



Local and Sustainable Food Hubs Add Value for Producers and Community

We sent a survey to food producers, processors, and distributors involved in local and sustainable food across Ontario, Canada.

We heard back from 125* operations connected to **food hubs**.

Here's what we learned about **what food hubs do** for **producers** and for the broader **community**.

What is a food hub?

Food hubs are actual or virtual spaces that collect and redistribute food to processors, retailers, restaurants, and/or consumers.

Food hubs can also provide space for other activities including food preparation, handling, processing, education, and/or training.

What do we mean by "sustainable food"?

Sustainable food systems demonstrate varying degrees of economic viability, social justice/equity, and ecological regeneration from seed to plate

*Our total sample was 125; response rates for each question may be lower.



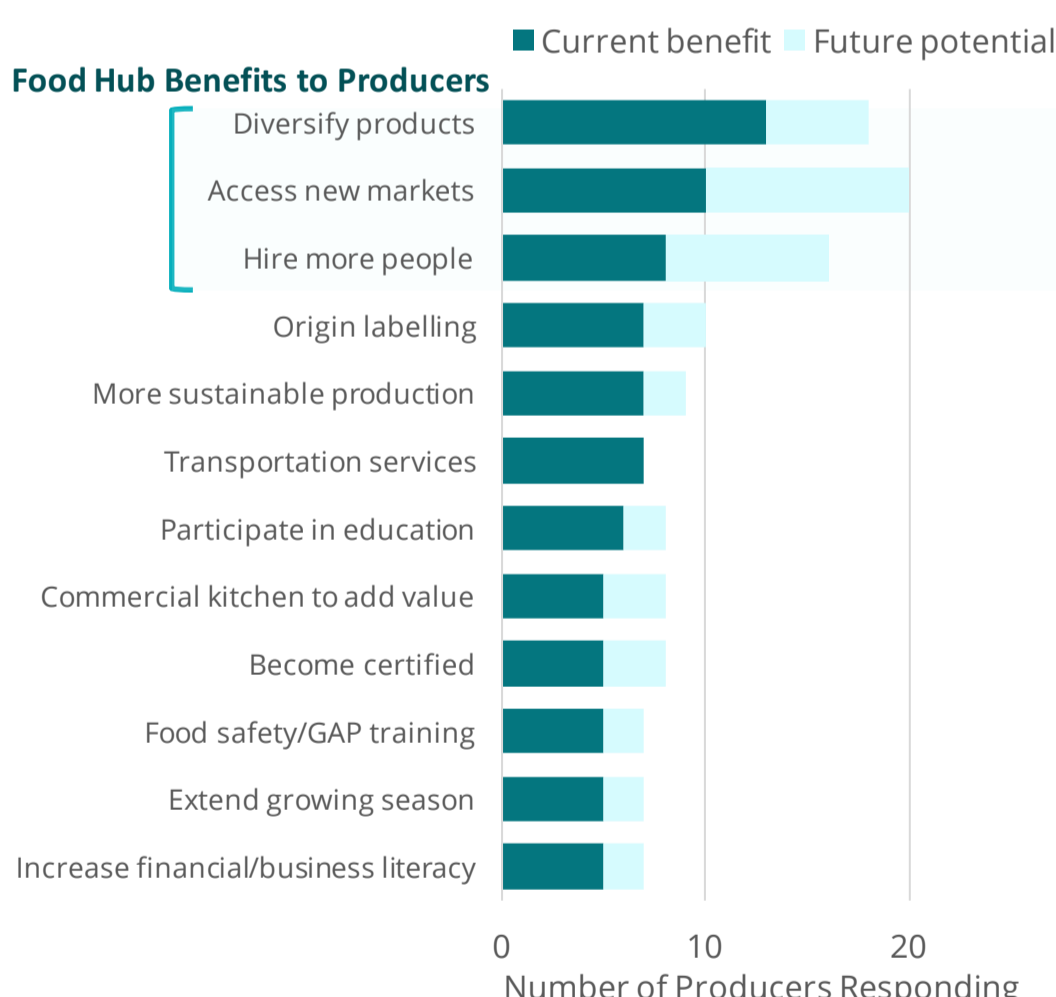
Food Hub Services to Producers

Food hubs report that the most important services they provide to producers are **transport services, educational activities, market growth assistance, and branding/labelling**. Commercial kitchens and additional educational activities are top future service opportunities.



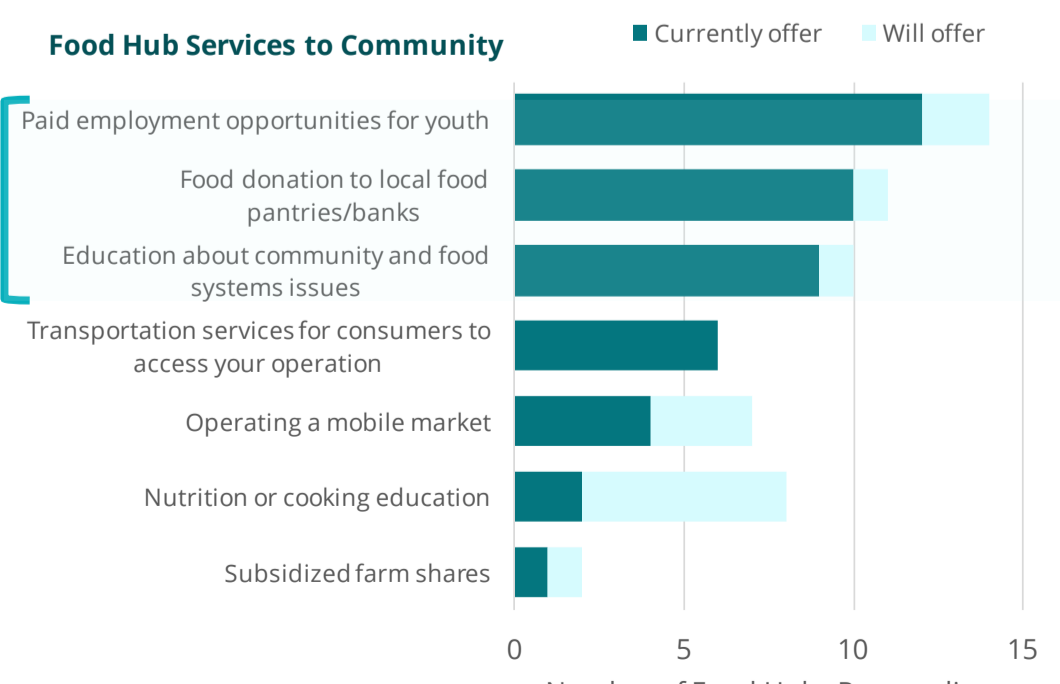
Food Hub Benefits to Producers

Producers report benefiting from food hubs through **access to new markets, product diversification, and help with hiring**. Access to new markets and staff shows particular potential for future benefit.



Food Hub Services to Community

Youth employment, food donation, and community education are top food hub services to communities. Nutrition and cooking education are the most popular planned future service.



Learn more about Ontario food hubs and sustainable food: FLEdGEResearch.ca @FLEdGEResearch

This research was funded by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and Wilfrid Laurier University.