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SARE PDP Community-based Food Systems Training: *Collaborative Evaluations*



CENTER for ENVIRONMENTAL FARMING SYSTEMS

Cultivating Thriving Communities & Sustainable
Farms



PDP Goals

- ***Phase I***

- Support **Extension and Community-based collaborations** in Food System Projects
- Extend **NC consultant expertise**
- **Build Capacity** in NC Community Food Systems

- ***Phase II***

- Trainers training forward in NC
- Regional Sharing





Evaluation Basics

numbers and statistics words and pictures



qualitative quantitative

Does the program work? Can it be improved?



summative formative





Benefits of Project Design & Evaluation & Collaboration

- ***Increasing Impacts by Design***

- Program and Organizational improvement
- Networking and Resource sharing increases
- Reports and Fundraising improvement
- Community Education and Outreach insight
- Contributing to the Body of Knowledge about Food Systems work

- ***Collaborative Capacity Building***





Collaborative Evaluations

philosophically, the means must match the ends . . .

- part of **capacity building**: increasing skills at project design, development, assessment as part of the work you do, not a separate skill
- part of **collaboration building**: working with new stakeholders, building partnerships, increasing reach and impact





Collaborative Evaluations

practically . . .

- conserves resources
 - You can do all or part of large grant reporting yourself, saving on external eval costs
- increases resources
 - You'll write better proposals for grants & be better able to develop self-sustaining programming independent of grant needs





Integration of Project Design & Evaluation

- Clarify the evaluation/clarifying the goals
- Defining the evaluation/defining the project
- Collecting data/monitoring and assessing
- Assessing data/collaborative and “*community owned and managed*”
- Sharing findings/product as activity





Logic Models

Resources

local whole grain flour, oven

Activities

family kneads, mixes, rises, and bakes

Outputs

loaf of bread

Outcomes short-term

yummy bread for dinner enjoyed by family

Outcomes long-term

family happy and advocates for home-baked, local, whole grain bread





Logic Models

	Situation	Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes		
					Knowledge	Actions	Conditions
Y car							
	Assumptions			External Factors			





Logic Models

Steps

- Assets
- Needs
- Assumptions (identify factors influencing project)
- Goals (mission and intentions)
- Activities (what you do)
- Outputs (#s participated, hours of work . . .)
- Outcomes (change)



PDP: Training the Trainers in Community-based Food Systems

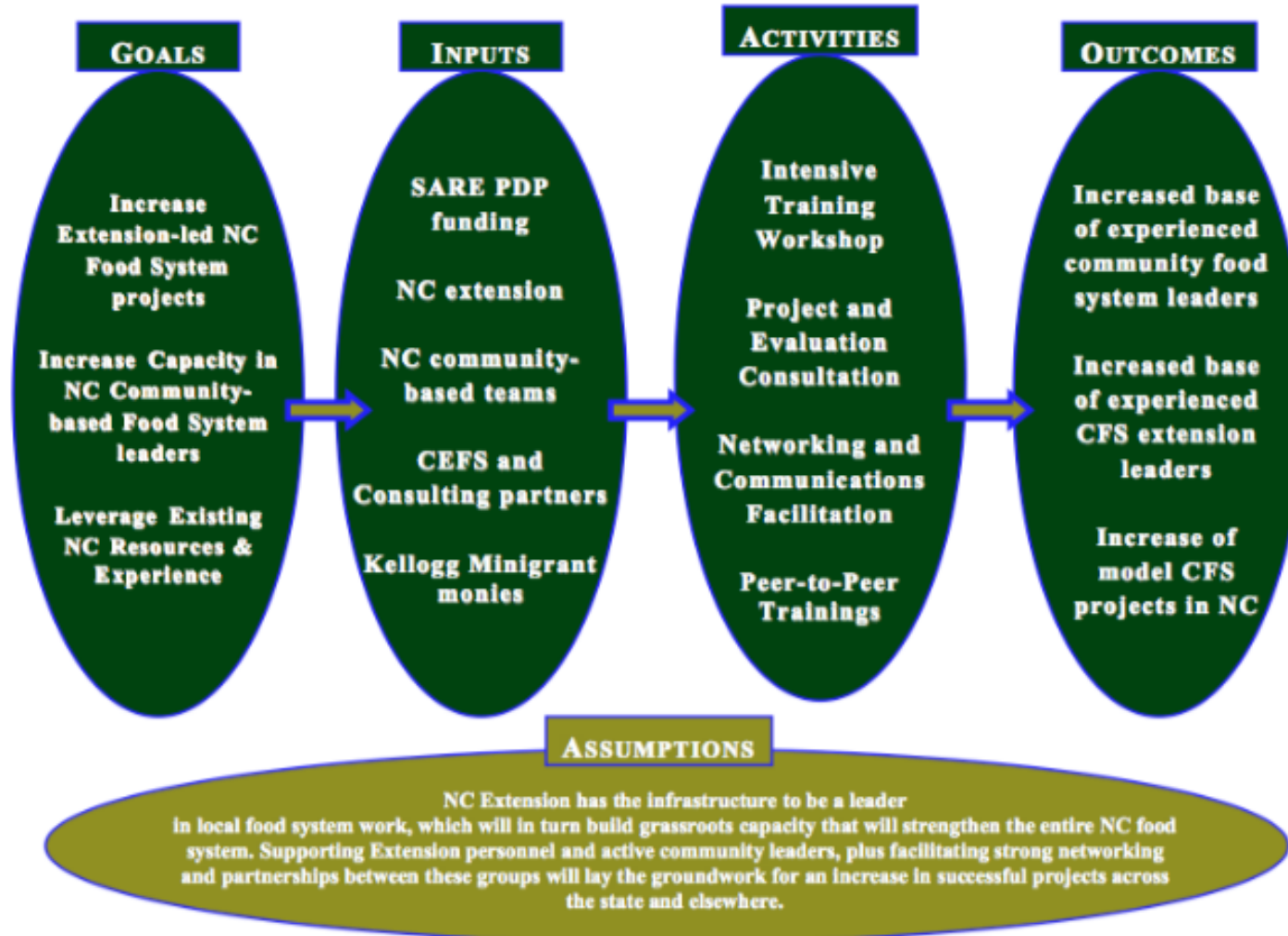
Goal: *to strengthen the infrastructure and local capacity for NC community-based food systems work*

	Objectives	Inputs	Activities	Outputs	SMART Outcomes		
					Knowledge	Actions	Conditions
Year 1	Facilitate Partnerships between Extension and diverse community groups	1. CEFS staff 2. SARE funding 3. Consulting Partners	1. Team workshop training 2. assistance with project design and evaluation	1. 6 Extension personnel lead local food system projects in 6 counties	1. Knowledge of Project Development and Evaluation practices increased	1. CFS collaborative teams	1. Collaborative relationships between community stakeholders and Extension
	Extend Expertise of CEFS and Consultants to extension, & community groups	4. Extension engagement	3. coordination of appropriate consultants with particular teams	2. 10-20 CEFS & consultant partners engaged to share their expertise	2. Increased awareness of available resources and assets for CFS work	2. increased baseline assessment data	2. Strengthened local food systems
	Support Extension in local food system work	5. Kellogg minigrant monies (\$5000)	4. monthly conference calls with updates and needs from teams	3. 6 teams (20-30 individuals) complete training		3. designed project and eval plan for each project	3. Varied geographical regions impacted
	Support Community-based leaders in CFS work		5. communication assistance through Basecamp	4. 6 food system projects developed and initiated		4. project implementation in each county	
	Train Participants to Train Peer CFS Groups		6. year-end webinar for shared results	5. 25-50 extension participants in day-long extension training			
			7. NC day-long CFS training for extension 8. SSAWG regional training	6. 25-50 participants in SSAWG presentation 7. compiled resource manual			
Assumptions: NC Extension has the infrastructure to be a leader in local food system work, which will in turn build grassroots capacity that will strengthen the entire NC food system. Supporting an increased skill base of Extension personnel and active community organizations/individuals, plus facilitating strong networking and partnerships between these groups will lay the ground work for an increase in successful projects across the state and elsewhere.				External Factors: Phase I success will depend on engaged participation from existing experts, extension personnel, and community groups, both in the initial training and in their individual project development.			



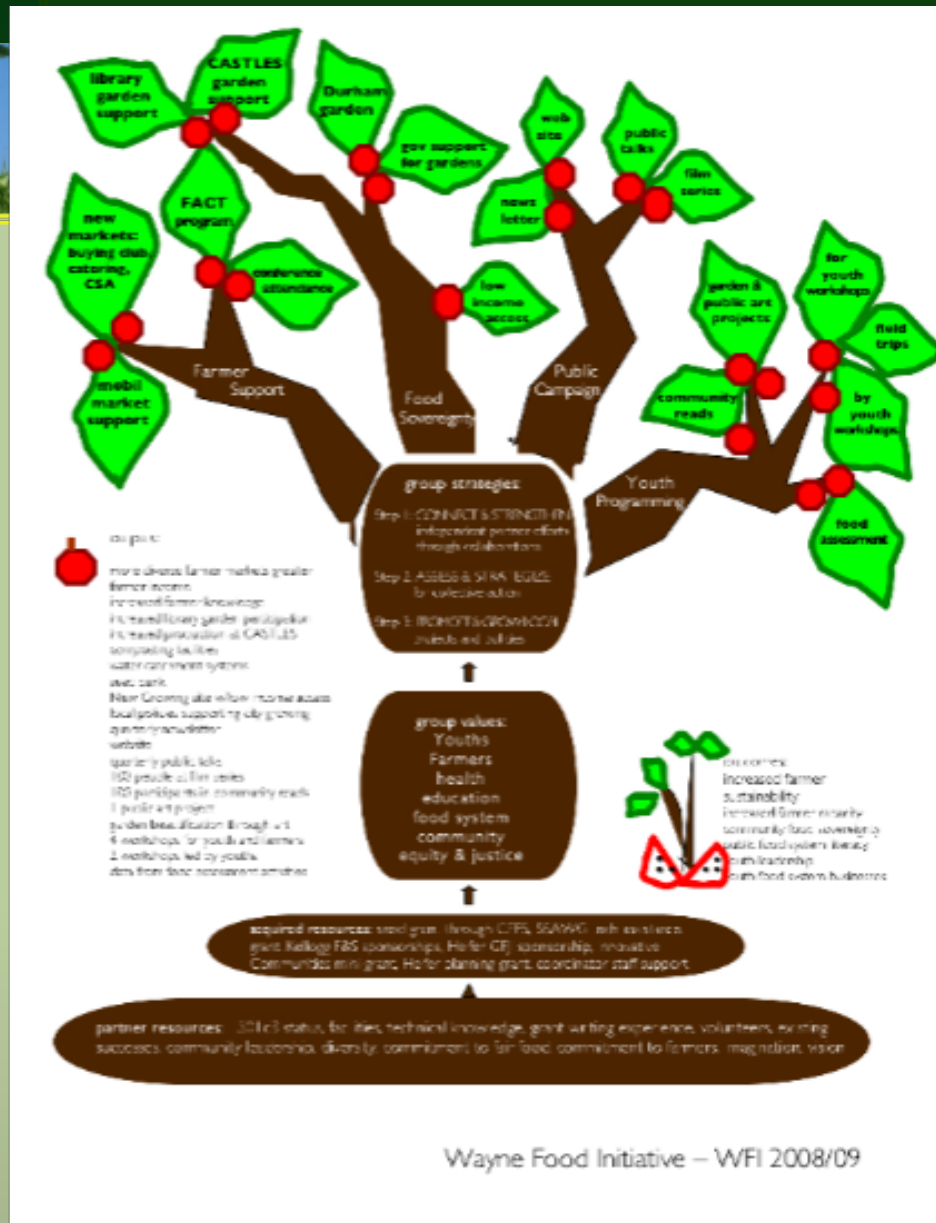
PDP simple Logic Model

SARE PDP Community-based Train the Trainer project 2010-2012



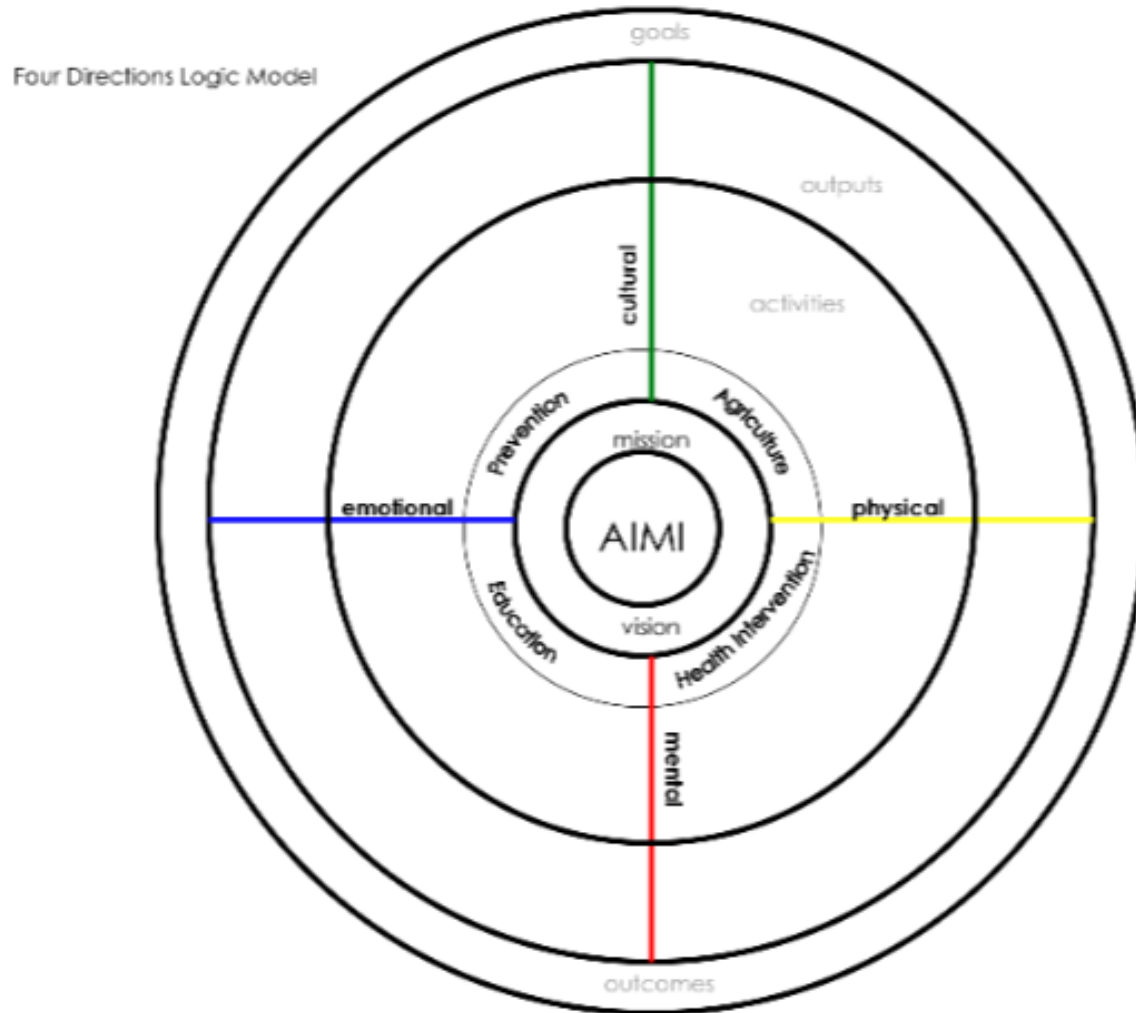


creative logic models





creative logic models



Resources for project design & evaluation

- *Whole Measures, Community Food Security* (digital)
- *Community Food System Coalition Evaluation Handbook and Toolkit* (order through CFS, digital tools)
- *Food Security Begins at Home, SSAWG CFP project* (digital files)
- *Dismantling Racism: a resource book*, Western States Center (digital)
- *Growing Communities Curriculum, ACGA* (order <http://www.communitygarden.org/acga-store.php#gccurriculum>)



Team Process

- Leave training with new ideas/questions
- Leave training with new tools/resources
 - Revised or new draft of project or likely directions
 - Revised or new draft of logic model
 - New materials and aids
- ***so also need a **PROCESS** for taking this back to your whole team***
 - Trial run for sharing forward what you learn with another group in Phase II next year





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