

# FEEDING OURSELVES



## GATHERING 2024

### UNPACKING PROTEST | AGROECOLOGY | LOCAL FOOD ECONOMIES

[www.cultivate.ie](http://www.cultivate.ie)

## Where are we at, where do we want to go, and how do we get there?

Since 2011, agroecological farmers, land workers, community food and environmental advocates, along with organisations and individuals involved in food cooperatives and community food initiatives have convened annually in Cloughjordan to progress a regenerative and more resilient way to restore ecosystems and feed ourselves.

This year's gathering will comprise four days exploring different aspects of how farming and food is, and how it can be — for our farms, our land and our inclusive communities.

At its core, this gathering will help us to imagine and establish a future where farmers and land workers earn a fair living and everyone enjoys access to healthy, nutritious, and locally sourced food — a solidarity economy and food sovereignty vision to transform our communities.

**FOOD HUB – COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE CENTRE**  
Cloughjordan Ecovillage | County Tipperary | E53 VP86

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# FEEDING OURSELVES GATHERING

Partners and Collaborators: [Cultivate Talamh Beo](#) [ARC2020](#) [Cloughjordan Community Farm](#) [OFN Ireland](#) [Solid Network](#) [Sonairte](#) [EU4Advice](#) [FEASTA](#) [Irish Environmental Network](#) [CODECS](#) [CSA Ireland Network](#) [Centre for Cooperative Studies](#) [UCC](#) [SUSTAGRI4.0](#) [Forum Synergies](#) [Seeds 4 All](#)

## FOOD HUB Cloughjordan | County Tipperary | E53 VP86 COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE CENTRE

North Tipperary Green Enterprise Park. Empowering local-based micro-enterprises to drive community wellbeing and foster a stronger local economy. Workspace, meeting rooms, training space, Food Hub and FabLab,



Cloughjordan Ecovillage is a pioneering community dedicated to sustainable living, social innovation, and regenerative practices. Spanning 67 acres, this community-led housing initiative serves as an ecosystem of innovation with a focus on ecological resilience and cohesion, Cloughjordan offers a unique opportunity to experience and learn about sustainable community. .

[www.thevillage.ie](http://www.thevillage.ie)

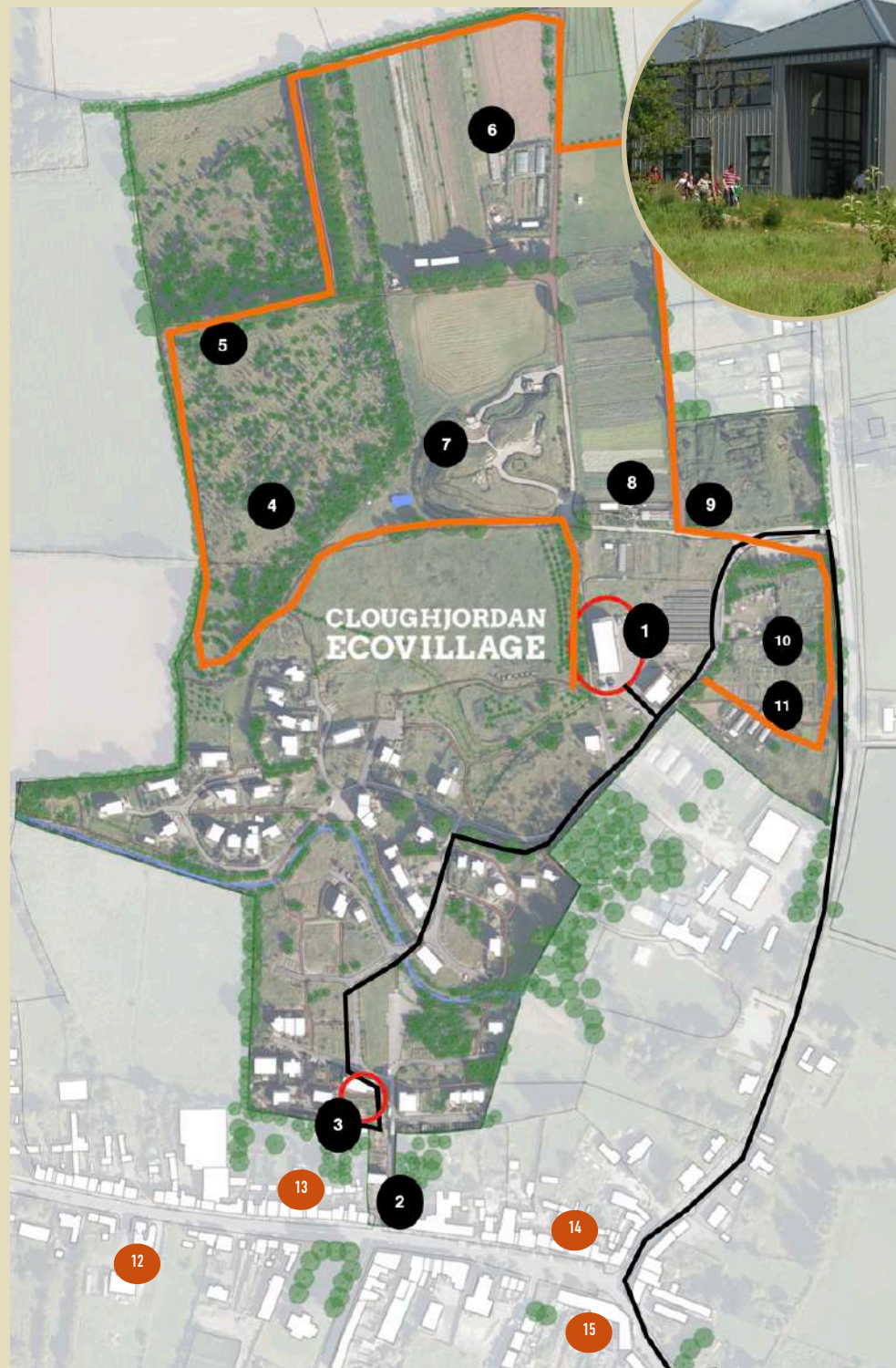


This gathering serves the Feeding Ourselves **Community of Practice** - a peer-learning and capacity network for agroecological farmers, land-workers, and local food advocates on the island of Ireland.



Subscribe to the 'Feeding Ourselves' e-bulletin.

The Community of Practice is coordinated by **CULTIVATE** in partnership with **TALAMH BEO**, **OFN IRELAND** and **SOLID NETWORK**.



1. Community Enterprise Centre / Food Hub
2. Ecovillage Pedestrian Entrance
3. Django's Eco Hostel
4. Community Woodlands
5. Labyrinth
6. Community Farm CSA
7. Community Amphitheatre
8. Cuan Beo - Community Seed Bank and Learning Area
9. Sensory Gardens
10. Allotments
11. Research Gardens - @cjredgardens  
Biodiversity Walk
12. Food Truck / Museum
13. Book Shop
14. Middle Country Coop Cafe
15. CENTRA



# Policy and Politics

Thursday 21st March 2024 - 10.00-17.30

Thursday's session will gather farmers, land users, local communities, researchers, journalists, environmental advocates, and policymakers to unpack the issues around global trade and food system power — seeking understanding, synergies and strategies forward.

09.30 Welcome & Registration

10.00 Opening

Setting the purpose and introducing the partners and themes of this year's gathering. Oliver Moore, Ruth Hegarty, Fergal Anderson and Davie Philip,

10.25 Opening address from Minister of State Pippa Hackett

10.40 Unpacking Protest and Analysing Policy Changes

Ella McSweeney moderates a discussion on protests, policy developments, and regressions at the EU level, and examines their implications for Ireland. Presentation by Oliver Moore, followed by a roundtable conversation with Pippa Hackett, Daniel Long, Fergal Anderson and Ruth Hegarty.

11:30 Break

11.50 Ireland: The National Context

What are Ireland's agri-food and environmental challenges and how do we work together to fix them? Roundtable discussion moderated by Fintan Kelly with Elaine McGoff, Caroline Whyte, Lenny Antonelli, Niamh Garvey and Thomas O Connor.

12:45 Capturing Insights & Introduction to the Breakouts

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Policy Breakouts

- ▶ **Local Food Policy** - Talamh Beo's Thomas O'Connor lead a session on why local food producers need institutional recognition.
- ▶ **Seed Policy** - Adele Pautrat of Seeds4all and Elaine Bradley from the Irish Seed Savers Association discuss the critical issues and legislation surrounding seeds.
- ▶ **Ireland and Policy** - How can and will Ireland respond to these EU policy regressions? ARC2020's Oliver Moore and Oonagh Duggan from Birdwatch Ireland discuss.

15:00 Networking Break

15:40 Learning From Europe

Louise Kelleher leads this interactive session on bottom-up approaches to developing sustainable food systems and policy. Alison Brogan, Ann-Marie Weber, Henrik Maas and Thierry Lohr introduce the Marburg Action Plan for Future-Proof Food Systems and Fergal Anderson on what is needed to move Talamh Beo's Local Food Policy Framework towards implementation.

17:00 Bringing it all Together

Taking stock of where we're at, sharing insights, and introducing the topics for the days ahead.

17:30 Close



<https://www.arc2020.eu/future-proof-food-systems-in-europe-a-call-for-action/>



<https://talamhbeo.ie/projects/local-food-policy/>

**Contributors to this session include:** Minister of State Pippa Hackett, Oliver Moore (ARC2020, Cultivate); Ruth Hegarty (Egg & Chicken), Davie Philip (Cultivate, Cloughjordan Community Farm); Fergal Anderson (Talamh Beo), Daniel Long (Farmer, Tipperary PPN), Ella McSweeney (Broadcaster/ journalist); Fintan Kelly (IEN/ Environmental Pillar); Elaine McGoff (An Taisce); Caroline Whyte (Feasta); Thomas O'Connor (Talamh Beo); Lenny Antonelli (Researcher); Niamh Garvey (NESC); Oonagh Duggan (Birdwatch Ireland); Elaine Bradley (Irish Seed Savers Association); Adele Pautrat (Seeds for All); Louise Kelleher (ARC2020); Alison Brogan (ARC2020); Ann-Marie Weber (kollektiv von MORGEN); Henrik Maas (ABL); Thierry Lohr (Plésse).



**CLOUGHJORDAN COMMUNITY FARM**

[www.cloughjordancommunityfarm.ie](http://www.cloughjordancommunityfarm.ie)



**OPEN FOOD NETWORK IRELAND**

[openfoodnetwork.ie](http://openfoodnetwork.ie)

OFN is a user-owned digital platform that enables new, ethical supply chains. Food producers can sell online, wholesalers can manage buying groups and supply produce through networks of food hubs and shops. Communities can bring together producers to create a virtual farmers' market, building a resilient local food economy.

## Friday 22nd March 2024

14.00 - 15.30

### Mapping Ireland's Local Food Ecosystem.

**Understanding the stakeholders, knowledge flows, and support strategies to collectively build thriving local food systems**

An engaging workshop hosted by the EU4Advice project, aimed at exploring and mapping Ireland's local food ecosystem. This workshop offers a valuable opportunity for stakeholders to collaborate, share insights, and contribute to the understanding of what actors and collaborations fuel local food systems in Ireland. Whether you're a practitioner, policymaker, researcher, or advocate, join us and be a part of this journey towards a more resilient and interconnected local food ecosystem for Ireland!

14.00 - 15.30

### Digital Solutions for Sustainable Food Systems

**Identifying stakeholders, exploring barriers and strategies for enhancing adoption of digital tools among farmers and community-led food initiatives.**

Digitalisation, especially user-owned and open-source digital platforms such as OFN and Farm OS, offer potential in enabling resilient and sustainable food systems. This CODECS workshop led by Cultivate will delve into strategies for increasing farmer and community adoption of digital tools and how these tools can support Food Hubs and small farmers. The session aims to explore practical pathways for leveraging digital platforms to enhance the viability and impact of local food initiatives.



EU4Advice is a Horizon Europe project developing a network of Short Food Supply Chain Advisors across Europe. A multi-actor collaboration and capacity building network inside and between AKIS (Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation Systems) to foster the upscaling of local food economies across Europe

[www.eu4advice.eu](http://www.eu4advice.eu)



CODECS (maximising the CO-benefits of agricultural Digitalisation through conducive digital ECoSystems) is a Horizon Europe project that aims to improve the motivation and the capacity of European farmers to understand and adopt digitalisation as an enabler of sustainable and transformative change.

[www.horizoncodecs.eu](http://www.horizoncodecs.eu)

Friday 22nd March 2024 – 10.00–17.00



# FOOD HUBS

## Climate Action and Local Food

Short Food Supply Chains, Digitalisation  
& Stronger Local Food Economies



### 10:00 Opening

Introduction to the CALF project, food hubs and the context of local food economies. **Evonne Boland** (Open Food Network and the CALF project), **Davie Philip** (Cultivate, CloughJordan Food Hub) **Oliver Moore** (CloughJordan Community Farm, Cultivate)

### 10.20 Pathways to Climate Resilience Through Local Food

Community-led and cooperative approaches to short food supply chains. **Ruth Hegarty** (Egg & Chicken) **Maarten Klop** (Amped NL, EU4Advice) **Noreen Byrne** (Centre for Cooperative Studies UCC)

### 10:55 Lessons from the Field

Panel discussion led by **Davie Philip** (Cultivate/ CloughJordan Community Farm) on what supports and policies are needed to make Food Hubs viable and effective in contributing to a stronger local food economy **John Brennan** (Drumshambo Food Hub) **Imelda Mullen** (Green Box Cavan) **Janet Power** (Talamh Beo) **Beth Bell** (Food Ethics Council Belfast)

### 11:30 Networking Break

### 11.50 Blockers and Enablers of Local Food Economies

### 12:00 Food equality – Accessing Local Food

**Jo da Silva** (OFN UK) Exploring the question of access for all to nutritious, affordable, culturally appropriate food, sourced from a sustainable food system.

### 12:45 Introduction to the afternoon breakouts

**Sarah Nolan** (EU4Advice) **Davie Philip** (Cultivate/ CloughJordan Community Farm) **Oliver Moore** (ARC2020, Cultivate)

### 13:00 Lunch

### 14:00 Concurrent Workshops

Mapping Ireland's local food ecosystem. (See details)

Digital Solutions for Sustainable Food Systems (See details)

### 15:30 Break

### 16:00 Emerging Practice from the Field

Stories from the Netherlands, the UK, and Ireland showcasing initiatives that support inclusive local food systems. Engage in discussions on strategies to ensure sustainable routes to market for food producers and enhance food security for all. **Evonne Boland** (OFN Ireland), **Davie Philip** (CloughJordan Food Hub) **Beth Bell** (Food Ethics Council Belfast), **John Brennan** (Drumshambo Food Hub), **Maarten Klop** (Operation Food Freedom Utrecht)

### 17:00 CALF Launch of the Toolkit for Food Hubs

### 17.15 Bringing it all Together

Taking stock of where we're at, sharing insights, feeding into a call to action.

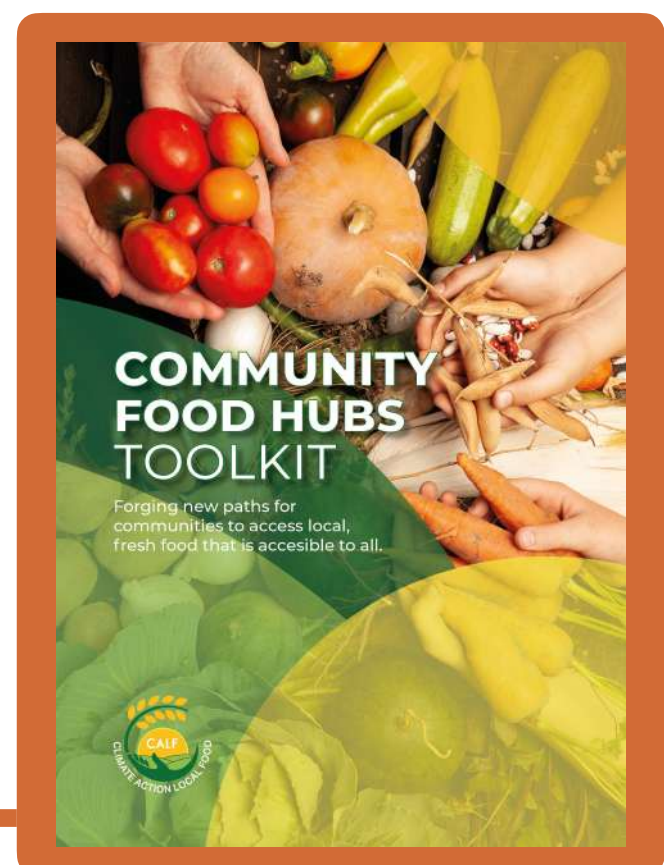
### 17:30 Close

## The second day of Feeding Ourselves 2024 is focused on Food Hubs and Local Food Economies.

Sharing the findings of the Climate Action & Local Food (CALF) project, supported by the Irish governments Community Climate Action Fund.

The CALF project aims to support the establishment of Food Hubs, which are focal points within communities that provide for food security by enabling thriving local food economies, and sustainable routes to market for food producers.

In this session, we explore the importance of community Food Hubs and short food supply chains, focusing on adapting to a changing climate by improving access to nutritious local food, strengthening food security, and advancing food equality and dignity.



CALF is supported by the Community Climate Action Programme: Climate Education, Capacity Building and Learning by Doing (Strand 2) funded by the Government of Ireland through the Department of Environment Climate and Communications



Rialtas  
na hÉireann  
Government  
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann  
Project Ireland  
2040

Saturday 23rd March 2024 – 10.00–17.00

# Capacity & Movement Building



## 10:00 Opening

Reflecting on the past 2 days - what emerged from our policy & local food economies discussions?

## 10:20 Voices from the field

Inspiration from the Feeding Ourselves partners and participants.

## 10:50 Agrifood in Ireland: limits, progress and what's next?

Agri-ecological limits; growth in organics; institutional recognition for local food producers.

**Paul Price** Environmental Pillar; **Hannah Quinn Mulligan** organic farmer/journalist; **Brian Meredith** Talamh Beo

## 11.25 Break

## 11.40 Building bridges

Panel discussion moderated by **Hannah Quinn Mulligan** with farmers and other rural actors making change happen. Movement building and examples of success. **Daniel Long** farmer Tipperary PPN; **Ailbhe Gerrard** farmer Field Exchange; **Thomas O'Connor** Talamh Beo; **Oonagh Duggan** Birdwatch Ireland; **Ray O Foghlu** Hometree

## 12.30 Diving deeper into policy

Talamh Beo discuss the four key topics of the Local Food Policy Framework: Social, Community, Land and Producers

## 13:00 Lunch

## 13.50 Short film screening (Where Giants Grow)

## 14:00 Capacity Breakout Sessions

## 15:30 Break

## 15.50 Feedback from the Breakouts

## 16:00 Campaign and Movement Building

A facilitated session exploring the role of intergenerational cooperation, women in agriculture, and food policy strategy. Together, we'll strengthen the ongoing Feeding Ourselves Community of Practice and draft a joint statement for action. **Davie Philip** Cultivate; **Simone Matouch** Forum Synergies; **Fergal Anderson** Talamh Beo; **Ruth Hegarty** Egg & Chicken; **Janet Power** Talamh Beo; **Ollie Moore** ARC2020, **Thomas O'Connor** Talamh Beo and you.

## 17.30 Bringing it all Together

Where are we going, sharing insights and feeding into a call to action and the Feeding Ourselves Community of Practice.

## 18.00 Close

This is the big day of **Feeding Ourselves**, bringing together stakeholders from various networks and organisations dedicated to advocacy, agroecology and local food. It's designed to facilitate community learning, foster solidarity, ignite inspiration for collective action, and strengthen a local food movement on the island of Ireland.

## Capacity Breakout Sessions

- **Your Farm, Your Initiative, Your Story:**  
Workshop led by **Nika Levikov** (SUSTAGRI4.0) for small-scale farmers and local food projects curious to learn about the power of (digital) storytelling. [SustAgri40](#)
- **Adapting and Saving Seeds for the Future:**  
Workshop on the need for community seed banks and locally adaptive seeds with **Kevin Dudley** (Cloughjordan Community Seed Bank), **Sorcha Sheehy Williams**; (Irish Seed Savers Association) and **Adele Pautrat** (Seeds4All.) Featuring a screening of the short **Seeds of Europe** documentary.
- **RED Gardens Experience:**  
**Bruce Darrell** leads a tour of his Research, Education and Development Gardens in Cloughjordan Ecovillage.
- **Community Supported Agriculture:**  
**Seamus Bradley** (CSA Network Ireland) leads a conversation on the opportunities and challenges of this approach.
- **Campaign Planning for Local Food Policy:**  
**Janet Power** and **Brian Meredith** lead a discussion on progressing the Talamh Beo framework.

Saturday 23rd March 2024 - 19:00 til late

# Eats and Beats

After work, now let's play - and eat together! Join us for a sumptuous chow down with community farm veg, and a chance to dance the night away to tropical, reggae house, party and afrobeat sounds. With DJs Ollie Moore and Smøllhaus and chef Hasret Dayan.



Sunday 24th March 2024

# Farm Social

The final day of the 2024 Feeding Ourselves gathering includes a deep listening session with local conventional farmers, with a focus on young farmers and a Cloughjordan Community Farm talk and walk starting at the Food Hub.

**11.00 Deep listening session:**

(Invite only session) Environmentalists and farmers including young farmers

**14:00 Farm Talk & Walk**



Starting at the Food Hub with an introduction to the OFN digital platform, powering the North Tipperary Online Farmers Market. Discover how this tool can enhance your farm or community food project. A guided walk around Cloughjordan Community Farm will follow, where you'll learn about Community Supported Agriculture and engage in discussions on soil health and biodiversity. **Oliver Moore** (CODECS); **Torben Marl** (Cloughjordan Community Farm), **Davie Philip** (CODECS)



Thursday 21st to Sunday 24th March 2024

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SUBSCRIBE

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Cloughjordan Ecovillage | County Tipperary | E53 VP86

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