

**Transition Consultation Event
Llandrindod Wells. 13th May 2009**

Small Scale Sustainable Agriculture (SSSA) Meeting Report

Three separate groups discussed ways in which organisations such as Glasu could promote SSSA. The conversations highlighted many issues but there were two that were consistently mentioned.

1. How those wishing to take part in SSSA could access and develop land for cultivation.
2. Education. Some generations/ cultures have missed out on learning how food is grown.

1. How Glasu and other organisations could help SSSA by accessing and developing land

Access

There is a case for Glasu to look at the successful existing models where communities and individuals have come together to support SSSA and presenting information on the various schemes via either conference or website.

For example:

At a community level local models include Dragon Orchard Cropsharers in Hereford and Cwm Harry in Newtown.

At an individual level Aberystwyth Transition Town has organised a successful garden share scheme.

Developing land

One key problem identified on the day was the inertia and loss of momentum caused by the time delay in acquiring land for SSSA. To compensate for this delay, non sustainable practices, such as ploughing, were being encouraged.

There is a case for Glasu to offer some sort of educational support system for groups in this phase.

2. Education

There is a case for Glasu promoting some sort of “remedial education” for those groups who have missed out on food education.

A couple of delegates were actively trying to develop the educational function of their SSSA.

Glasu could have an active role in helping them develop and market their aspirations.

Soil Fertility

One area which I feel was not well understood at the meetings is the importance of soil fertility to SSSA.

The nutrient loss in cultivated land is significant and I doubt if sufficient consideration has been given to how this could be replaced in a post carbon era. I doubt if there will be sufficient waste compostable materials available to sustain cultivation especially if both rain fall and soil leaching increase through climate change.

I'm not sure that the conversations I presented properly addressed this issue.