

LFS 350 Proposal: Hari Krishna Temple

Introduction

Aim

- To build a relationship between the Hare Krishna Temple and UBC by identifying areas of complementation
- To investigate where food sustainability and justice intersects and situates within the Hare Krishna Temple
- To understand where the Hare Krishna Temple aligns with the Metro Vancouver Regional Food System Action Plan's (MVRFS Action Plan) goals (Regional Food System Action Plan, 2016)

Background

- Hari Krishna Temple
 - In relation to food systems
 - Who: Govinda and fellow temple colleagues, temple attendees
 - What: On site food production, meal provision in ways that aligns with Krishna beliefs
 - Where: Southern Burnaby
 - Why: To enhance positive karma, build community, and raising consciousness.
 - How: methods to achieve Krishna values
- Surrounding context
 - Burnaby ethnicities
 - Using 2016 Census Tract (population, households, etc)
 - Connaught Heights/ South Slopes
- UBC faculty of Land and Food Systems
 - Only select projects can be approved and implemented on the UBC farm due to limitations on farm size
 - UBC resources available
- Cultural intersection with food security & sustainability
 - Expand on the idea of culture, sustainability, karma free food

Significance

- Connect resources with the goal of enhancing Hare Krishna Temple self-sufficiency and resilience through a “strategy map” (Kaplan & Norton, 2004)
 - To propose new opportunities for connection with the community that meet the needs and strengths of the Hare Krishna Temple (McCullum et al., 2005)

- Recognition and understand the Temple's position within the greater food system and its contribution to food sustainability as a means to inform future policy and partnerships with UBC (Lang, & Barling, 2012)
- Increase food access and sustainability for community members who participate in Sunday feasts or other food related practices based on diverse perspective of Hare Krishna followers as well as community members who utilize Temple resources (Desmarais & Wittman, 2014)
- Explore how UBC community can collaborate with the Temple using an asset-based community development (ABCD) approach to initiate programs such as the onsite garden to enhance food security and promote sustainable food practices (Mathie, & Cunningham, 2003)
- Promotion of positive karma food and sustainable growing techniques through holistic food system methods including a vegetarian diet (Sabaté, & Soret, 2014)
 - Reduced chemical inputs can promote enhanced soil quality, increase yields and (Das et al., 2015)
 - Respect that nutrition is personalized, culturally relevant and diverse; Krishna followers choose what food to produce and consume based on their spiritual beliefs (Lang, 2005;Phillips, 2014)

Objective & Inquiry Questions

Objectives

- a) Conduct a case study to develop an understanding of the intersection between Hari Krishna's cultural practices regarding food security, sustainability and justice
- b) Create an asset map of the Hare Krishna Temple's internal food security in order to identify current resources applicable to the initiation of the on-site garden
- c) Propose specific areas where resources between the Hare Krishna Temple and UBC may overlap and interconnect
- d) Use the MVRFS Action Plan's goals as a framework to identify shared goals of the Hare Krishna Temple and the greater Metro Vancouver food system

Inquiry Questions

- a) What resources will best enable the Hare Krishna Temple to initiate organic food production through their on site garden?
- a) How do the Hari Krishna's cultural practices intersect with food security and sustainability?
- a) Do community perceptions surrounding the Temple's Sunday meal provision differ from its intended purpose?

- b) What are the food security and sustainability related assets of the Hare Krishna Temple?

- c) What is the temple's vision of collaboration with UBC?
c) What resources within UBC may be incorporated within the goals of the Hare Krishna Temple regarding spirituality, food etc.?
- d) How is the Hare Krishna Temple aligned with the MVRFSS's vision of "a sustainable, resilient and healthy food system that will contribute to the well-being of all residents and the economic prosperity of the region while conserving our ecological legacy?" (Regional Food System Strategy, 2011)

Methods & Methodologies

1. Site observation
 - a. Attend a Sunday Feast to gain a better understanding of who the community members are that utilizes the Hare Krishna Temple's Sunday meals, which offer insight as to the demographics of the meal
 - b. Understand the assets of organization through our own evaluation/impression
2. Interviews
 - a. In person and on the phone conversations to clarify the goals and assets of the Temple from the perspective of Hare Krishna Temple's leadership figures
 - b. Understand opinions of how Sunday meal provision is perceived by individuals who utilize this asset through in person conversations
 - c. Professors in Faculty of Land and Food System to see who could potentially benefit from a joint partnership
3. Literature Review
 - a. Ground community based experiential learning in academic literature.
4. Online research
 - a. Gain insight into the neighboring communities, surrounding demographics and resources
5. Create an assets map as a component of our case study on the Temple's resources

Analysis/interpretation:

- Based on acquired data, find most relevant form to present resources to the Hari Krishna Temple for their benefit including increased food security
- Interpret and identify connections between the Temple and UBC to understand potential areas of collaboration
- Investigate the potential for future interactions between UBC and the Hari Krishna Temple that utilize both parties strengths in order to produce sustainable food as a means to meet relevant RFSS Action Plan's goals

Ethical Considerations:

- Maintain healthy dialogue and transparent communication with our community partner to ensure we are proceeding in a manner that is deemed acceptable by our partner.
 - Sharing information gathered (surveys, interview etc) and produced (report, blog) with our community partners
- Staying adaptable to the needs and requests of the Hari Krishna Temple.

Reference

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Notes

Below are the goals from the MVRFS Action Plan that relate with our project. We will be incorporating these into our project more specifically once there is a greater understanding of the organization.

Goal 1: Increase capacity to produce food close to home

1.3: enable expansion of agricultural production

1.5: expand urban commercial food production in urban areas

Goal 3: People make healthy and sustainable food choices

3.1: enable residents to make healthy food choices

3.2: communicate how food choices support sustainability

3.4: celebrate the taste of local foods and the diversity of cuisines

Goal 4: Everyone has access to healthy, culturally diverse & affordable food

4.1: Improve access to nutritious food among vulnerable groups

4.2: Encourage urban agriculture

4.3: Enable non-profit organizations to recover nutritious food

Goal 5: A food system consistent with Ecological Health

5.1: Protect and enhance ecosystem goods and services

5.2: reduce waste in the food system

5.3: facilitate adoption of environmentally sustainable practices

5.4: Prepare for the impacts of climate change