



# Handpicked: Stories from the Field

A production of the Laurier Centre for Sustainable Food Systems

## Episode 6:

### “We are all shepherds of the data”: Food, Technological, and Data Sovereignty

Featuring: Theresa Schumilas

## Glossary of Terms

### *Commons*

Cultural and natural resources that belong to everyone and that are not privately owned. The Commons can include resources that are in physical and/or digital space, are non-proprietary, and are cared for by a community. The Commons is an important concept in many disciplines, including political ecology, economics, philosophy, law, and the humanities, among others. The Commons can be legally protected, as in, for example, Creative Commons or Open Source licencing

### *Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)*

Community supported agriculture (CSA) is a food sharing model in which people buy a share of a farm and then pick up their dividend as a harvest share every week. Consumers make a commitment to take their share, which could be anything from a particular farmer/producer, and to share the risk of the harvest with that farmer.

### *Data Sovereignty*

The right of people to have access to and power over the data and information associated with their lives, work, or communities.

### *Food sovereignty*

"Food Sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems."

<https://viacampesina.org/en/>

### *Global Food Commons*

Natural, cultural, and digital resources shared with a global community of food actors. For example, Open Food Network includes a global community of coders creating and sharing code and educational experiences to better their platform.

### *Informal Economy of Food*

Economies of food that emphasize “personal relationships, trust, and non-market values, which are inherently challenging to define and often impossible to quantify.” Informal economies of food are “spaces for non-traditional forms of innovation as well as opportunities for deep insights into social relationships, cultural meanings, and environmental values . . . and challenge us to think of economic systems in far more complex ways than mainstream economic theory would propose.”



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<http://nourishingontario.ca/the-social-economy-of-food/>

## ***Open Source***

A non-proprietary legal protection that ensures ownership in the commons. Data, information, code, genetic code, etc. may be deemed Open Source.

## ***Open Source Data***

A legal protection that ensures that data that is owned and available for use to everyone in a particular community. In the case of Open Food Network, all users have access to all code associated with the platform but must make any alterations or new code available to all other users.

## ***Peer-to-Peer Learning***

Informal learning among members of a community, often based on the concepts of sharing and justice. Peer-to-peer learning may take place through forums, mentorship, or other means.

## ***Platform***

Digital infrastructure or framework for different kinds of exchange. For example, Open Food Network is a platform that enables digital food hubs, shops, or farmers markets.

## ***Producer***

A food enterprise which makes, grows, bakes, cooks, or produces food which it can supply to other businesses for sale.

<https://guide.openfoodnetwork.org/glossary-of-ofn-terms>

## ***Production Management***

The management of goods, knowledge, technology, employees, money, etc. associated with being a producer.

## ***Sharing Economy***

“An umbrella term that describes a wide range of economic activities that have been made possible by technology. Two well-known digital platforms have captured markets in transportation (Uber) and short-term accommodations (Airbnb), but sharing economy businesses are emerging in nearly every sector of the economy. . . . The common element is that they enable individuals to “share” their personal assets or skills. This sharing involves renting personal assets or providing services for a fee through an online application.”

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/sharing-economy-framework>

## ***Supply Chain***

All of the components of a system—including organizations, producers, suppliers, people, resources, activities, information, and infrastructures—that get a product to a consumer.



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## *Sustainable Food System*

Food systems that are “socially just, support local economies; are ecologically regenerative, and foster citizen engagement.”

<https://fledgeresearch.ca/>