

SUSTAINABILITY OF COMMUNITY GARDEN IN SCOTLAND

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1. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Community Garden (CG) is very important as sustainable agricultural open space in which citizen can participate easily. UK is an advanced nation on CG and has a system to maintain its sustainability such as Federation of City Farms & Community Gardens (FCFCG). However, some CG listed on the CG map created by FCFCG in 2010 had been deleted and those cannot be included in the list on the Website of FCFCG in 2015. This means that CGs in Scotland may have some problems in their sustainability. Such that, this research aims to clarify the current issues of CGs in Scotland and bottleneck of their sustainability through social survey in order to make a suggestion to improve sustainability of CGs.

2. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A preliminary survey was conducted 14 CGs in Scotland for 3 months from October 2015 for grasping the current status of CGs and clarifying the problems or issues for sustainable management. I interviewed managers of those 14 CGs. From the result of the survey, it was found that some CG managers have been concerned with how to manage their CG in sustainable manner. There are two major points, 'sustainable human resource for management' and 'sustainable income for management'. Based on these two factors from the preliminary interview survey, I conducted a questionnaire survey to the managers in 10 CGs in Scotland as well as to the staff and volunteers (37 people) in 6 CGs out of the 10.

Regarding 'sustainable human resource for management', volunteers are very important because they are almost of all manpower in the CGs. I asked 19 volunteers about their 'key motivations of participation in CGs' and 'level of satisfaction.' The answer revealed that all the 19 volunteers have very various motivations, whereas they showed very high level of satisfaction with their work and managers of their CGs. This tells us that the CG has positive functions which live up to volunteers various expects. Also, it became clear that volunteers mainly get information about volunteering through face-to-face communication and related organizations.

As for 'Sustainable income for management', some CGs obtain subsidies from 'Grant of government', 'Climate Challenge Fund (CCF)', and 'Fund of the organizations of National Lottery' mainly. Recently, 'Grant of government' has decreased and become unstable, thus funding strategy is very important for sustainable income of CGs. It is urged that the managing side of CG is to make an effort to gain financial sources, for example, managing café, selling crops, cooperating with companies and getting financial support from relative organizations by utilizing the characteristics of the activities of CG.

3. CONCLUSION

CGs' human resource for management is supported by volunteers. For 'sustainable human resource for management', the important things are to keep the current volunteers and to create methods to get new volunteers. The surveys clarified that the volunteers have been satisfied with CG very much. It means that there are few problems in CG for volunteers at the status quo. Hence, the most important thing is to get new volunteers. It is considered that government and supporting organizations are to make more opportunities on which citizen know about the attractiveness of volunteering in CGs. In addition, the management side of CG is strongly suggested to advertise more efficiently through related organizations and personal and social network.

As for 'Sustainable income for management', CGs are to receive financial support from not only government but also fund from National Lottery to achieve the stability. To raise funds, it is necessary for CGs to understand their strength and make an effort to generate income by themselves, for example café and cooperation with some companies. At the same time, government can establish more stable funding systems which CGs can use more easily as funding source.