date, did you change your approach to any aspect of creating your CCF project? Would you say.. *

- ☒ Yes – a big change
- ☐ Yes – some change
- ☐ No – did not make any change
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Other: _____

Please give more detail on any changes to approach. Write N/A if not relevant *

Being networked to different projects at different levels of maturity enabled us to realistically understand what type of model could be sustained by a community farming/horticultural projects. Our original idea would have been unsustainable.

On balance, and in light of the support that you have received to help you develop your CCF initiative, do you consider that the advice and guidance received through the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project acted as 'tipping point' in helping you decide to start / grow / focus more on your project? *

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't Know

Please give more detail on your previous answer *

We would have had unrealistic expectatations without the expertise on the project and would have developed a business plan that was impossible to deliver

Please respond to the following statements *

	A Great Deal	A Lot	Moderately So	A Little	Not at All
The CCF programme of support has delivered for us	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The CCF programme of support responded to our needs/challenges/issues	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The CCF programme of support fulfilled our expectations	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As a direct impact of the CCF programme, our project has made progress	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have a clearer vision and mission	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have a better understanding of our business model	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have a better understanding of our governance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

governance

As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have a better understanding of our financial model



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our horticultural skills



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our animal husbandry knowledge



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our conservation and bio-diversity skills



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our land management



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our community engagement



As a direct impact of the CCF programme we have

CCF programme, we have
now (more) access to land



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we have
more focus and priorities



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we are
now more financially
resilient



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we have
now in place stronger
policies and procedures



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we have
now more volunteers and
community participation



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we are
more confident about
running our
enterprise/project



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we are
more confident in telling
people/funders about our
project



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we collaborate more with other organisations/people/projects

organisations/people/projects



In your opinion, on a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate your CCF Project's impact to date? *

Impact refers to the positive (or otherwise) changes (outputs and outcomes) that have occurred across your work and involvement in the Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project to date (within and across your programmes and community) and with your stakeholders (including users, beneficiaries, volunteers/staff/partners, etc.), and on the 'land', 'communities' and 'local economy'.

No Impact

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

6 ☐

7 ☐

8 ☒

9 ☐

10 ☐

Significant Impact

What prompted you to score the impact as you did? Please give as much detail as you can *

The project has allowed us to challenge our existing thinking and benchmark our aspirations against projects that are different levels of maturity. Although our progress looks less than other projects, the CCF project stopped us securing start up money for something that over the medium term would have been unsustainable to continue, risking our existing enterprises.

In your opinion, on a scale of 1 to 10, would you say you achieved your desired outcomes to date? *

None Achieved

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

6 ☒

7 ☐

8 ☐

9 ☐

10 ☐

All Achieved

What were those outcomes achieved (if any). If no outcomes were achieved to date, then you can add details here about what outcomes you wanted to achieve at this stage, but didn't! *

We have not achieved what we thought we would but i think that is a good thing as we had unrealistic expectations and did not understand horticultural or CSA models and were unrealistic in our expectations re trading enterprise. Outcomes we did achieve were:

- 1) to secure a steering group of experts that could be developed into a subcommittee of our existing board.
 - 2) a better handle on realistic benchmarks of revenue and labour required to test our thinking about whether the business model was viable for our existing charity model of transitional employment
 - 3) a network that informs of relevant land or financial opportunities
 - 4) extensive peer research with people with lived experience of the justice system
 - 5) A detailed business plan and a list of potential investors/funders
-

In your opinion, on a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate the difference your CCF Project has made to date? On the 'land', 'communities' and 'local economy' *

No Difference

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☒

6 ☐

7 ☐

8 ☐

9 ☐

10 ☐

A lot of Difference

What prompted you to score the difference as you did? Please provide as much detail as possible. *

currently our CCF project has made a difference by providing a plan from which our organisation and the prison system can use to generate additional revenue from Trusts and Foundations external to the local economy. However because we have not started operating I did not feel i could score it any higher.

SECTION 2: Community Engagement and Wellbeing

Did your CCF Project engage with any of the following groups? *

☐ Schools / Educational Organisations

☒ Charities / Non Profits

☐ Older People

☐ Minority Ethnicity

☐ Persons with Disabilities

☐ Local Families

☐ Young People

☐ None

☒ Other: People with lived experience of the criminal justice system

Please provide more detail on how your CCF Project engaged with the groups you noted above *

For example, how many people from each target group did you engage with? What activities were delivered together? Please include names of groups if possible, and a brief description of the activities delivered together. (Write N/A if not applicable: i.e if you did not engage with any groups/orgs).

Our engagement with charities and non profits was in the development of our detailed business plan and in our recruitment of experts onto our steering group.

We have undertaken in-depth peer led research with those who have had experience of the criminal justice system, both qualitative (to identify themes) that we then used to deliver a quantitative survey to over 100 individuals in prisons and within the community.

Overall, how many people have you engaged or interacted with through your CCF Project to date? Please provide a figure (This can be an estimation at this stage if exact data is not available) *

130 (workshops with 20 - survey 100+ and charities/organisations 10)

Co-Design: Has your CCF Project engaged with communities/volunteers/members in co-designing new spaces? *

For example, your land and space developed to date. Please provide as much detail as possible in terms of how you have engaged with communities/volunteers/members in co-designing new spaces (Write N/A if not applicable).

We have engaged with a community of interest (those with lived experience of the criminal justice system) about what services/activities they would want delivered from a space and where geographically that space should be).

How many volunteering opportunities have been established through your CCF Project to date? *

Please only note the volunteering opportunities attributed to your CCF Project (and not your wider organisation if not directly or indirectly relevant to your CCF Project)

There has been one voluntary opportunity attributed to the CCF Project.

Are any of your CCF volunteers / workers from any of the following underrepresented groups? *

- ☐ Older People
- ☐ Minority Ethnicity
- ☐ Persons with Disabilities
- ☐ Young People
- ☒ None
- ☐ Persons from within (or formerly within) the criminal justice system
- ☐ Other:

Approximately, how many volunteering hours have been dedicated to your CCF Project to date? *

Volunteer time dedicated from you, your team and wider volunteers (Give approx hours as required if exact data is not available at this stage).

1080

Please describe how your CCF activities promote Mental Health: For example, reducing social isolation, creating social connections, access to green spaces etc. *

Write N/A if not applicable

The proposed project will be engaging those from the criminal justice system. Approximately 65 % of people arrested have a recognized and diagnosed mental health condition on arrest. Having transitional employment, a coach and a pro-social supportive community are all evidenced to positively impact mental health and our existing transitional employment opportunities confirm this with people citing the routine, self esteem of a job and the benefits to wider social relationships improving their mood. So we would expect the project to have the same positive impact.

Please describe how your CCF activities promote Physical Health: For example, exercising, moving, breathing fresh air etc. *

Write N/A if not applicable

The proposed project will be engaging those from the criminal justice system in physical outside activity. Our existing transitional employment opportunities in our grounds maintenance enterprise confirm that people appreciate the opportunity for physical exercise and the impact this has on their mood. So we would expect the project to have the same positive impact.

On a scale of 1 to 10, how has participating in the CCF Project improved your overall health and wellbeing? And the wellbeing of participants across your project.

*

No Improvement

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

6 ☐

7 ☐

8 ☐

9 ☐

10 ☒

A lot of Improvement

Did your CCF Project do any of the following in the community *

- ☐ We delivered Workshops in our community
- ☒ We hosted/delivered community engagement events
- ☐ We delivered Community wellness programmes
- ☐ We delivered environmental Conservation projects/practices in our community
- ☐ Other:

Please give more detail on your community projects / initiatives *

Consultation events involved walking the Mournes; Workshops with those on probation, workshops with other charities clients (Start 360), workshops in the prison system. All followed up by a survey written and circulated by those with lived experience.

.....

SECTION 3: Education

Please give detail on the training and skill-share workshops your CCF Project has been involved in, to date. *

For example, training/skill-share workshops attended and the number of attendees from your organisation. (Please include the Cooperative Alternative shared learning events and workshops attended as well as any other workshops/events attended).

We attended workshops about Horticulture/ Social Farming/ CSA Fundraising/ Governance/

.....

Please detail how you have educated/passed knowledge on to your volunteers (including boards), members and customers. *

For example- About Horticulture, About Animal husbandry, About Social farming, About Market gardens and CSA, About Conservation and biodiversity, About Tourism, About Health & Wellbeing etc.

Sessions got fed back via Team meetings.

Please detail any training or workshops YOUR project provided. *

Provide details on any sessions you led on, any qualifications received by those in attendance (if any) at your training and the number of people gaining qualifications/partaking in educational workshops. Please also note if anyone attending and / or receiving qualifications were from defined "underrepresented / disadvantaged groups".

N/A

SECTION 4: Land & Environment

How much land has become accessible through your CCF Project to date? (hectares) *

For example, land that has come into your organisations management etc

None as of yet but have had an offer in Principe from the Environment Agency

Area of land given to food production? (hectares) *

0

Area of land given to conservation? (hectares) *

0

How much have you grown to date OUTDOORS (for example, in fields) *

Please detail the variety of crops, the type of crops and the amount of crops grown etc. If unsure, please estimate (If none, write N/A)

0

How much have you grown to date INDOORS (for example, Greenhouses) *

Please detail the variety of crops, the type of crops and the amount of crops grown etc. If unsure, please estimate (If none, write N/A)

0

What are your most important crops, in terms of volume (starting with the highest volume produced)? If unsure, please estimate. If none, *
write N/A

0

Does your CCF Project have any of the following organic systems in place? Please see formal definition via the following link: [Soil Association](#) *

- ☐ Crop Rotations
- ☐ Composting
- ☐ Cover Crops
- ☐ Integrated Pest Management
- ☐ Biological Control
- ☐ Organic Soil Amendments
- ☐ Water Conservation
- ☒ None of the Above
- ☐ Other:

Please give more detail on the organic systems you have in place *

Na

Does your CCF Project undertake any of the following regenerative farming practices? *

- ☐ Agroforestry Practices
- ☐ Perennial Species Planted
- ☐ Water Management Efforts
- ☒ None of the Above
- ☐ Other: _____

Please give more detail on the regenerative farming practices you undertake *

N/a

Does your CCF Project undertake any of the following: *

- ☐ Soil Health Practices: For example Do you use green fertilizers, pesticides or natural methods, water usage / rain water etc. provide details on any soil testing carried out and the results
- ☐ Agroecological Methods in place: For example, to mitigating climate change, reducing emissions, recycling resources and prioritising local supply chains
- ☒ None of the Above

Give more detail to your previous selections *

We have used the knowledge gained on the CCF project to improve our soil health and agroecological methods in our existing enterprise Outwork, grounds maintenance social enterprise. However we have not had a chance to implement anything in a new project as it has not moved into an operational phase as of yet.

Please detail any animal-rearing activities within your CCF Project to date *

Include specific animals, and number/quantity of animals. If applicable, provide any circular agriculture practices used, for example, regenerative grazing practices, local feed production, animal welfare and health or any value-added products, for example, wool. Please be as detailed as possible in your answer as we want to capture any reduced food miles

N/a

Tell us about any recycled material your CCF Project has used/produced to date *

Please provide a breakdown below if available and what it was used for, for example "0.2 tonnes (approximately) of plasterboard were used to construct our vegetable wash station". Write N/A if not applicable.

Our two enterprises use recycled materials but not our CCF project

SECTION 5: Financial and Enterprising Activities

Did your CCF Project contribute directly or indirectly to any of the following to date?

- ☐ Provided Full-Time Employment
- ☒ Provided Part-Time Employment
- ☐ Provided Work Placement Opportunities
- ☐ Supplied materials/produce to other businesses/VCSE groups
- ☐ Provided upskilling / Learning / Educational Opportunities
- ☐ Sold Goods / Generated Income / Farm Shop
- ☐ Supply Chain Contribution (e.g your CCF project contributed to the transfer of products somewhere along the line from “farm to fork”).
- ☐ We contributed to Agritourism
- ☐ We delivered a Community Supported Agriculture Scheme
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other:

Please give more detail on your selections *

Include any specific numbers for example P/T or F/T employment, and specific roles created if relevant. Give specific details for any of the other selections you have noted (how much, what, how, when etc)

A part time individual with Horticultural experience was employed to develop the business plan.

.....

What did you do, with the initial CCF seed funding? *

A part time individual with Horticultural experience was employed to develop the business plan.

What benefits did the seed funding bring to your CCF Project and wider community/stakeholders? *

Gave the charity capacity to explore and develop the business plan for the project..

Please give detail of any other finance put into your CCF Project to date (Over and above the CCF seed funding) *

For example, match funding, other grants secured, own finance / fundraising etc. Write N/A if not applicable

Own resource (paid staff, trustees and volunteers) to undertake peer led consultation of those with lived experience of the justice system.

Paid staff to review business plan and develop fundraising proposals and attend educational sessions.

Volunteer resource to develop fundraising proposals and attend educational sessions

Give details of any return on investment for your organisation by partaking in the CCF Project to date? *

For example- What is your turnover? Has your turnover increased? What is your ratio between turnover from sales and grants? Write N/A if not applicable

N/a

SECTION 6: Moving Forward

Between now, and the end of the CCF Project, what are your key priorities? *

For example, what do you hope to achieve over the next 6 to 8 months

Develop a pilot based on the business plan developed through the CCF project.

Secure funding for the project pilot

Secure formal agreement for the use of land for the project pilot

Test the levels of entry level work that the project provides to transitional staff and test the volume and value of horticultural products that can be grown

**Longer term, (after the Cultivating Community Farming project ends in 2024), do you have plans to expand/grow your CCF Project? If yes, *
how do you see your business growing? For example, More land use/ Increase production/ More customers/ More product lines/ More
volunteers, staff/ Other?**

We will have secured land

**As part of the final Impact Report, we will include a number of case studies which are a great way of demonstrating impact. Would you be *
happy to provide a case study for your CCF Project?**

☐ Yes

☐ No

☒ Not Sure (Please Provide More Detail on the requirements)

Would you like to add any further comments / thoughts at this stage? *

Genuinely we could have risked our existing social enterprises by thinking we could set up something that was sustainable just because many people assume having land creates a consistent revenue without recognizing that like any business planning process the revenue streams and costs incurred need to be interrogated. Our charity has a particular set of needs from any social enterprise that we operate (e.g. it has to be able to sustain a certain volume of entry level, part time, flexible employment opportunities) . If we had not gone on this program and had been shared data from projects at all different stages of their development we would have developed an over inflated business plan and perhaps been successful in securing funding on the back of such a plan. So although we are not as progressed as we had hoped when we went into the project, I think that this is actually a more powerful and sustainable outcome in the long term. The issue is I guess for the funder of the project it is not as an exciting outcome but I believe a very valid one. We have had to go back and coupled with the peer research we undertook (about what it is that different sub segments of those who have gone through criminal justice system want from such a system) relook at a new model of enterprise.

This form was created inside Fundingi.

Google Forms

Measuring the Impact- Cultivating Community Farming

Hi Community Farmers! We at CiCo Consulting have been commissioned by Co-operative Alternatives to measure the impact of the Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project 2022-2024.

We are utilising site visits, surveys, interviews, case studies and social value software to collect key data, which will be collated into a final impact measurement report for the overall CCF project.

Following our recently completed site visits, we are now distributing this initial impact survey for you to complete, which will be an excellent opportunity to demonstrate all the great work your CCF project has done to date.

As well as this survey and our recently completed site visits, there will be more opportunities to demonstrate further impacts later in the year.

If you would prefer to book a call with us to go through this survey, then please let us know and we would be happy to accommodate.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this initial impact survey. If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

What is the name of your Community Cultivating Farming (CCF) Project? *

THE WEE FARMER

What is your name? *

Geraldine McCoy

What is the address of your CCF Project? *

107A Shore Rd Toome

What is the legal structure of your CCF organisation? *

- ☐ Community Benefit Society (CBS)
- ☐ Community Interest Company (CIC)
- ☐ Limited Company
- ☐ Registered Charity
- ☒ Unincorporated Constituted Group
- ☐ Co-Operative Society
- ☐ No Legal Structure
- ☐ Other: _____

Has there been any benefits or restrictions regarding your legal structure? *

For example, has it helped or hindered you in progressing/sourcing funding and support? If no legal structure, please give detail on any benefits or restrictions you have encountered relevant to having no legal structure in place

We have delayed setting up as a CIC as we have a group who will be beginning to help us do medicinal plant product development in Autumn, they suggested that it would perhaps be outside their remit if we were CIC

What is the focus of your CCF Project? *



Horticulture



Animal husbandry



Social farming



Market gardens and CSA



Conservation and biodiversity



Tourism



Health & Wellbeing



Other: _____

Which of the following best describes your status as an organisation just before you started to participate in the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project? Select all that apply.

*

- ☐ We didn't have a farm and no plans to start one
- ☐ We had an idea about developing a community farm, but didn't know where to begin
- ☒ We had plans in place and were ready to start the farm, but had not actually started delivering anything
- ☐ We were already functioning as a community farm (i.e. growing, developing your products or services)
- ☐ Other: _____

Select the top 3 reasons you **INITIALLY** engaged with the CCF Project *

- ☒ We wanted to develop/set up our own enterprise
- ☐ We wanted to diversify our existing business
- ☐ We wanted to develop a CSA scheme
- ☐ We wanted to learn skills on how to run an enterprise
- ☐ We wanted to learn skills on how to grow and manage land
- ☒ We wanted to increase our community outreach/involvement
- ☐ We wanted to access land
- ☐ We wanted to access funding
- ☒ We wanted to connect with like-minded people/projects
- ☐ Other: _____

Have you achieved what you initially set out to achieve? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

☒ Somewhat achieved what we set out to achieve

☐ Other: _____

Which of the following best describes the progress that your CCF project has made since you participated in the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project

*

- ☐ Our CCF project is up and running, and we are doing lots of projects, initiatives and growing! Quicker than we thought!
- ☐ Our CCF project has started, but with limited progress
- ☐ Our CCF project started, but we have since ceased, but we have since established an alternative project (i.e. one that was not the focus of your participation in the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project
- ☒ We are continuing to develop the CCF project, and making good progress
- ☐ We stopped trying to set up the CCF project, but still intend to try and start in the future
- ☐ We have stopped trying to set up the project completely
- ☐ Our project (which started prior to participating) is continuing to operate as before
- ☐ Other: _____

What, if any, obstacles have prevented you from having been able to progress your CCF project? *

- ☐ Lack of (enough) access to finance
- ☐ Not enough demand / could not find volunteers / customers
- ☐ Covid19
- ☐ Could not find partner(s)
- ☐ Could not find (good) land
- ☐ Not enough time to devote to set up
- ☐ More difficult than expected (e.g. felt you didn't have the skills required)
- ☐ The risks at this moment in time (e.g. cost of living, rising costs) are too great
- ☐ None

☒ Other: health issue caused delay

Thinking specifically about the support you received through the CCF programme to date, how likely do you think it is that you would have started your CCF initiative anyway and achieved what you have, in the absence of participating in the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project

*

- ☐ We DEFINITELY WOULD NOT have started the CCF project
- ☒ We PROBABLY WOULD NOT have started the CCF project
- ☐ We would have started the CCF project, but at a SMALLER SCALE
- ☐ We would have started the CCF project, but at a LATER DATE
- ☐ We would have started the CCF project, but at a SMALLER SCALE and at a LATER DATE
- ☐ We PROBABLY would have started the CCF project in the SAME MANNER and timescale regardless of the support from Co-Op Alternatives
- ☐ We DEFINITELY would have started the CCF project in the same manner and timescale regardless of the support from Co-Op Alternatives
- ☐ Other: _____

As a result of the advice or support received to date, did you change your approach to any aspect of creating your CCF project? Would you say.. *

- ☐ Yes – a big change
- ☒ Yes – some change
- ☐ No – did not make any change
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Other: _____

Please give more detail on any changes to approach. Write N/A if not relevant *

The finding out what participants and users requirements in planning growth, we are trying out veg /salad provision as initial step to future CSA possibility, we are having better goverance set up, _____

On balance, and in light of the support that you have received to help you develop your CCF initiative, do you consider that the advice and guidance received through the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project acted as 'tipping point' in helping you decide to start / grow / focus more on your project? *

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't Know

Please give more detail on your previous answer *

Without the CCF our plans and dreams may have stayed as a pipe dream never coming to fruition. The several site visits and meetings kept momentum going on over the two years even with our delay here

Please respond to the following statements *

	A Great Deal	A Lot	Moderately So	A Little	Not at All
The CCF programme of support has delivered for us	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The CCF programme of support responded to our needs/challenges/issues	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The CCF programme of support fulfilled our expectations	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As a direct impact of the CCF programme, our project has made progress	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have a clearer vision and mission	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have a better understanding of our business model	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have a better understanding of our governance	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

governance

As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have a better understanding of our financial model



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our horticultural skills



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our animal husbandry knowledge



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our conservation and bio-diversity skills



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our land management



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our community engagement



As a direct impact of the CCF programme we have

CCF programme, we have
now (more) access to land



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we have
more focus and priorities



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we are
now more financially
resilient



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we have
now in place stronger
policies and procedures



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we have
now more volunteers and
community participation



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we are
more confident about
running our
enterprise/project



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we are
more confident in telling
people/funders about our
project



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we
collaborate more with other
organisations/people/proje
cts



organisations/people/proje
cts

In your opinion, on a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate your CCF Project's impact to date? *

Impact refers to the positive (or otherwise) changes (outputs and outcomes) that have occurred across your work and involvement in the Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project to date (within and across your programmes and community) and with your stakeholders (including users, beneficiaries, volunteers/staff/partners, etc.), and on the 'land', 'communities' and 'local economy'.

No Impact

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

6 ☐

7 ☐

8 ☒

9 ☐

10 ☐

Significant Impact

What prompted you to score the impact as you did? Please give as much detail as you can *

From the perspective of the CCF the training for us at group days was extremely impacting, developing good governance as a safe base for our work, connecting closely local with community and health providers , finding out needs and aligning our development with that. We have learned much from Tiziana, Jonny and especially from the wider CCF group as we are a diverse set of people who have been very open sharing ideas and experiences freely. The delay here at WEE FARMER is what makes us an 8 not the 10. as we are ongoing with CCF it helped us stay in focus in our plans and activities without ccf we may have become more insular but we are now well connected. the soil health as well as ours is being built on and enriched and we hope as we move into end of 2023 and 2024 we will be more significant in ref to economy

In your opinion, on a scale of 1 to 10, would you say you achieved your desired outcomes to date? *

None Achieved

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

6 ☐

7 ☐

8 ☒

9 ☐

10 ☐

All Achieved

What were those outcomes achieved (if any). If no outcomes were achieved to date, then you can add details here about what outcomes you wanted to achieve at this stage, but didn't! *

We have biweekly volunteer group helping with seeding , growing, caring, harvesting and processing, this is a small but very engaged group who are benefitting greatly. we have increased our product quantity and range, selling in a variety of ways, shops, honesty box. The path means we have better access in all weathers. We have better goverance and better wider function in our group so we ae not dependant on one person. the beds have increased in size. Our website development and social media needs lots more work, we have hit most outcomes albeit more slowly than we anticipated

In your opinion, on a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate the difference your CCF Project has made to date? On the 'land', 'communities' and 'local economy' *

No Difference

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

6 ☐

7 ☐

8 ☐

9 ☐

10 ☒

A lot of Difference

What prompted you to score the difference as you did? Please provide as much detail as possible. *

in the small site we have tried no dig low beds and are chemical free after learning from CCF members on .the benefit to soil. As we are ongoing with support from Tiziana it has encouraged us to bring CCF principles into all our plans and developments. It would be easy to become insular when we get busy but CCF has helped avoid this so we have stayed well engaged with local groups and health providers. AS we further develop medicinal oils etc and get licenses in Autumn we foresee increased financial benefits as this will be our biggest harvest in 2023 locally we are connected to local shops and one cafe .

SECTION 2: Community Engagement and Wellbeing

Did your CCF Project engage with any of the following groups? *

☐ Schools / Educational Organisations

☒ Charities / Non Profits

☒ Older People

☐ Minority Ethnicns

☒ Persons with Disabilities

☒ Local Families

☒ Young People

☐ None

☐ Other:

Please provide more detail on how your CCF Project engaged with the groups you noted above *

For example, how many people from each target group did you engage with? What activities were delivered together? Please include names of groups if possible, and a brief description of the activities delivered together. (Write N/A if not applicable: i.e if you did not engage with any groups/orgs).

We linked with the social prescriber in the village who set up a group in need of activity in 2022, this was approx 12 people mostly with anxiety, depression and social isolation. this was 6 sessions over 6 weeks.

we have a core group of 5 volunteers , all have similar needs to the group in 2022 we meet two days every week, this year we wrote a BEGINNING TO GROW course which we facilitated for the The Northern Health Trust there were 8 participants. we supplied craft and plants to the local Holywell hospital to the addiction ward and other specialist wards.

We have supplied plants to families locally and the Duneane garden which encourages people to grow their own at home. we have another volunteer group who visit us every few months, they do a walk and talk and no physical work as they have significant disabilities.

We have had the kids of two families come regularly with their parents, 7 children in total. we just been asked to do youth garden/craft class which we are planning at the moment. Actually numerically measuring this impact is difficult as there is definitely a ripple effect as those who learn share with others and when the health and mood of one person improves as we have witnessed there is a positive change for them in community especially with family.

Overall, how many people have you engaged or interacted with through your CCF Project to date? Please provide a figure (This can be an estimation at this stage if exact data is not available). *

approx 45

Co-Design: Has your CCF Project engaged with communities/volunteers/members in co-designing new spaces? *

For example, your land and space developed to date. Please provide as much detail as possible in terms of how you have engaged with communities/volunteers/members in co-designing new spaces (Write N/A if not applicable).

When out at sales we have asked those browsing and shopping what they need or would like, the course we have written was coproduced with service users and health providers,. We are very aware of the importance of this and plan to do more in coming months. We engage with our very important volunteers not just listening but gathering ideas. outside of THE WEE FARMER i work in hospital so often glean from patients and carers what they believe would be beneficial activities for recovery.We are also strongly linked to the local Duneane Garden and share ideas and developing new beneficial products for our community, we have grown some fruit and veg that we asked for by a local restaurant.

How many volunteering opportunities have been established through your CCF Project to date? *

Please only note the volunteering opportunities attributed to your CCF Project (and not your wider organisation if not directly or indirectly relevant to your CCF Project)

we do volunteer day Monday and Friday, we have 5 in this core group as it isnt yet widely advertised, we are currently happy to stay small but hope to increase later on

Are any of your CCF volunteers / workers from any of the following underrepresented groups? *



Older People



Minority Ethnicity



Persons with Disabilities



Young People



None



Persons from within (or formerly within) the criminal justice system



Other: _____

Approximately, how many volunteering hours have been dedicated to your CCF Project to date? *

Volunteer time dedicated from you, your team and wider volunteers (Give approx hours as required if exact data is not available at this stage).

2022....860hours....2023.....2000hours,,,approx total 2860

Please describe how your CCF activities promote Mental Health: For example, reducing social isolation, creating social connections, access to green spaces etc. *

Write N/A if not applicable

along with learning to grow this is our main focus. Meeting here twice a week creates a natural break from isolation with a purpose in our garden and crafts. It is well documented that green spaces is very beneficial to mental health. At least four of our volunteers have been in hospital, during our two days each week we have made sure to include a variety of activities and a range of levels of difficulty therefore we can meet the changing needs of our group. We also coproduce listening to their thoughts and ideas. Mindfulness is the new buzz word our labour in growing and crafting make this happen organically. In the course we wrote for the local mental health team we linked growing plants with growing in recovery this made discussion of our self care make sense and not pie in the sky. The group have made a whatsapp group and meet outside of the farm time. The two days of activity here has made their self esteem build and the group feel that they are much better able to function well on other days too. I NOW FEEL USEFUL.....ITS BEEN LIFE CHANGING.....THIS HAS BROKEN A CYCLE OF DEPRESSION FOR ME, are some of the comments

Please describe how your CCF activities promote Physical Health: For example, exercising, moving, breathing fresh air etc. *

Write N/A if not applicable

We meet from 10 til 2 on Monday and Friday most of this time is is spent in light to moderate exercise for most of us this is a huge shift from a completely sedentary lifestyle. The most of this time is in garden and polytunnel weeding, bending, walking, digging, harvesting, planting. One of our team has lost over a stone weight which she feels is due to participation.

On a scale of 1 to 10, how has participating in the CCF Project improved your overall health and wellbeing? And the wellbeing of participants across your project.

*

No Improvement

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

6 ☐

7 ☐

8 ☐

9 ☐

10 ☒

A lot of Improvement

Did your CCF Project do any of the following in the community *

- ☒ We delivered Workshops in our community
- ☐ We hosted/delivered community engagement events
- ☒ We delivered Community wellness programmes
- ☐ We delivered environmental Conservation projects/practices in our community
- ☐ Other:

Please give more detail on your community projects / initiatives *

.....
We wrote and delivered a BEGINNING TO GARDEN course and linked with TIDAL group to host garden /craft classes.
.....

SECTION 3: Education

Please give detail on the training and skill-share workshops your CCF Project has been involved in, to date. *

For example, training/skill-share workshops attended and the number of attendees from your organisation. (Please include the Cooperative Alternative shared learning events and workshops attended as well as any other workshops/events attended).

Workshops by CCFgood governance.....media and storytelling.....members engagement...we missed the funding one and tourism but we are delighted that Portia has done a site visit with us and is continuing to give support in Autumn. The course for the NHS was not held on site but used our gardening know how and our seeds , seedlings and plants.

We attended the open day at Jubilee teaching on the market garden and CSA boxes

Please detail how you have educated/passed knowledge on to your volunteers (including boards), members and customers. *

For example- About Horticulture, About Animal husbandry, About Social farming, About Market gardens and CSA, About Conservation and biodiversity, About Tourism, About Health & Wellbeing etc.

We shared the follow up email with information through email to volunteers and committee members, we also discussed together that week on volunteer days and also at committee meeting

Please detail any training or workshops YOUR project provided. *

Provide details on any sessions you led on, any qualifications received by those in attendance (if any) at your training and the number of people gaining qualifications/partaking in educational workshops. Please also note if anyone attending and / or receiving qualifications were from defined "underrepresented / disadvantaged groups".

We hosted garden /crafts classes here in connection with the social perscriber in TIDAL our local community group , all of this group were suffering from anxiety exacerbated by covid. The class we coproduced with health trust had a group of 8 more challenging mental health problems, this group were awarded BEGINNER GARDEN CERTIFICATES and attended a graduation ceremony.

SECTION 4: Land & Environment

How much land has become accessible through your CCF Project to date? (hectares) *

For example, land that has come into your organisations management etc

o.2 hectares

Area of land given to food production? (hectares) *

0.1 hectares

Area of land given to conservation? (hectares) *

0

How much have you grown to date OUTDOORS (for example, in fields) *

Please detail the variety of crops, the type of crops and the amount of crops grown etc. If unsure, please estimate (If none, write N/A)

rhubarb, garlic, onions, strawberries, calendula, borage, chamomile and other herbs

How much have you grown to date INDOORS (for example, Greenhouses) *

Please detail the variety of crops, the type of crops and the amount of crops grown etc If unsure, please estimate (If none, write N/A)

50 tomatoes, 45 chilli peppers, 10 melons, 8 cucumber, lettuce

**What are your most important crops, in terms of volume (starting with the highest volume produced)? If unsure, please estimate. If none, *
write N/A**

tomatoes, calendula, chillies, rhubarb, onions, garlic, lettuce, cucumber ,melon, other herbs

Does your CCF Project have any of the following organic systems in place? Please see formal definition via the following link: [Soil Association](#) *

- ☐ Crop Rotations
- ☒ Composting
- ☐ Cover Crops
- ☐ Integrated Pest Management
- ☐ Biological Control
- ☒ Organic Soil Amendments
- ☐ Water Conservation
- ☐ None of the Above
- ☐ Other: _____

Please give more detail on the organic systems you have in place *

We have used no pesticides or herbicides, we use the no dig method feeding soil health from above using our own compost and spent mushroom compost, weeding frequently by hand and battling slugs using beer traps and hand collection and some pulling out of hair only on the bad days

Does your CCF Project undertake any of the following regenerative farming practices? *

- ☐ Agroforestry Practices
- ☒ Perennial Species Planted
- ☐ Water Management Efforts
- ☒ None of the Above
- ☐ Other: _____

Please give more detail on the regenerative farming practices you undertake *

We do intend to do more but we presently have only limited numbers of fruit bushes and strawberries.

Does your CCF Project undertake any of the following: *

- ☒ Soil Health Practices: For example Do you use green fertilizers, pesticides or natural methods, water usage / rain water etc. provide details on any soil testing carried out and the results
- ☒ Agroecological Methods in place: For example, to mitigating climate change, reducing emissions, recycling resources and prioritising local supply chains
- ☐ None of the Above

Give more detail to your previous selections *

yes we supply to our local community and shops so there are few miles covered. all our growth is chemical free, we make our own nettle tea fertiliser, bunny poop tea, own compost, we use moisture measuring meters to make sure we don't use in excess

Please detail any animal-rearing activities within your CCF Project to date *

Include specific animals, and number/quantity of animals. If applicable, provide any circular agriculture practices used, for example, regenerative grazing practices, local feed production, animal welfare and health or any value-added products, for example, wool. Please be as detailed as possible in your answer as we want to capture any reduced food miles

n/a

Tell us about any recycled material your CCF Project has used/produced to date *

Please provide a breakdown below if available and what it was used for, for example "0.2 tonnes (approximately) of plasterboard were used to construct our vegetable wash station". Write N/A if not applicable.

we used old pallettes and wood donated to build bed edges, we used an old lorry container to store equipment and we use all old food trays for seeding and we never buy plastic pots as these have been donated from a local garden center. we also bought tonnes of spent mushroom compost which we use weekly and our own compost is all garden and kitchen organic waste.

SECTION 5: Financial and Enterprising Activities

Did your CCF Project contribute directly or indirectly to any of the following to date?

- ☐ Provided Full-Time Employment
- ☐ Provided Part-Time Employment
- ☐ Provided Work Placement Opportunities
- ☐ Supplied materials/produce to other businesses/VCSE groups
- ☒ Provided upskilling / Learning / Educational Opportunities
- ☒ Sold Goods / Generated Income / Farm Shop
- ☐ Supply Chain Contribution (e.g your CCF project contributed to the transfer of products somewhere along the line from "farm to fork").
- ☐ We contributed to Agritourism
- ☐ We delivered a Community Supported Agriculture Scheme
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other: _____

Please give more detail on your selections *

Include any specific numbers for example P/T or F/T employment, and specific roles created if relevant. Give specific details for any of the other selections you have noted (how much, what, how, when etc)

we were a little dysfunctional in 2022, we did sell some tomatoes approx £ 800 and craft packs approx £200 also that year we dried an large amount of medicinal flowers that we are using in oils and bath mixes and soaps this year. We have just started to sell tomatoes in 2023 and are in meetings in ref to getting licenses for skin products which causes a delay in sales but we have lots of herbs and flowers growing and drying for later sale. Crafts and dried flowers so far have just made £600 as we supplied to The Recovery College in Holywell.

What did you do, with the initial CCF seed funding? *

We bought a dehydrator and laid path in garden and to polytunnel.

What benefits did the seed funding bring to your CCF Project and wider community/stakeholders? *

The dehydrator was essential for drying herbs and flowers as we had so many that oven drying would not have been feasible and for some delicate plants like chamomile need the slow gentle dry, the dehydrator is energy efficient. It has been key for our medicinal plant products development. The path is great as we have extremely wet ground and even walking in Spring would have made a mud bath and all of July 2023 would have been the same so it has made access to growing beds and polytunnel easier ,cleaner and safer . We have a volunteer who is wheel chair bound coming in September, this wouldnt be possible without the path.

Please give detail of any other finance put into your CCF Project to date (Over and above the CCF seed funding) *

For example, match funding, other grants secured, own finance / fundraising etc. Write N/A if not applicable

The initial investment for polytunnel and ramp into craft area was part funded by DARD. They paid £5000 of the £10000

Give details of any return on investment for your organisation by partaking in the CCF Project to date? *

For example- What is your turnover? Has your turnover increased? What is your ratio between turnover from sales and grants? Write N/A if not applicable

This has been fairly limited but there is increase in 2023 s productivity and future increased finances should happen with the development of oils, soaps etc

SECTION 6: Moving Forward

Between now, and the end of the CCF Project, what are your key priorities? *

For example, what do you hope to achieve over the next 6 to 8 months

We intend to increase our growing beds outside, get medicinal products licensed and packaging and information finalised. We have been a slow set up and slow in development because of unforeseen circumstances, we have a number of policies that need to be set in place this will be priority in next weeks. We also will be exploring setting up as a social enterprise and working towards that for 2024. In late 2023 we will also be set up as a CIC.

**Longer term, (after the Cultivating Community Farming project ends in 2024), do you have plans to expand/grow your CCF Project? If yes, *
how do you see your business growing? For example, More land use/ Increase production/ More customers/ More product lines/ More
volunteers, staff/ Other?**

We do hope to do all of the above hoping that becoming a CIC will help by allowing us to make funding applications in coming years

**As part of the final Impact Report, we will include a number of case studies which are a great way of demonstrating impact. Would you be *
happy to provide a case study for your CCF Project?**

☐

Yes

☐

No

☒

Not Sure (Please Provide More Detail on the requirements)

Would you like to add any further comments / thoughts at this stage? *

We have grown more functional, increased productivity and community engagement but its been slow , nearly coming to a complete stop mid way through the program. The support from CCF facilitators has been outstanding and the broad and varied members who have shared and supported has been so useful over this period of start up. I think the financial information Ive given has been fairly sketchy, apologies but income has too been sketchy as we did little between September 2022 til preping in 2023 so we are just selling again in August of this year. We have learned much and are determined to develop further as the social and health benefits to us and those who come on site is so life changing that is difficult to measure. Thanks to Tiziana and Jonny

Google Forms

Measuring the Impact- Cultivating Community Farming

Hi Community Farmers! We at CiCo Consulting have been commissioned by Co-operative Alternatives to measure the impact of the Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project 2022-2024.

We are utilising site visits, surveys, interviews, case studies and social value software to collect key data, which will be collated into a final impact measurement report for the overall CCF project.

Following our recently completed site visits, we are now distributing this initial impact survey for you to complete, which will be an excellent opportunity to demonstrate all the great work your CCF project has done to date.

As well as this survey and our recently completed site visits, there will be more opportunities to demonstrate further impacts later in the year.

If you would prefer to book a call with us to go through this survey, then please let us know and we would be happy to accommodate.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this initial impact survey. If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

What is the name of your Community Cultivating Farming (CCF) Project? *

The Seedbed at Glebe House

What is your name? *

Seamus Camplisson, Chairman, Harmony Community Trust

What is the address of your CCF Project? *

Glebe House, 23 Bishops court Road, Kilclief, Strangford, BT30 7NZ

What is the legal structure of your CCF organisation? *

- ☐ Community Benefit Society (CBS)
- ☐ Community Interest Company (CIC)
- ☐ Limited Company
- ☒ Registered Charity
- ☐ Unincorporated Constituted Group
- ☐ Co-Operative Society
- ☐ No Legal Structure
- ☐ Other: _____

Has there been any benefits or restrictions regarding your legal structure? *

For example, has it helped or hindered you in progressing/sourcing funding and support? If no legal structure, please give detail on any benefits or restrictions you have encountered relevant to having no legal structure in place

No restrictions. Being a registered charity has made it easier to secure additional funding from other sources.

What is the focus of your CCF Project? *

- ☒ Horticulture
- ☐ Animal husbandry
- ☒ Social farming
- ☐ Market gardens and CSA
- ☒ Conservation and biodiversity
- ☐ Tourism
- ☒ Health & Wellbeing
- ☐ Other:

Which of the following best describes your status as an organisation just before you started to participate in the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project? Select all that apply.

*

- ☐ We didn't have a farm and no plans to start one
- ☐ We had an idea about developing a community farm, but didn't know where to begin
- ☐ We had plans in place and were ready to start the farm, but had not actually started delivering anything
- ☐ We were already functioning as a community farm (i.e. growing, developing your products or services)

☒ Other:

We had a plan in broad terms to create a community gardening and environment project but had not thought through the purposes or put in place detailed development plans.

Select the top 3 reasons you **INITIALLY** engaged with the CCF Project *

- ☐ We wanted to develop/set up our own enterprise
- ☒ We wanted to diversify our existing business
- ☐ We wanted to develop a CSA scheme
- ☐ We wanted to learn skills on how to run an enterprise
- ☐ We wanted to learn skills on how to grow and manage land
- ☒ We wanted to increase our community outreach/involvement
- ☐ We wanted to access land
- ☐ We wanted to access funding
- ☒ We wanted to connect with like-minded people/projects
- ☐ Other: _____

Have you achieved what you initially set out to achieve? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Somewhat achieved what we set out to achieve
- ☒ Other: More than "somewhat achieved" - we have made very significant progress towards achieving our aims.

Which of the following best describes the progress that your CCF project has made since you participated in the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project

*

- ☐ Our CCF project is up and running, and we are doing lots of projects, initiatives and growing! Quicker than we thought!
- ☐ Our CCF project has started, but with limited progress
- ☐ Our CCF project started, but we have since ceased, but we have since established an alternative project (i.e. one that was not the focus of your participation in the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project
- ☒ We are continuing to develop the CCF project, and making good progress
- ☐ We stopped trying to set up the CCF project, but still intend to try and start in the future
- ☐ We have stopped trying to set up the project completely
- ☐ Our project (which started prior to participating) is continuing to operate as before
- ☐ Other: _____

What, if any, obstacles have prevented you from having been able to progress your CCF project? *

- ☐ Lack of (enough) access to finance
- ☐ Not enough demand / could not find volunteers / customers
- ☐ Covid19
- ☐ Could not find partner(s)
- ☐ Could not find (good) land
- ☐ Not enough time to devote to set up
- ☐ More difficult than expected (e.g. felt you didn't have the skills required)
- ☐ The risks at this moment in time (e.g. cost of living, rising costs) are too great
- ☒ None
- ☐ Other: _____

Thinking specifically about the support you received through the CCF programme to date, how likely do you think it is that you would have started your CCF initiative anyway and achieved what you have, in the absence of participating in the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project

*

- ☐ We DEFINITELY WOULD NOT have started the CCF project
- ☐ We PROBABLY WOULD NOT have started the CCF project
- ☐ We would have started the CCF project, but at a SMALLER SCALE
- ☐ We would have started the CCF project, but at a LATER DATE
- ☒ We would have started the CCF project, but at a SMALLER SCALE and at a LATER DATE
- ☐ We PROBABLY would have started the CCF project in the SAME MANNER and timescale regardless of the support from Co-Op Alternatives
- ☐ We DEFINITELY would have started the CCF project in the same manner and timescale regardless of the support from Co-Op Alternatives
- ☐ Other: _____

As a result of the advice or support received to date, did you change your approach to any aspect of creating your CCF project? Would you say.. *

- ☒ Yes – a big change
- ☐ Yes – some change
- ☐ No – did not make any change
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Other: _____

Please give more detail on any changes to approach. Write N/A if not relevant *

The support from CCF was valuable in helping us to think through and clarify the fundamental aims and purposes of the project and so give us a solid cornerstone for the detailed practical planning.

On balance, and in light of the support that you have received to help you develop your CCF initiative, do you consider that the advice and guidance received through the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project acted as 'tipping point' in helping you decide to start / grow / focus more on your project? *

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't Know

Please give more detail on your previous answer *

The timing of the CCF call for applications was ideal for the stage we had reached in our planning. The deadline for applications and the timeframe for producing a business plan definitely forced the pace for us as regards planning.

Please respond to the following statements *

	A Great Deal	A Lot	Moderately So	A Little	Not at All
The CCF programme of support has delivered for us	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The CCF programme of support responded to our needs/challenges/issues	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The CCF programme of support fulfilled our expectations	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As a direct impact of the CCF programme, our project has made progress	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have a clearer vision and mission	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have a better understanding of our business model	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have a better understanding of our governance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

governance

As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have a better understanding of our financial model



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our horticultural skills



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our animal husbandry knowledge



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our conservation and bio-diversity skills



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our land management



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our community engagement



As a direct impact of the CCF programme we have

CCF programme, we have
now (more) access to land



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we have
more focus and priorities



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we are
now more financially
resilient



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we have
now in place stronger
policies and procedures



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we have
now more volunteers and
community participation



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we are
more confident about
running our
enterprise/project



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we are
more confident in telling
people/funders about our
project



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we
collaborate more with other
organisations/people/proje
cts



organisations/people/proje
cts

In your opinion, on a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate your CCF Project's impact to date? *

Impact refers to the positive (or otherwise) changes (outputs and outcomes) that have occurred across your work and involvement in the Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project to date (within and across your programmes and community) and with your stakeholders (including users, beneficiaries, volunteers/staff/partners, etc.), and on the 'land', 'communities' and 'local economy'.

No Impact

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

6 ☒

7 ☐

8 ☐

9 ☐

10 ☐

Significant Impact

What prompted you to score the impact as you did? Please give as much detail as you can *

We started our community engagement efforts in relation to the Seedbed only in November 2022 and opened the project in practical terms in March 2023. The score of 6 reflects that these are still early days; that this is work in progress and that we need to keep promoting and developing the Seedbed.

In your opinion, on a scale of 1 to 10, would you say you achieved your desired outcomes to date? *

None Achieved

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

6 ☐

7 ☒

8 ☐

9 ☐

10 ☐

All Achieved

What were those outcomes achieved (if any). If no outcomes were achieved to date, then you can add details here about what outcomes you wanted to achieve at this stage, but didn't! *

We have made more progress in terms of the physical and social development of the project and in terms of impacts.

In your opinion, on a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate the difference your CCF Project has made to date? On the 'land', 'communities' and 'local economy' *

No Difference

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

6 ☒

7 ☐

8 ☐

9 ☐

10 ☐

A lot of Difference

What prompted you to score the difference as you did? Please provide as much detail as possible. *

We have made most progress in relation to the use of our land and our community engagement. No discernible impact as yet in relation to the local economy.

SECTION 2: Community Engagement and Wellbeing

Did your CCF Project engage with any of the following groups? *

☒ Schools / Educational Organisations

☒ Charities / Non Profits

☒ Older People

☒ Minority Ethnicity

☒ Persons with Disabilities

☐ Local Families

☒ Young People

☐ None

☒ Other:

We have been trying, and will continue to try, to engage with people with disabilities, both learning disabled and people with activity limitations, and are planning to make the Seedbed as accessible as possible.

Please provide more detail on how your CCF Project engaged with the groups you noted above *

For example, how many people from each target group did you engage with? What activities were delivered together? Please include names of groups if possible, and a brief description of the activities delivered together. (Write N/A if not applicable: i.e if you did not engage with any groups/orgs).

The Director of the charity has engaged with the local primary school with a view to opening up possibilities for them. So far we have worked with at least four local non-profits in the development and promotion of the project and are planning to engage with others. The project grew out of the Glebe House programmes for older people and a number of the regular members are also involved in those programmes. One of our established Seedbed members is a Syrian refugee who comes every week with her son and another regular member is a refugee from Ukraine. As regards young people it has been part of our thinking since the idea was first mooted that we would develop activities around the project that would enhance the Glebe House programmes for children and young people. We have not yet involved local families but we see potential on that front for using the Seedbed to further enhance Glebe House as a community asset.

Overall, how many people have you engaged or interacted with through your CCF Project to date? Please provide a figure (This can be an estimation at this stage if exact data is not available). *

There are 30 members of the Seedbed WhatsApp group, of whom between 20 and 25 are regularly on site at the Seedbed. There are others who are active Seedbed members but who don't use WhatsApp. There are about 30 others that we have engaged with in relation to the Seedbed but who are not direct participants.

Co-Design: Has your CCF Project engaged with communities/volunteers/members in co-designing new spaces? *

For example, your land and space developed to date. Please provide as much detail as possible in terms of how you have engaged with communities/volunteers/members in co-designing new spaces (Write N/A if not applicable).

In November 2022 we deliberately launched the project before we had what could be regarded as a complete set of answers to the questions that might be asked. We made the launch event an interactive one designed to gather ideas for the development and the running of the project. Since then we have had a constant, iterative process of discussion among the active members to reach decision on specific elements of the project as it develops, e.g. the layout of beds, the creation of a herb garden and a temporary hut.

How many volunteering opportunities have been established through your CCF Project to date? *

Please only note the volunteering opportunities attributed to your CCF Project (and not your wider organisation if not directly or indirectly relevant to your CCF Project)

In addition to the active participation described above, we have involved volunteers in the Seedbed Steering Group and have had four volunteers create physical features including the raised beds that are in the polytunnel. In addition we are developing links with the Patrician Youth Centre in Downpatrick and are aiming to introduce some of the young people to the experience of volunteering. Very recently a newly constituted Men's Shed has made Glebe House its base and the close proximity of the Seedbed to the Men's Shed has the potential to enhance both projects.

Are any of your CCF volunteers / workers from any of the following underrepresented groups? *

- ☒ Older People
- ☒ Minority Ethnicities
- ☐ Persons with Disabilities
- ☐ Young People
- ☐ None
- ☐ Persons from within (or formerly within) the criminal justice system
- ☐ Other: _____

Approximately, how many volunteering hours have been dedicated to your CCF Project to date? *

Volunteer time dedicated from you, your team and wider volunteers (Give approx hours as required if exact data is not available at this stage).

Since June 2022 approximately 1,200 volunteering hours have gone into the Seedbed. This estimate includes meetings of the Steering Group; logo design; regular participation in the project, estimate conservatively at 10 people for 2.50 hours every Sunday since early March 2023; project coordinator's time both organising work and visiting local businesses to secure donations of material. We have precise figures for some activities but they are incomplete and would only represent a small proportion of total time-spend.

Please describe how your CCF activities promote Mental Health: For example, reducing social isolation, creating social connections, access to green spaces etc. *

Write N/A if not applicable

The project was conceived, planned and developed with well-being in mind. The adult programme at Glebe House is primarily about addressing social isolation in a rural area. The promotion of well-being is one of the charity's core functions and core values. We have not tried formally to measure or assess the impact of the project on mental health but anecdotal evidence including feedback from the participants indicates that the mental health benefits are important for our members.

Please describe how your CCF activities promote Physical Health: For example, exercising, moving, breathing fresh air etc. *

Write N/A if not applicable

All of the above.

On a scale of 1 to 10, how has participating in the CCF Project improved your overall health and wellbeing? And the wellbeing of participants across your project.

*

No Improvement

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☒

6 ☐

7 ☐

8 ☐

9 ☐

10 ☐

A lot of Improvement

Did your CCF Project do any of the following in the community *

- ☒ We delivered Workshops in our community
- ☒ We hosted/delivered community engagement events
- ☐ We delivered Community wellness programmes
- ☒ We delivered environmental Conservation projects/practices in our community
- ☐ Other: _____

Please give more detail on your community projects / initiatives *

After the project launch and pending the effective opening-up of the project, in January 2023 we had the first of what we intend to be a series of workshops. The first was on biodiversity. We are in discussions with other potential facilitators.

SECTION 3: Education

Please give detail on the training and skill-share workshops your CCF Project has been involved in, to date. *

For example, training/skill-share workshops attended and the number of attendees from your organisation. (Please include the Cooperative Alternative shared learning events and workshops attended as well as any other workshops/events attended).

So far we have had just one workshop, as described above. This was focused on understanding of biodiversity rather than skills.

Please detail how you have educated/passed knowledge on to your volunteers (including boards), members and customers. *

For example- About Horticulture, About Animal husbandry, About Social farming, About Market gardens and CSA, About Conservation and biodiversity, About Tourism, About Health & Wellbeing etc.

The sharing of knowledge so far has been partly by word of mouth and partly by sharing on the WhatsApp group.

Please detail any training or workshops YOUR project provided. *

Provide details on any sessions you led on, any qualifications received by those in attendance (if any) at your training and the number of people gaining qualifications/partaking in educational workshops. Please also note if anyone attending and / or receiving qualifications were from defined "underrepresented / disadvantaged groups".

None

SECTION 4: Land & Environment

How much land has become accessible through your CCF Project to date? (hectares) *

For example, land that has come into your organisations management etc

To date we have used about half an acre of our land for the Seedbed.

Area of land given to food production? (hectares) *

Half an acre.

Area of land given to conservation? (hectares) *

One acre.

How much have you grown to date OUTDOORS (for example, in fields) *

Please detail the variety of crops, the type of crops and the amount of crops grown etc. If unsure, please estimate (If none, write N/A)

Outdoors, so far, mainly potatoes, squashes, some soft fruit, some legumes. The quantities have been small. Recently we have had blight in our potatoes and have cut down the haulms and are currently checking to see to what extent the tubers have survived.

How much have you grown to date INDOORS (for example, Greenhouses) *

Please detail the variety of crops, the type of crops and the amount of crops grown etc. If unsure, please estimate (If none, write N/A)

Tomatoes, cucumbers, courgettes, salads, broad beans, onions.

What are your most important crops, in terms of volume (starting with the highest volume produced)? If unsure, please estimate. If none, *
write N/A

The crop of tomatoes in the polytunnel is impressive.

Does your CCF Project have any of the following organic systems in place? Please see formal definition via the following link: [Soil Association](#) *

- ☐ Crop Rotations
- ☒ Composting
- ☐ Cover Crops
- ☐ Integrated Pest Management
- ☐ Biological Control
- ☐ Organic Soil Amendments
- ☐ Water Conservation
- ☐ None of the Above
- ☐ Other: _____

Please give more detail on the organic systems you have in place *

Using palets to create containers we have recently started our own composting.

Does your CCF Project undertake any of the following regenerative farming practices? *

- ☐ Agroforestry Practices
- ☐ Perennial Species Planted
- ☐ Water Management Efforts
- ☒ None of the Above
- ☐ Other: _____

Please give more detail on the regenerative farming practices you undertake *

N/A

Does your CCF Project undertake any of the following: *

- ☒ Soil Health Practices: For example Do you use green fertilizers, pesticides or natural methods, water usage / rain water etc. provide details on any soil testing carried out and the results
- ☐ Agroecological Methods in place: For example, to mitigating climate change, reducing emissions, recycling resources and prioritising local supply chains
- ☐ None of the Above

Give more detail to your previous selections *

One of our very small number of rules is: "As far as possible, methods will be organic and sustainable, and should protect and enhance biodiversity, e.g. compost should be peat-free, pesticides and herbicides must not be used." We will of course consider the use of green fertilizers and pesticides but we thought it safer to start with a blanket ban.

Please detail any animal-rearing activities within your CCF Project to date *

Include specific animals, and number/quantity of animals. If applicable, provide any circular agriculture practices used, for example, regenerative grazing practices, local feed production, animal welfare and health or any value-added products, for example, wool. Please be as detailed as possible in your answer as we want to capture any reduced food miles

We have 3 donkeys at Glebe House and some of the Seedbed volunteers are helping to look after the donkeys' health.

Tell us about any recycled material your CCF Project has used/produced to date *

Please provide a breakdown below if available and what it was used for, for example "0.2 tonnes (approximately) of plasterboard were used to construct our vegetable wash station". Write N/A if not applicable.

We have used cardboard for no-dig gardening, mainly in the beds inside the polytunnel.

SECTION 5: Financial and Enterprising Activities

Did your CCF Project contribute directly or indirectly to any of the following to date?

- ☐ Provided Full-Time Employment
- ☐ Provided Part-Time Employment
- ☐ Provided Work Placement Opportunities
- ☐ Supplied materials/produce to other businesses/VCSE groups
- ☐ Provided upskilling / Learning / Educational Opportunities
- ☐ Sold Goods / Generated Income / Farm Shop
- ☐ Supply Chain Contribution (e.g your CCF project contributed to the transfer of products somewhere along the line from “farm to fork”).
- ☐ We contributed to Agritourism
- ☐ We delivered a Community Supported Agriculture Scheme
- ☒ None
- ☐ Other: _____

Please give more detail on your selections *

Include any specific numbers for example P/T or F/T employment, and specific roles created if relevant. Give specific details for any of the other selections you have noted (how much, what, how, when etc)

To date we have not employed anyone on the project but we are planning to include management of the Seedbed in the remit of a future employee.

What did you do, with the initial CCF seed funding? *

We used it mainly to buy materials and tools and it also helped us to lever additional funding from other sources.

What benefits did the seed funding bring to your CCF Project and wider community/stakeholders? *

Mainly the funding helped us to kick-start the project.

Please give detail of any other finance put into your CCF Project to date (Over and above the CCF seed funding) *

For example, match funding, other grants secured, own finance / fundraising etc. Write N/A if not applicable

We have secured £16,330 additional funding from Axa Parks and £1,000 from PowerNI.

Give details of any return on investment for your organisation by partaking in the CCF Project to date? *

For example- What is your turnover? Has your turnover increased? What is your ratio between turnover from sales and grants? Write N/A if not applicable

N/A

SECTION 6: Moving Forward

Between now, and the end of the CCF Project, what are your key priorities? *

For example, what do you hope to achieve over the next 6 to 8 months

Unfortunately our focus at present is on keeping Glebe House cash-solvent after a major cut in programme funding from The Executive Office. As regards the Seedbed specifically, our priorities are to (1) ensure access and provide adapted raised beds for people with physical disabilities; (2) consolidate and grown the membership, with more activity on site; (3) further develop relationships with the local community; (4) develop links between the Seedbed and our programmes for children, young people and older people; (5) put in place a programme of learning events; (5) become a player in the local economy, selling our produce to individuals and businesses including restaurants and florists; (6) build a big shed as a social focus, and (7) have more social events at the Seedbed. (We have had one gathering so far.)

**Longer term, (after the Cultivating Community Farming project ends in 2024), do you have plans to expand/grow your CCF Project? If yes, *
how do you see your business growing? For example, More land use/ Increase production/ More customers/ More product lines/ More
volunteers, staff/ Other?**

We expect that by June 2024 the Seedbed will be reaching its optimum size as regards the number of members. The scale of production can probably continue to expand after June 2024. We would aim to be developing a niche in the local economy.

**As part of the final Impact Report, we will include a number of case studies which are a great way of demonstrating impact. Would you be *
happy to provide a case study for your CCF Project?**



Yes



No



Not Sure (Please Provide More Detail on the requirements)

Would you like to add any further comments / thoughts at this stage? *

The main benefits of being part of the CCF programme have been, in addition to the kick-start described above and the seed funding, (a) the guidance, mentoring and encouragement that we have had from Tiziana and Jonny, and (b) being part of the network of all the projects. Together these have helped us to clarify our thinking and have strengthened our belief in the value of the project for our local community.

This form was created inside Fundingi.

Google Forms

Measuring the Impact- Cultivating Community Farming

Hi Community Farmers! We at CiCo Consulting have been commissioned by Co-operative Alternatives to measure the impact of the Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project 2022-2024.

We are utilising site visits, surveys, interviews, case studies and social value software to collect key data, which will be collated into a final impact measurement report for the overall CCF project.

Following our recently completed site visits, we are now distributing this initial impact survey for you to complete, which will be an excellent opportunity to demonstrate all the great work your CCF project has done to date.

As well as this survey and our recently completed site visits, there will be more opportunities to demonstrate further impacts later in the year.

If you would prefer to book a call with us to go through this survey, then please let us know and we would be happy to accommodate.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this initial impact survey. If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

What is the name of your Community Cultivating Farming (CCF) Project? *

Tenth Glen Heritage Farms

What is your name? *

Declan Scullion

What is the address of your CCF Project? *

36 Gortnageeragh Road, Glenravel, BT437LL / 15A Craigdunloof Road, Newtowncrommelin, BT436RQ

What is the legal structure of your CCF organisation? *

- ☐ Community Benefit Society (CBS)
- ☐ Community Interest Company (CIC)
- ☐ Limited Company
- ☐ Registered Charity
- ☒ Unincorporated Constituted Group
- ☐ Co-Operative Society
- ☐ No Legal Structure
- ☐ Other: _____

Has there been any benefits or restrictions regarding your legal structure? *

For example, has it helped or hindered you in progressing/sourcing funding and support? If no legal structure, please give detail on any benefits or restrictions you have encountered relevant to having no legal structure in place

Structure adopted primarily to open doors to funding opportunities

What is the focus of your CCF Project? *

- ☐ Horticulture
 - ☐ Animal husbandry
 - ☒ Social farming
 - ☐ Market gardens and CSA
 - ☒ Conservation and biodiversity
 - ☒ Tourism
 - ☒ Health & Wellbeing
 - ☒ Other: Farming heritage
-

Which of the following best describes your status as an organisation just before you started to participate in the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project? Select all that apply.

*

- ☐ We didn't have a farm and no plans to start one
- ☒ We had an idea about developing a community farm, but didn't know where to begin
- ☐ We had plans in place and were ready to start the farm, but had not actually started delivering anything
- ☐ We were already functioning as a community farm (i.e. growing, developing your products or services)
- ☐ Other: _____

Select the top 3 reasons you **INITIALLY** engaged with the CCF Project *

- ☐ We wanted to develop/set up our own enterprise
- ☒ We wanted to diversify our existing business
- ☐ We wanted to develop a CSA scheme
- ☐ We wanted to learn skills on how to run an enterprise
- ☐ We wanted to learn skills on how to grow and manage land
- ☒ We wanted to increase our community outreach/involvement
- ☐ We wanted to access land
- ☐ We wanted to access funding
- ☒ We wanted to connect with like-minded people/projects
- ☐ Other: _____

Have you achieved what you initially set out to achieve? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

☒ Somewhat achieved what we set out to achieve

☐ Other: _____

Which of the following best describes the progress that your CCF project has made since you participated in the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project

*

- ☐ Our CCF project is up and running, and we are doing lots of projects, initiatives and growing! Quicker than we thought!
- ☐ Our CCF project has started, but with limited progress
- ☐ Our CCF project started, but we have since ceased, but we have since established an alternative project (i.e. one that was not the focus of your participation in the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project
- ☒ We are continuing to develop the CCF project, and making good progress
- ☐ We stopped trying to set up the CCF project, but still intend to try and start in the future
- ☐ We have stopped trying to set up the project completely
- ☐ Our project (which started prior to participating) is continuing to operate as before
- ☐ Other: _____

What, if any, obstacles have prevented you from having been able to progress your CCF project? *

- ☒ Lack of (enough) access to finance
- ☒ Not enough demand / could not find volunteers / customers
- ☐ Covid19
- ☐ Could not find partner(s)
- ☐ Could not find (good) land
- ☒ Not enough time to devote to set up
- ☒ More difficult than expected (e.g. felt you didn't have the skills required)
- ☐ The risks at this moment in time (e.g. cost of living, rising costs) are too great
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other: _____

Thinking specifically about the support you received through the CCF programme to date, how likely do you think it is that you would have started your CCF initiative anyway and achieved what you have, in the absence of participating in the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project

*

- ☐ We DEFINITELY WOULD NOT have started the CCF project
- ☐ We PROBABLY WOULD NOT have started the CCF project
- ☐ We would have started the CCF project, but at a SMALLER SCALE
- ☒ We would have started the CCF project, but at a LATER DATE
- ☐ We would have started the CCF project, but at a SMALLER SCALE and at a LATER DATE
- ☐ We PROBABLY would have started the CCF project in the SAME MANNER and timescale regardless of the support from Co-Op Alternatives
- ☐ We DEFINITELY would have started the CCF project in the same manner and timescale regardless of the support from Co-Op Alternatives
- ☐ Other: _____

As a result of the advice or support received to date, did you change your approach to any aspect of creating your CCF project? Would you say.. *

- ☐ Yes – a big change
- ☒ Yes – some change
- ☐ No – did not make any change
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Other: _____

Please give more detail on any changes to approach. Write N/A if not relevant *

We changed our approach in relation to governance and strategically split the project into two parts allowing us to move forward faster

On balance, and in light of the support that you have received to help you develop your CCF initiative, do you consider that the advice and guidance received through the Co-operative Alternatives Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project acted as 'tipping point' in helping you decide to start / grow / focus more on your project? *

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't Know

Please give more detail on your previous answer *

Just filling in the initial application form pushed us to formulate a tangible concept from a "some day we would love to..." type idea. The support helped us to evolve that tangible concept into a viable enterprise model

Please respond to the following statements *

	A Great Deal	A Lot	Moderately So	A Little	Not at All
The CCF programme of support has delivered for us	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The CCF programme of support responded to our needs/challenges/issues	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The CCF programme of support fulfilled our expectations	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As a direct impact of the CCF programme, our project has made progress	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have a clearer vision and mission	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have a better understanding of our business model	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have a better understanding of our governance	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

governance

As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have a better understanding of our financial model



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our horticultural skills



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our animal husbandry knowledge



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our conservation and bio-diversity skills



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our land management



As a direct impact of the CCF programme, we have improved our community engagement



As a direct impact of the CCF programme we have

CCF programme, we have
now (more) access to land



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we have
more focus and priorities



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we are
now more financially
resilient



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we have
now in place stronger
policies and procedures



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we have
now more volunteers and
community participation



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we are
more confident about
running our
enterprise/project



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we are
more confident in telling
people/funders about our
project



As a direct impact of the
CCF programme, we
collaborate more with other
organisations/people/proje
cts



organisations/people/proje
cts

In your opinion, on a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate your CCF Project's impact to date? *

Impact refers to the positive (or otherwise) changes (outputs and outcomes) that have occurred across your work and involvement in the Cultivating Community Farming (CCF) project to date (within and across your programmes and community) and with your stakeholders (including users, beneficiaries, volunteers/staff/partners, etc.), and on the 'land', 'communities' and 'local economy'.

No Impact

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

6 ☐

7 ☐

8 ☐

9 ☐

10 ☒

Significant Impact

What prompted you to score the impact as you did? Please give as much detail as you can *

Learnings were very useful. Advice on governance and strategy was essential. The wider networks and connections that have grown as a result of connections made through CCF have been incredibly useful. The personal motivation we have received from the relationships built up within the program and from the meet ups has kept us going.

In your opinion, on a scale of 1 to 10, would you say you achieved your desired outcomes to date? *

None Achieved

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

6 ☒

7 ☐

8 ☐

9 ☐

10 ☐

All Achieved

What were those outcomes achieved (if any). If no outcomes were achieved to date, then you can add details here about what outcomes you wanted to achieve at this stage, but didn't! *

Strategic decision to split the project meant that the desired outcomes we started with (mostly related to acquiring and restoring property) were side stepped slightly but in doing so we cleared a bit of a road block and achieved more than we expected with regards to community engagement and enterprise operations

In your opinion, on a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate the difference your CCF Project has made to date? On the 'land', 'communities' and 'local economy' *

No Difference

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

6 ☒

7 ☐

8 ☐

9 ☐

10 ☐

A lot of Difference

What prompted you to score the difference as you did? Please provide as much detail as possible. *

We are making a marked difference on all three fronts but not the difference we expect to make when we really get going - a work in progress

SECTION 2: Community Engagement and Wellbeing

Did your CCF Project engage with any of the following groups? *

☒ Schools / Educational Organisations

☒ Charities / Non Profits

☒ Older People

☒ Minority Ethnicity

☒ Persons with Disabilities

☒ Local Families

☒ Young People

☐ None

☐ Other: _____

Please provide more detail on how your CCF Project engaged with the groups you noted above *

For example, how many people from each target group did you engage with? What activities were delivered together? Please include names of groups if possible, and a brief description of the activities delivered together. (Write N/A if not applicable: i.e if you did not engage with any groups/orgs).

Generally speaking, many of our events have been open to and attended by all those target groups.

Specifically we have hosted the YEAR project youth group of 8 disadvantaged young people with physical and mental disabilities who stayed in our on farm accommodation and took part in on farm experiences, sheep herding etc.

We ran a traditional farm skills festival event in which, among many target groups, we encouraged and facilitated local older people to come out and share their skills and knowledge. Seven people in the 70+ age range set up displays and did demonstrations for the first time.

We are working with a charity that supports families of victims of road traffic collisions to provide respite space and activities for their service users.

We have arrangements made with the local primary school to provide day trip activities for their students when the new school year starts.

We have run family camps on the farm which have been attended by around 20 families over the course of the project, they have taken part in farm experiences such as sheep herding and animal petting, as well as conservation, nature art and bush-craft workshops.

Overall, how many people have you engaged or interacted with through your CCF Project to date? Please provide a figure (This can be an estimation at this stage if exact data is not available). *

300

Co-Design: Has your CCF Project engaged with communities/volunteers/members in co-designing new spaces? *

For example, your land and space developed to date. Please provide as much detail as possible in terms of how you have engaged with communities/volunteers/members in co-designing new spaces (Write N/A if not applicable).

Worked with a team of volunteers to create and plant willow harvesting plots and sculpture plots.

Involved the YEAR youth group in painting signage for use on the site.

Volunteers have assisted in constructing facilities on site and in preparation of the farm for events

How many volunteering opportunities have been established through your CCF Project to date? *

Please only note the volunteering opportunities attributed to your CCF Project (and not your wider organisation if not directly or indirectly relevant to your CCF Project)

10

Are any of your CCF volunteers / workers from any of the following underrepresented groups? *



Older People



Minority Ethnicity



Persons with Disabilities



Young People



None



Persons from within (or formerly within) the criminal justice system



Other: _____

Approximately, how many volunteering hours have been dedicated to your CCF Project to date? *

Volunteer time dedicated from you, your team and wider volunteers (Give approx hours as required if exact data is not available at this stage).

Approx 100-150 hours dedicated by the team and wider volunteers. As for myself and my partner in the project, our entire involvement is voluntary, to date no income has been taken, hours would be in the 000's _____

Please describe how your CCF activities promote Mental Health: For example, reducing social isolation, creating social connections, access to green spaces etc. *

Write N/A if not applicable

One of our three core aims is to support the mental health and wellbeing of our community. We do that by bringing people out of their houses and together in social settings centered around activities where we can minimise social anxiety. That may be volunteer teams working together on social enterprises or on facilities or event preparations.

Running workshops that bring people together with common interests in a setting where focus on an activity reduces focus on social awkwardness.

Giving people opportunities to get hands on, get exercise, learn new skills and create something.

Promotion of self-sufficiency through sustainability and learning new skills is promoting independence.

Facilitating alternative therapies within the natural spaces on the farm as well as just providing respite accommodation close to nature.

Please describe how your CCF activities promote Physical Health: For example, exercising, moving, breathing fresh air etc. *

Write N/A if not applicable

Our social enterprises involve planting, maintaining, harvesting and processing crops.

Workshops and activities that we offer to guests on the farm are all out doors and hands on.

We have set up a walking trail around the farm.

All volunteer activity is physical out door and hands on.

On a scale of 1 to 10, how has participating in the CCF Project improved your overall health and wellbeing? And the wellbeing of participants across your project.

*

No Improvement

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

6 ☐

7 ☒

8 ☐

9 ☐

10 ☐

A lot of Improvement

Did your CCF Project do any of the following in the community *

- ☒ We delivered Workshops in our community
- ☒ We hosted/delivered community engagement events
- ☒ We delivered Community wellness programmes
- ☒ We delivered environmental Conservation projects/practices in our community

☐ Other: _____

Please give more detail on your community projects / initiatives *

Workshops: Basket weaving, wool spinning, natural dyeing, quilting, pottery, bush-craft, nature art workshops delivered for a total of 48 people.

Community engagement: Attended with a stand at a local fair, ran an open day and a traditional skills festival as well as opening our spaces up to local community groups.

Community wellness: We have run 'unplugged' family camps for approx 40 guests in total. These were hosted weekends designed to encourage families to unplug from devices and become immersed in nature. We also ran a core cellular healing session for 10 people

Environmental conservation: Our first social enterprise involves growing willow to harvest for basket weaving. This crop also provides an example for local small farmers of how unused corners of fields can be returned to woodland, how wet ground can be improved, and of a natural supplement beneficial to lambs. This enterprise involves a core team of 9 volunteers as well as other community and youth groups. Our accommodation and facilities have a strong sustainability ethos through use of salvaged materials, cordoned off conservation areas, recycling station, use of environmentally safe soaps etc. This ethos is communicated to all guests on the farm.

SECTION 3: Education

Please give detail on the training and skill-share workshops your CCF Project has been involved in, to date. *

For example, training/skill-share workshops attended and the number of attendees from your organisation. (Please include the Cooperative Alternative shared learning events and workshops attended as well as any other workshops/events attended).

CCF workshops:

- From vision to action 26th Mar 22 (2 Attendees)
- Telling the story - 30th July 22 (2 Attendees)
- Community engagement: do's & don'ts - 8th Oct 22 (2 Attendees)
- Harvesting the learning - 4th Feb 23 (2 Attendees)
- The importance of good governance - 20th May 23 (2 Attendees)
- Funding applications - 29th July 23 (2 Attendees)

Horticulture Workshop on Saturday, 21st May 22 with Tim Davies, Farm Manager, Jubilee Farm (2 Attendees)

Conservation Workshop on Saturday, 4th June 22 with Geoff Newell, Conservation Manager, Jubilee Farm (2 Attendees)

Marketing and Tourism for Community Farms on Friday 21st April with Portia Woods, Marketing and Communications Manager, Jubilee Farm (2 Attendees)

Edible flower CSA network meet up, Sat 15th Apr (1 Attendees)

Causeway Coastal Route speed networking event, Tues 25th Apr 23 (2 Attendees)

Landworkers Alliance Northern Ireland Branch formation meet up, Sat 1st July 23 (1 Attendees)

Social Farms and Gardens cob house building demo, Fri 7th July 23 (2 Attendees)

MEA Digital Boost online & social media mentoring, 12 hrs, 11th Apr - 30th May 22 (1 Attendees)

MEA Digital Boost Business Escalator Program mentoring - website development, 21 hrs, 2nd Feb - 31st Mar 23 (1 Attendees)

Please detail how you have educated/passed knowledge on to your volunteers (including boards), members and customers. *

For example- About Horticulture, About Animal husbandry, About Social farming, About Market gardens and CSA, About Conservation and biodiversity, About Tourism, About Health & Wellbeing etc.

Farm tours discussing the merits of our willow crop, our alternatives to artificial fertilisers, our hedgerows and tree planting, hay meadow and sheep rotational grazing systems.

Social media and blog posts on particular areas of project focus

Presenting to the team at the open day and team meet ups

Please detail any training or workshops YOUR project provided. *

Provide details on any sessions you led on, any qualifications received by those in attendance (if any) at your training and the number of people gaining qualifications/partaking in educational workshops. Please also note if anyone attending and / or receiving qualifications were from defined "underrepresented / disadvantaged groups".

Facilitated basket weaving, wool spinning, natural dyeing, quilting and pottery workshops and led bushcraft, nature art and livestock farming workshops for a wide variety of people including families and a youth group from disadvantaged backgrounds. Total of 48 participants across a number of sessions

SECTION 4: Land & Environment

How much land has become accessible through your CCF Project to date? (hectares) *

For example, land that has come into your organisations management etc

6.3

Area of land given to food production? (hectares) *

0.1

Area of land given to conservation? (hectares) *

2.5

How much have you grown to date OUTDOORS (for example, in fields) *

Please detail the variety of crops, the type of crops and the amount of crops grown etc. If unsure, please estimate (If none, write N/A)

500 willow shoots planted

20 trees planted

1.3 hectares of hay meadow maintained - grown to seed without artificial fertiliser

1 hectare of white clover overseed as a nitrogen fixing fertiliser alternative

20 strawberry plants, several potted herb plants and approx 30 potted flowering plants

How much have you grown to date INDOORS (for example, Greenhouses) *

Please detail the variety of crops, the type of crops and the amount of crops grown etc. If unsure, please estimate (If none, write N/A)

N/A

What are your most important crops, in terms of volume (starting with the highest volume produced)? If unsure, please estimate. If none, * write N/A

Hay, 1.3 hectares - winter fodder

Willow, 500 shoots - social enterprise crop

Does your CCF Project have any of the following organic systems in place? Please see formal definition via the following link: [Soil Association](#) *

☐ Crop Rotations

☒ Composting

☒ Cover Crops

☒ Integrated Pest Management

☐ Biological Control

☒ Organic Soil Amendments

☒ Water Conservation

☐ None of the Above

☐ Other:

Please give more detail on the organic systems you have in place *

Composting: All organic horticultural waste - hedge trimmings, grass cuttings etc are added to a compost heap that is turned over twice a year

Cover Crops: Our willow planting, as well as providing harvestable rods for weaving, has been planted in boggy areas to improve the ground

Integrated Pest Management: a practice adopted as a requirement of a 5 year environmental farming scheme (currently year 5) which saw 650m of hedging - 500 trees planted including as small orchard with 10 trees

Organic Soil Amendments: Soil testing has been completed with lime applied, clover sown to fix nitrogen and a microbe based liquid fertiliser tested

Water Conservation: Facilities include water treatment system for sewage waste with toilets set for minimum flush. Some rainwater harvesting. Waterways fenced off from livestock

Does your CCF Project undertake any of the following regenerative farming practices? *

☒ Agroforestry Practices

☒ Perennial Species Planted

☒ Water Management Efforts

☐ None of the Above

☐ Other:

Please give more detail on the regenerative farming practices you undertake *

Agroforestry - Willow planting in unused field corners. Hedgerow planting including established trees. Other agroforestry projects currently under consideration

Perennial species planted - White clover over-seed on a grazing paddock as a nitrogen fixing alternative to artificial fertiliser

Water Management Efforts - Rainwater harvesting, efficient facilities and sewage system, waterways fenced off

Does your CCF Project undertake any of the following: *



Soil Health Practices: For example Do you use green fertilizers, pesticides or natural methods, water usage / rain water etc. provide details on any soil testing carried out and the results



Agroecological Methods in place: For example, to mitigating climate change, reducing emissions, recycling resources and prioritising local supply chains



None of the Above

Give more detail to your previous selections *

Clover to fix nitrogen, farm yard manure, topping and mulching rushes, nettles and thistles rather than spraying, trialing a microbe based liquid fertiliser, extend hay meadow growing season to allow plants to come to seed and to increase crop without fertiliser use. Soil testing completed indicated a significant issue with PH levels so lime was applied as required. Rain water harvesting. Willow planted to improve boggy areas. Rotational grazing system in place to reduce overgrazing. Use of vintage machinery and manual operations to reduce soil compaction from large machinery

Recycling station on site for refuse generated by guests. Environmentally safe soaps etc used. Shopping for consumables is at a local refill store. Local produce bought where possible. Responsible sourcing of fire wood. Manual operations chosen over machinery eg. over-seeding clover with a vintage manual fiddle, liquid fertiliser applied with knapsack sprayer to reduce emissions. Salvage materials used throughout our facility

Please detail any animal-rearing activities within your CCF Project to date *

Include specific animals, and number/quantity of animals. If applicable, provide any circular agriculture practices used, for example, regenerative grazing practices, local feed production, animal welfare and health or any value-added products, for example, wool. Please be as detailed as possible in your answer as we want to capture any reduced food miles

35 breeding sheep (pedigree jacob, pedigree lley and suffolk breeds) with 3 rams, 4 donkeys and 2 ponies. Activities include feeding, animal welfare and annual lambing.

We adopted a rotation paddock grazing system for the sheep. All winter fodder is grown on the farm, concentrated feeds purchased from the nearest supplier. Willow leaves are fed to lambs as a source of cobalt, reducing the need for cobalt supplementation and worming medication. Sheep's wool is used for heritage craft - spinning and weaving, as a weed control layer around tree planting etc and as a base membrane for laying paths on soft/wet ground.

Donkeys are occasionally 'loaned' to locals with small patches of land to keep grass under control. Farm yard and other non field areas are occasionally grazed by ponies to control grass and weeds and reduce the need for mowing. Donkeys and ponies are housed over the winter with all manure produced spread on the fields in early spring

Tell us about any recycled material your CCF Project has used/produced to date *

Please provide a breakdown below if available and what it was used for, for example "0.2 tonnes (approximately) of plasterboard were used to construct our vegetable wash station". Write N/A if not applicable.

On farm accommodation: 6 second hand bell tents, tent furnishings (tables, chairs, storage, decorative items etc) are all restored or upcycled. Ground for tent bases has been leveled with wood chip supplied directly by a local tree surgeon before processing (drying etc) - approx 2 ton. Offcuts of polyboard from a local engineering firm are used on top of the bark chip below the tent - 100 sheets 5ftx4ft

Facilities - toilets etc are contained in 3 old and restored horse boxes using salvaged materials - wood etc and second hand fixtures - sinks etc

Workshop space/barn was rebuilt using building rubble and old blocks as fill and foundation, old railway lines and salvaged wood for the frame and salvaged tin for cladding. All doors, floors and fixtures are salvaged/reclaimed materials.

One ton of decorative stone and one tone of builders sand surplus from local private garden projects used on site

11 Wooden arches are being used as path bridges and seating which were shipping stillages used by bushmills distillery

32 concrete railway sleepers, seconds from a local concrete manufacturer used to provide solid bases for a couple of projects

Almost all materials used for projects are sourced from local auctions or market places i.e. fencing posts, wood, rope etc

Unused or broken farm equipment recycled for example an unneeded cattle trough used as a sand pit

SECTION 5: Financial and Enterprising Activities

Did your CCF Project contribute directly or indirectly to any of the following to date?

- ☐ Provided Full-Time Employment
- ☐ Provided Part-Time Employment
- ☐ Provided Work Placement Opportunities
- ☐ Supplied materials/produce to other businesses/VCSE groups
- ☒ Provided upskilling / Learning / Educational Opportunities
- ☒ Sold Goods / Generated Income / Farm Shop
- ☐ Supply Chain Contribution (e.g your CCF project contributed to the transfer of products somewhere along the line from "farm to fork").
- ☒ We contributed to Agritourism
- ☐ We delivered a Community Supported Agriculture Scheme
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other: _____

Please give more detail on your selections *

Include any specific numbers for example P/T or F/T employment, and specific roles created if relevant. Give specific details for any of the other selections you have noted (how much, what, how, when etc)

Workshops provided on traditional skills including basket weaving, wool spinning, quilting, natural dyeing, pottery during summer 23, mostly as part of a traditional skills festival on 24th & 25th June 23. A total of 23 attendees. Workshops on bushcraft, natural art and animal farming provided to a youth group of 8 people in May 23 as well as to a number of families visiting the site

Generated an income by providing experiences, workshops and accommodation to visitors to the farm. Practices adopted have improved profitability of the previously existing sheep farming enterprise and connections made have led to sales of breeding stock

We provide on farm accommodation and farming related experiences and workshops. Among others, we market this directly to the tourism industry.

What did you do, with the initial CCF seed funding? *

Initially intended to support the property aspect of the project, the strategic decision to split the project into 'property' and 'operations' meant a redirect of most of the fund into getting operations running on our pilot farm. Some went towards the facilities required to bring people onto the farm - toilets, workshop space, parking, signage, fencing etc.

Some of the funding was spent on website development. Some was used to host key network connections we had invited to visit the farm - local council etc. It has also been used to provide for volunteers and team members working on the farm for example gloves and other such equipment, refreshment provision (cups etc) and some reference books

What benefits did the seed funding bring to your CCF Project and wider community/stakeholders? *

Essentially it is bridging a gap from project start until income which is allowing us to get the project formally established, branded, marketed and put out there. To enter industries and build up supporting networks within them - tourism, environmental sustainability, care sector etc. It allowed us to get operations - projects started and the move from talking to doing greatly enhanced community engagement. Having something tangible on site both in terms of facilities and projects has given us a lot more credibility with everyone we have engaged with. It has given us the opportunity to demonstrate the project in action and has been a spring board towards allowing us to fully deliver on our aims

Please give detail of any other finance put into your CCF Project to date (Over and above the CCF seed funding) *

For example, match funding, other grants secured, own finance / fundraising etc. Write N/A if not applicable

A £500 start up grant from the Gallagher trust

Free use of the land on our pilot farm

The accommodation and the sheep enterprise are run as personal enterprises however income from both has been used to make up any shortfalls in the projects expenditure and to cover any of our own expenses (fuel etc) associated with the project. The accommodation is available as a resource for the project as needed.

Give details of any return on investment for your organisation by partaking in the CCF Project to date? *

For example- What is your turnover? Has your turnover increased? What is your ratio between turnover from sales and grants? Write N/A if not applicable

Turnover for the project has been very approximately in the region of £5-6000 to date. The overlap and benefits associated with the personal enterprises as well as our own investments and expenses are quite hard to quantify. Overall the project is sitting pretty much at a break even point. Partaking in the CCF project however has developed our project into a constituted association which are now looking at individual projects and funding pots to move the over all project into a more financially viable position

SECTION 6: Moving Forward

Between now, and the end of the CCF Project, what are your key priorities? *

For example, what do you hope to achieve over the next 6 to 8 months

Bed in our new committee, ensuring everyone meaningfully contributes to and buys into the vision and values of the project. Also to capitalise on their initial enthusiasm by getting a number of small starter projects underway, ensuring there is something of interest happening for all involved.

Information shared leading to a decision being made on progressing our governance and forming as a community interest company

Bring the property side of the project forward to the point where we are ready to have conversations with property owners and optimistically have our next property in a promising position

Have completed our first year with our willow based social enterprise, progress evaluated and plans in place to expand it next year

Have a full calendar of key dates tied down for events and workshops we will run next year and have them open for bookings

Engage with charities and other care organisations who would benefit from the mental health and wellbeing side of our project.

**Longer term, (after the Cultivating Community Farming project ends in 2024), do you have plans to expand/grow your CCF Project? If yes, *
how do you see your business growing? For example, More land use/ Increase production/ More customers/ More product lines/ More
volunteers, staff/ Other?**

Progression to a community interest company

Operating over several properties (up to 6) each comprising of a restored derelict cottage with outbuildings, garden, vegetable plots and up to 1 acre of land for livestock.

Each property would accommodate social enterprises, community gardens, social spaces, craft spaces, conservation areas, livestock and workshops as appropriate for each site.

Properties would be connected via right-of-ways and greenways where possible which would incorporate fruit trails and bee corridors.

That would all mean more product lines via our social enterprises, more volunteers, part or full time staff, and a much much higher footfall of customers and service users from our local and wider community

A thriving tourism offering providing a reliable financial input

**As part of the final Impact Report, we will include a number of case studies which are a great way of demonstrating impact. Would you be *
happy to provide a case study for your CCF Project?**



Yes



No



Not Sure (Please Provide More Detail on the requirements)

Would you like to add any further comments / thoughts at this stage? *

No thanks

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