



SOLAAL

COUNTRY

France

PROJECT PROMOTER

SOLAAL

FUNDING

Private funds, EUR 260 000

DURATION

Started in 2013

CONTRIBUTION TO

- generating environmental benefits
- mitigating climate change
- creating value through improved production methods or processing technology

KEYWORDS

Bio-waste, residues, social inclusion, pilot project, sustainability

CONTACT

d.briaumont@solaal.org

WEBSITE

www.solaal.org

The initiative

SOLAAL is an association which facilitates the link between agricultural and food sector food donations and food aid associations. It brings together a large number of organizations from the agricultural, industrial, retail, agricultural and food inter-branch and wholesale markets.

SOLAAL brings together different kinds of stakeholders including farmers, food aid associations, local authorities and supply chains. The project helps to ensure that tons of fresh, nutritious food is used for human consumption rather than ending up as waste or in by-product reuse.



RESULTS

- ✓ Since 2013, when the association was created, SOLAAL has contributed to the donation of 14 000 tons of agricultural products, that is the equivalent of 28 million meals.
- ✓ SOLAAL makes fresh produce available to those who need it most by providing a link between farmers and food aid associations.
- ✓ 2 individuals are directly employed in/by the initiative



Context

Food aid associations give regular warnings about the lack of fresh fruit and vegetables in people's diets. Moreover, the most disadvantaged people are prone to diseases linked to an unbalanced diet, such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, obesity, etc.

SOLAAL responds to the needs of deprived and disadvantaged people by facilitating the donation of fresh food from farmers to food aid associations. It is a free service that fights food waste and gives fresh produce to those who need it most.

Objectives

SOLAAL's aims to:

- tackle food waste.
- encourage farmers to donate produce.
- facilitate the distribution of these donations at both local and national level.
- ensure that the beneficiaries of food aid have access to a balanced diet.

Activities

SOLAAL organises and facilitates the donation of fresh food produce from farmers to food aid associations. It helps to ensure that tons of fresh, nutritious food is used for human consumption rather than ending up as waste or in by-product reuse. The organisation brings together different kinds of stakeholders including farmers, food aid associations, local authorities and supply chains.

SOLAAL plans to reinforce its activity in the region by developing an app that facilitates the proposition and processing of food donations at any time.

Environmental sustainability

The initiative is, first and foremost, concerned with social solidarity. However, at the same time, by enabling access to and the consumption of non-commercial food products, and by managing the pick up and redistribution of unsold fruit and vegetable from wholesale markets, the initiative contributes substantially to tackling food waste.

Calculated on the basis of a procedure set by the French Ministry of Environment (Ademe), representatives of the fruit and vegetable sector and the association "Bon pour le climat", the carbon footprint of this project is estimated to have saved 2 512.2 tons of CO₂.

Some actions are backed by local authorities or stakeholders such as charities and NGOs. SOLAAL takes local cultures and practices into account, for example they only organise gleaning in regions where it is recognised and accepted.

This project supports the nationwide project set up by the French Ministry of Agriculture called "pacte de lutte contre le gaspillage alimentaire" (treaty against food waste).

Lessons learnt

Logistics have to be taken into account, as food products are perishable.

Applying for financial support requires a lot of time.

The board chose to offer the service free of charge to the producers and charities. The initiative's viability therefore depends on sponsors and public funding.

Local stakeholders contribute to actions such as gleanings, logistics, packaging, etc. and this works very well!