





Not Climate
Change

How Circular
Economy &
Systems Thinking
is Helping
Transform Food
For Sheffield



Gareth Roberts

- ▶ UoS Alumni 94-97, Urban Studies
- Experience:
 - Arts Administration
 - Events & Festivals Manager
 - Lecturer
 - Social Entrepreneur
- Passions:
 - My Family (& our Campervan!)
 - Sustainable Food
 - Cooperation
 - Allotment | Chickens | Lego
- gareth.roberts@regather.net



Regather

To grow the economy of Sheffield by developing a more productive landscape, with particular focus on urban food production, and to transform the resilience and sustainability of the wider local food system of Sheffield



ShefFood

the Sustainable Food Places member and cross-sector food partnership for Sheffield working towards a more sustainable food system for Sheffield.





















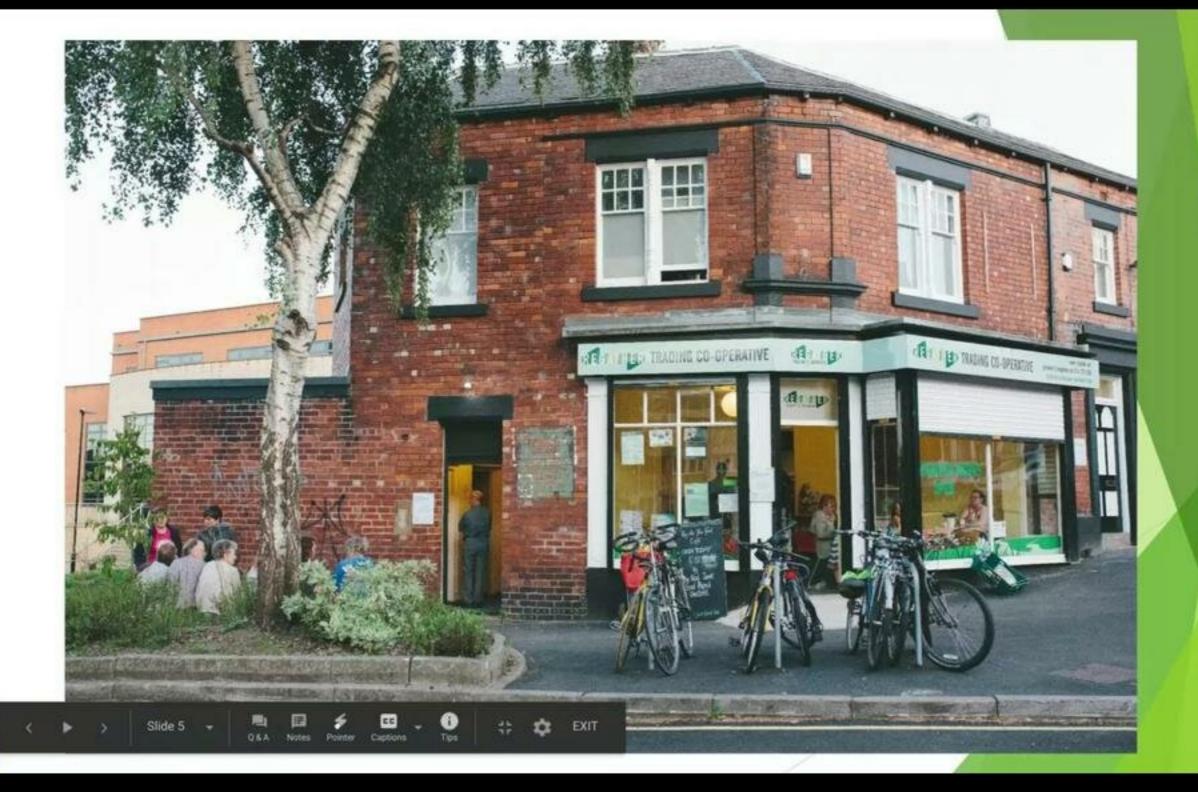


Regather

- Regather Works, Little Sheffield
 - community food hub & main premises
 - office, packing room, commercial kitchen, microbrewery and licensed venue
- The Club Garden, Little Sheffield
 - urban greenspace raised beds, fruit trees 'edible landscape'
 - UoS Institute of Sustainable Food Minifarm
- Regather Farm, Moss Valley, NE Derbyshire
 - 4 acre market garden | 8 acre agroforestry development | 2 acre meadow







Minifarm Aquaponic & Hydroponic Growing



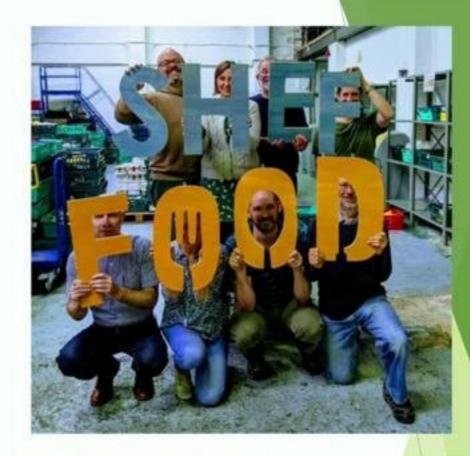
Regather Farm

Moss Valley
15 Acres
Organic
Market Garden
Agroforestry
Orchard
Meadow
Ponds



ShefFood

- Food Partnership for Sheffield
 - Key stakeholders to transform policy, strategy, support and governance of a sustainable urban food system for Sheffield
- Support from Sustainable Food Places
- Lead partners: Regather, FoodWorks, Heeley City Farm, Green City Action, Sheffield Climate Alliance, University of Sheffield, Sheffield Hallam University.
- Regional partners in Doncaster, Barnsley & Rotherham + Yorkshire wide network



















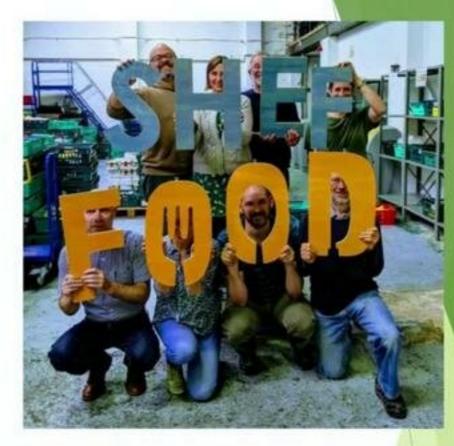






ShefFood

- Developing the Sheffield Food Partnership
 - governance, engagement, capacity, awareness, sustainability
- Influencing the Sheffield Context
 - review strategies, policies and bodies, analyse food system(s), food procurement and food culture
- Food Campaigns for Sheffield
 - maximise Veg Cities & Food Power





























Topics

- Food Systems
- Values Based Food Chains
- Case Study Regather Box
- Case Study Fresh Street
- Land, Work & Inputs
- Integrated Urban Agriculture











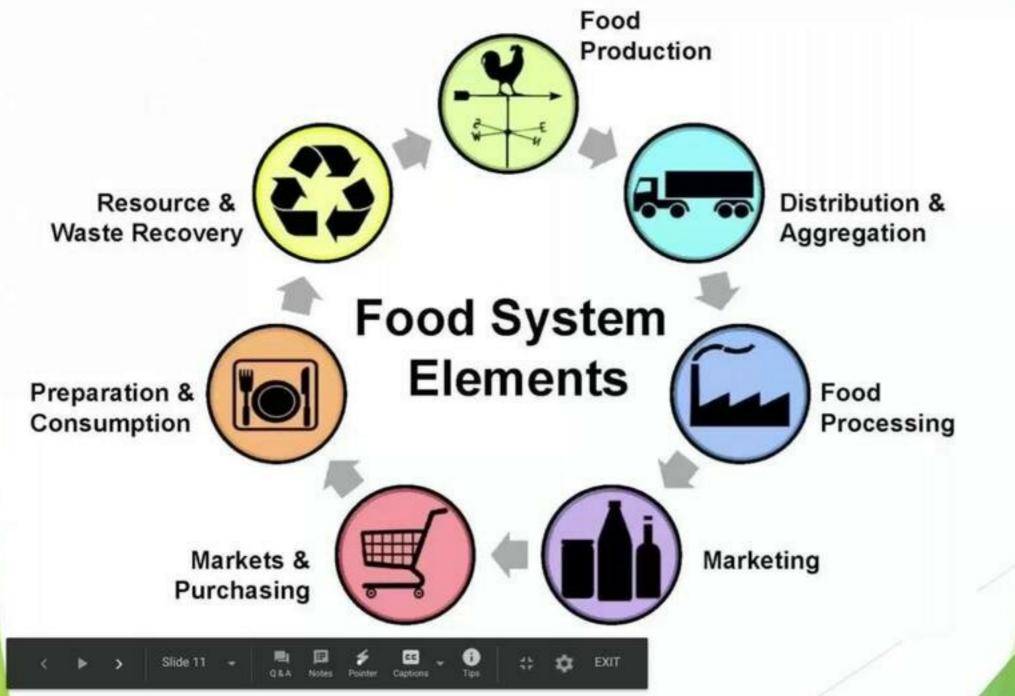




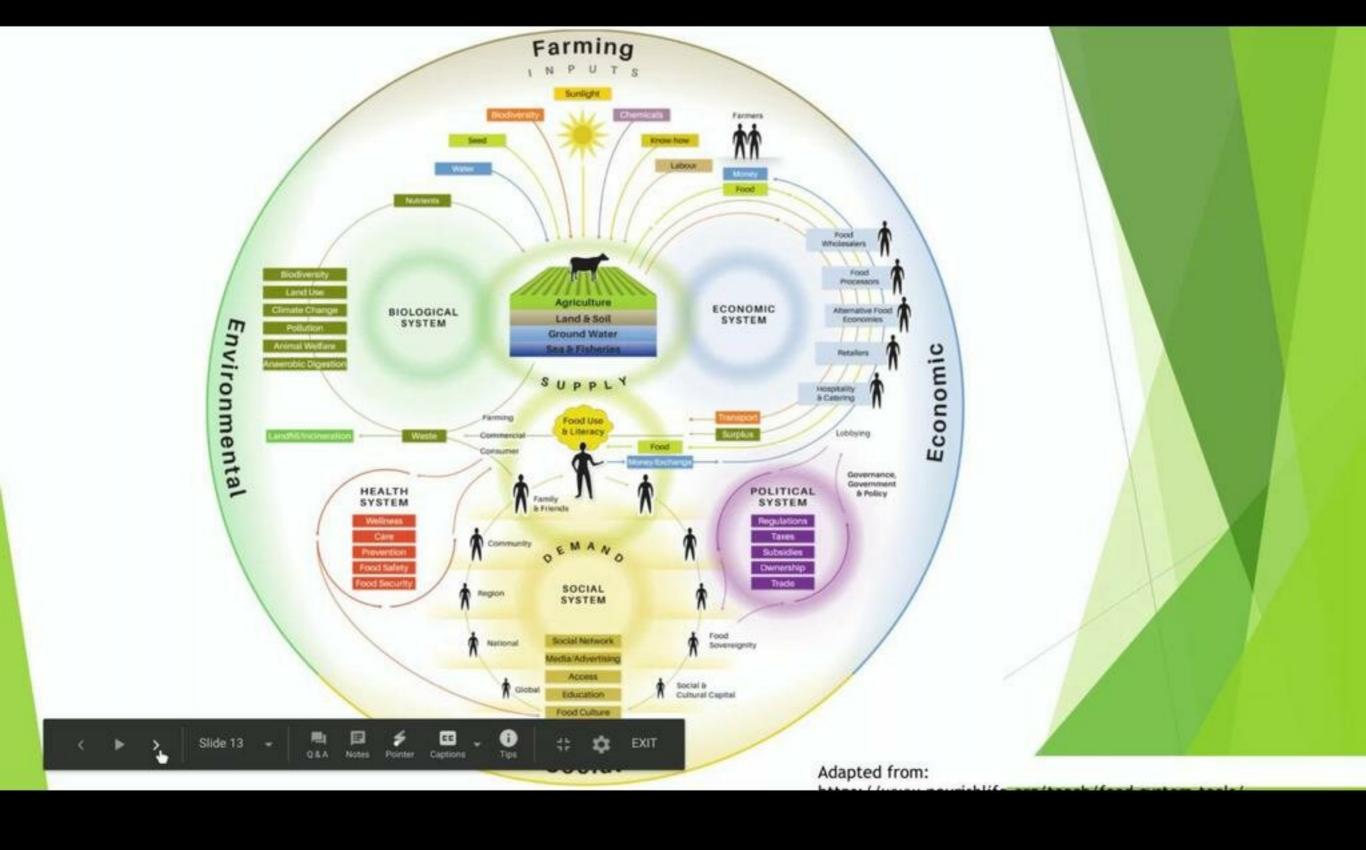




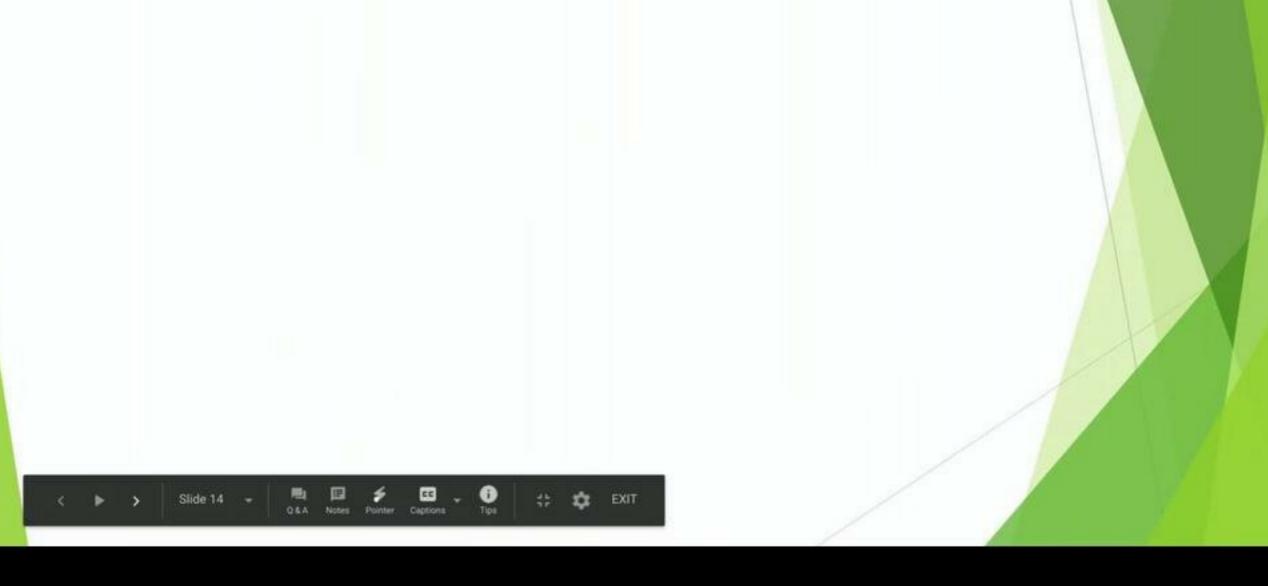








Food Systems Approach



Food Systems Approach

- Food Provision
- production, harvesting, processing, distribution, retail, consumption, waste management
- Foodsheds (like watershed)
- land, productive capacity, parameters / perimeters, linkages urban / peri-urban / rural

- Dimensions
- social, economic, environmental,
 biological, political
- and digital...

- Flows
- products, services, power, money, data, nutrients, water, energy, vehicles, people, resources...

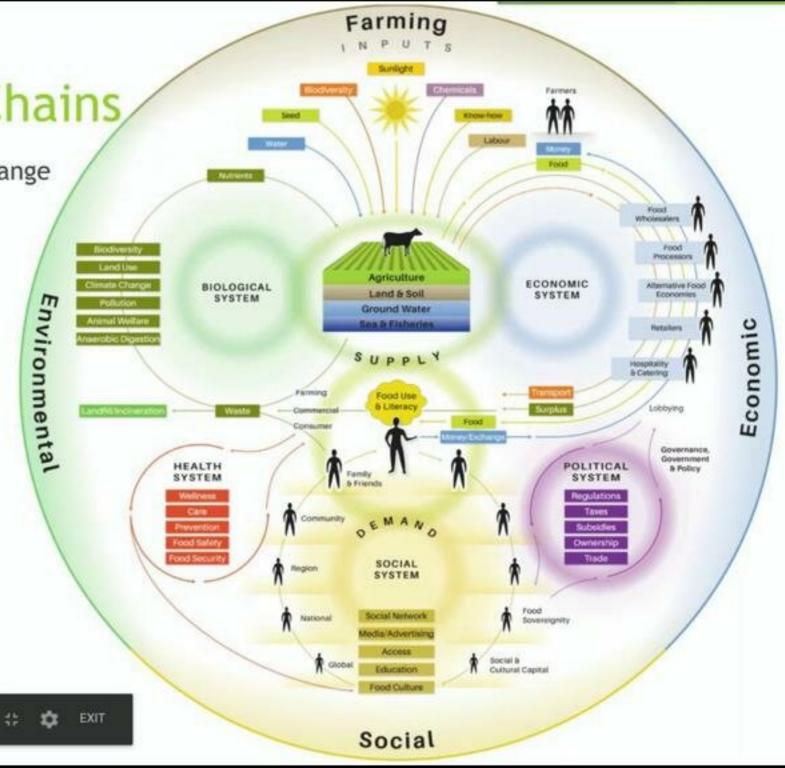


Values Based Food Chains,

Values of object <u>and</u> process of exchange

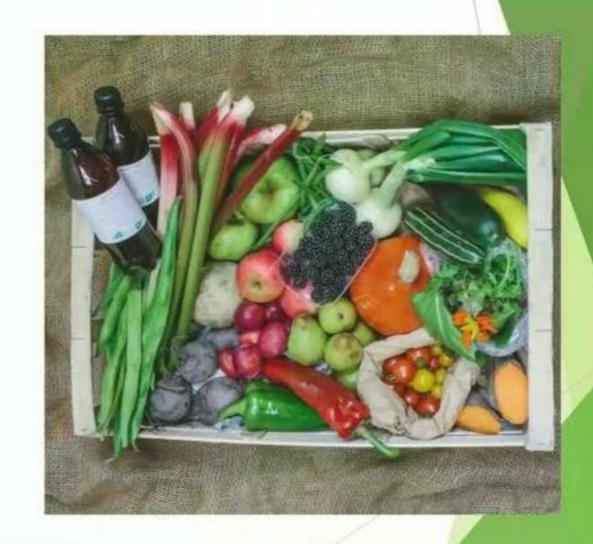
- Producers
 - strategic partners
 - not interchangeable input suppliers
- Customers
 - values based offer
 - fairness | provenance | standards
- Why the focus on VBFCs?
 - chains, within systems
 - drivers of change

Slide 15



VBFC Case Study: Regather Box

- Supporting a mixed local economy of organic fruit and vegetable production
- Values in Action:
 - local, seasonal, co-operative, organic
- Sheffield producers (~£25k in 2019)
- Regional wholesalers (~£180k in 2019)
- Regather Farm increase local supply to meet demand for local produce

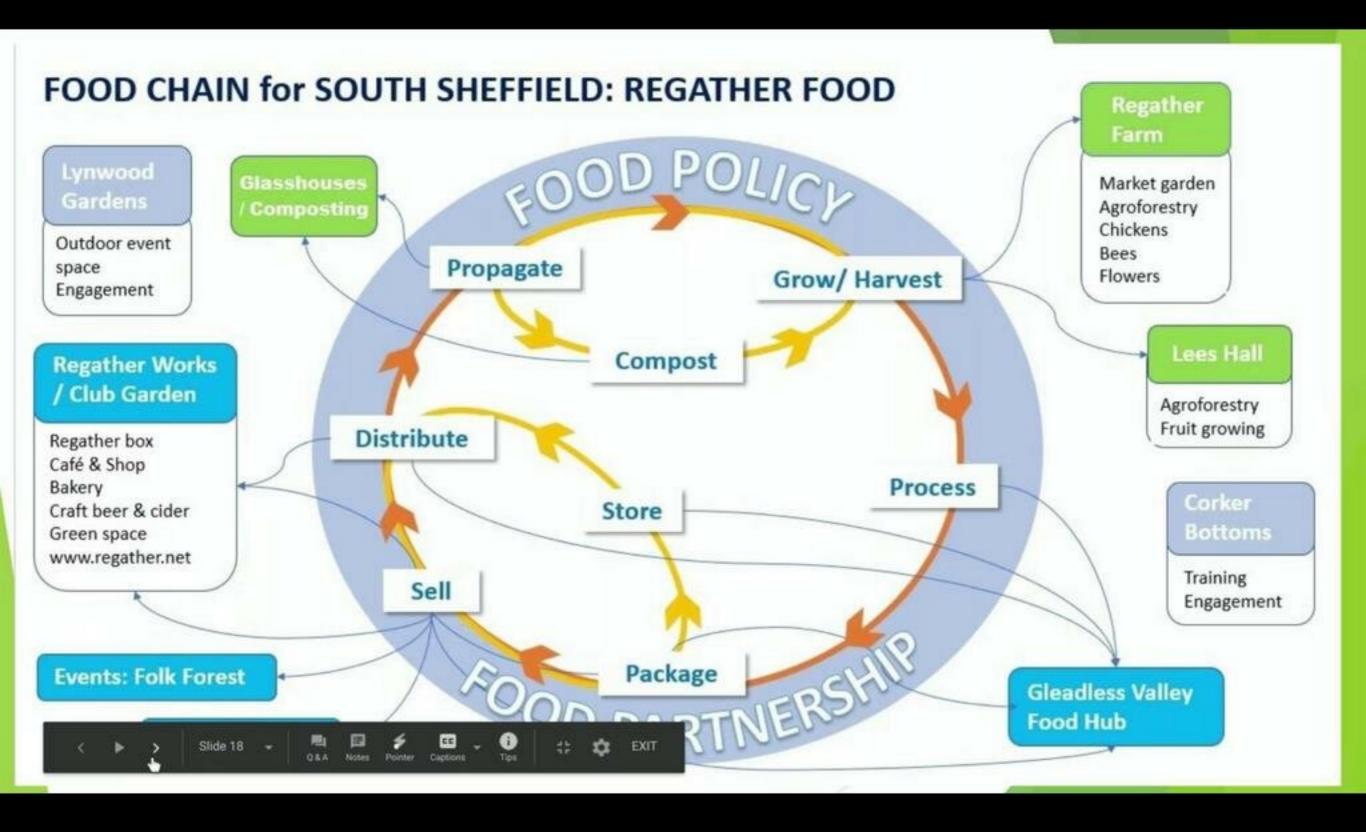


But not without challenges...

VBFC Case Study: Fresh St. Sheffield (2018-19)

- How to create sustainable and healthy diets, eating behaviours and food systems for everyone?
- Fruit & Veg cash transfer voucher
- £5/wk, 56 households, ~12 months
- MRC / UoS / SCC Public Health research
- Gleadless Valley, Sheffield
- Moor Market / Fresh St Bag
- Needs? Challenges? Solutions?
- Outcomes? Values?





35.3 acres!

DEXIT

- Supplier Growing Sites
 - Wortley Walled Garden, 3 acres
 - High Riggs, 2.5 acres
 - Sheffield Organic Growers, 12 acres
- New Regather Growing Sites
 - Regather Farm Moss Valley, 14 acres
 - Club Garden Sharrow, 1 acre
 - Lynwood Garden Broomhall, 1.6 acres
 - Corker Bottom Manor, 1.2 acres





- Work a labour supply crisis...
 - Training & Skills
 - Employment & Volunteering
 - Apprenticeships
- Positive Developments
 - New Deal for Growers / Small Farms
 - Future Growers / Farm Start
- HUGE Challenges and Opportunities





- Essential Inputs...
 - Water boreholes, irrigation, efficiency
 - Soil degradation, recovery, upkeep
 - Light & Heat day length, seasons, cover
 - Chemicals organic, non-organic
 - Nutrients green manure, compost, animal inputs
 - Seed varieties, production, saving, supply
 - Agroforestry tree planting as input





- Input Considerations...
 - Rural | Peri-urban | Urban Locations
 - Inputs, conditions, techniques vary
- Water rain harvesting, greywater reuse
- Soil soil-less / import | contamination | AD
- Light & Heat artificial | PV | urban heat & C02

Fully Integrated Urban Agriculture...

- Sites Indoor, vertical, roof top, brownfield
- Expertise AMRC, UoS, SHU, IKEA...



