

# Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

- Landwende e.V. supports local and resilient economy -

## What is it?

Landwende e.V. was founded as an initiative in 2017 in the town Lüchow, Wendland in Lower Saxony, Germany. Their aim is to sustainably produce agricultural products in order to preserve biodiversity and revive the cultural wealth of the region. Therefore, the initiative started CSA, which is a concept based on an economic community of producers and consumers sharing costs, risks and harvests. Operational decisions are made according to ecologically, economically, and socially responsible food production. Through direct marketing, farmers are independent of global markets, able to respond directly to local consumer needs, and promote food sovereignty of the local population. Further processing of products of the CSA is done by small local companies. In this way, local markets and businesses can be protected, regional economy can be supported and agricultural self-sufficiency can be tested.

## Personal motivation



"We want to make products smarter," says Jörg Knaak.

In the year 2000, Jörg Knaak moved to Lüchow with his wife and son. Through these years he combined two professions – a landscape designer and a good father. The son grew up, moved away, and Jörg founded the Landwende e. V. The motivation for creating CSA in the city was the desire uniting people to improve the life quality through ecological farming. This would contribute to the development of local and resilient economy, enriching people's knowledge of nature diversity and organic production. After all, not only the smell, taste, and color of the product is important, but also aesthetics, pride of your work, aspiration for perfection as opposed to the dictatorship of capitalism and globalization.

## Team

In the first year after the foundation, Landwende e.V. has 30 members in the CSA who are supplied with food that is grown in 3 gardens with 1 ha each. Three gardeners are employed for the cultivation of food. All people of the CSA make decisions together about the plant varieties and quantities they want to seed in the gardens, and how to cultivate the land. They farm together and distribute the crop according to an equal share between the CSA members.



Food products of the Landwende: (honey, marmelades, eggs, sausage)



Daniela Muchow: member of CSA Landwende e.V.

## Goals

Jörg is pretty confident that in five years they will be able to build a stable CSA in the city that can fully cover the product interests of the members. In addition, they plan to achieve:

- 500 CSA members
- 20 gardeners
- Economically resilient community
- Working for the real local people, not for shops or retailers
- Start-ups for each new product (marmalade, honey, cheese, etc.)
- Development of culinary workshops using rare and forgotten varieties of vegetables and fruits
- Opening a coffee shop to create a location for exchange and encounter in the neighborhood



Healthy meal cooked with locally produced food



Meeting Jörg Knaak, founder of Landwende e.V. in Lüchow



Tasting juice of a rare apple cultivar in the future coffee shop



Community cooking with self harvested vegetables and herbs

## Pictures Trip to Lüchow



One of three garden sites in Lüchow, situated on good farming land



Successful harvest: Cabbages, cucumbers, herbs, and more



Harvesting vegetables and herbs of the season



Variety of plants and ecological farming support animal diversity

## Timeline

- 1293: Lüchow received its town charter
- Medieval period: farmland was located around the circular town to provide inhabitants with food
- Several fires destroyed most of the town (1589, 1608, and 1811)
- After the war, town houses were build in the 1950's on land that is now lost as good farmland



1950's: Houses in the background were build on good farmland

- Since 2017: Landwende e.V. aims to reestablish farmland around the town to provide inhabitants with local food and reactivate the local economy by cooperating with local producers

## Events

Future plans:

- Opening of a coffee shop in Lüchow
- Workshops for cooking with forgotten vegetables and for preservation of fruits and vegetables

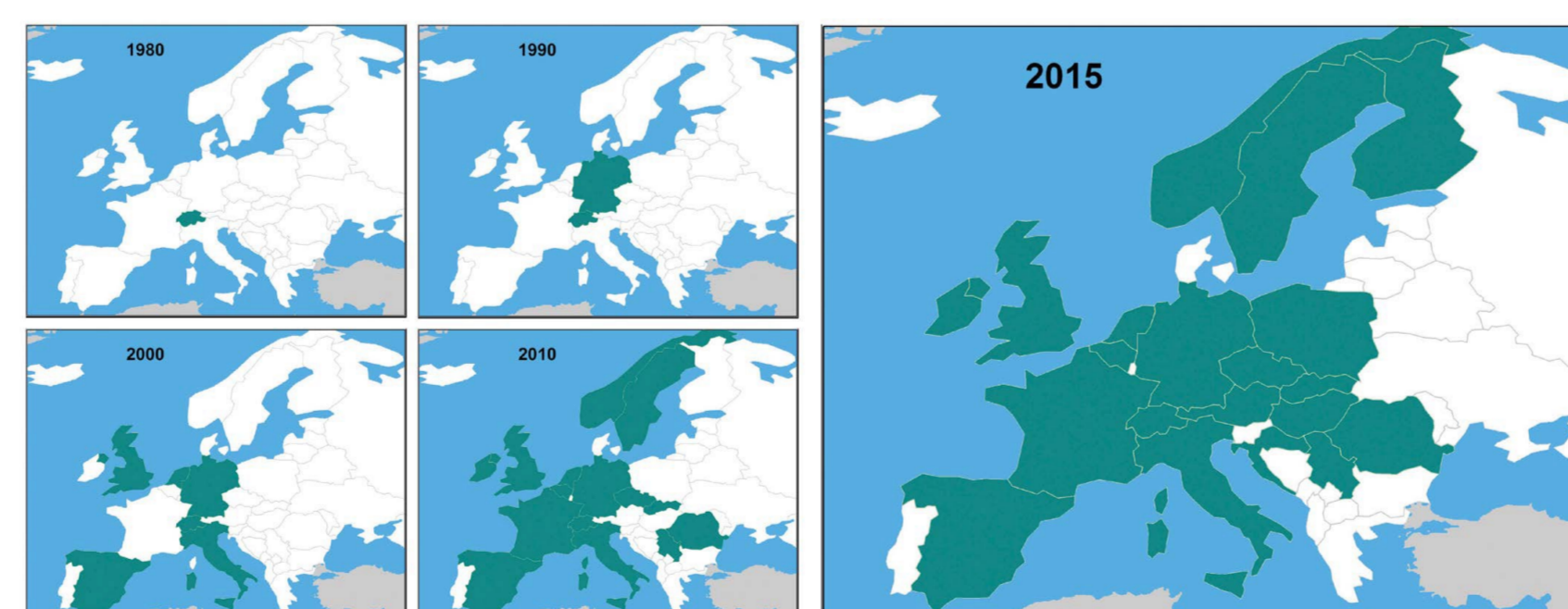


Past activities:

- Presentation at the cultural outing (May 2018): Development of the solitary province Wendland
- Stand at the organic fruit orchards day in the museum Lübeln (May 2017)
- City festival Lüchow (April 2017): political talks about degrowth

## Success

"Agriculture is the basis of our economy in general. Reforming this basis, CSA can become a model for a much needed shift towards a truly sustainable economy on a human scale".



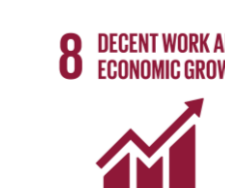
The spread of CSAs throughout Europe 1978-2015  
European CSA Research Group (2016): Overview of Community Supported Agriculture in Europe P. 9-10.

"A study shows that farms with non-profit organising institution enrich the rural area and create jobs."

Deutsche Vernetzungsstelle Ländliche Räume (2017): LandInForm Spezial, 7:12.

## Changing society

Contribution of Landwende e.V. and CSA to the Sustainable Development Goals:



Creation of jobs and social sharing of farmer's risks

Supporting small/ local production of good quality and healthy food; protecting diversity of seeds, plants and animals

Reduction of chemical contamination of ground water

Supporting meaningful work and identification

Resilient economy with natural resources; reduction of food waste

Promoting biodiversity and reduction of soil degradation

## Logos