



EIT Climate-KIC SATURN

Project newsletter

#1

Gothenburg

Gothenburg is working on four different pilot actions connected to the enhancement of urban agriculture, redevelopment of abandoned sites, and education of young generations. The Model Farm is developed in cooperation with the City of Gothenburg and the Region Västra Götaland; the Angered and Skogome pilot aims to recover peri-urban plots by supporting people in establishing innovative business models. A Farmers Incubator will train and increase the number of ecological farmers committed to sustainable land management. The LAB190 is strongly related with the recovering of underutilized farmland and enhancing generational change.

Source: ESA-European Spatial Agency

CYRILLE GAUBERT

Has the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic made your project users, customers or partners; more or less aware of the natural environment?



Cyrille Gaubert
CEO of
Botildenborg
project

Hard to measure if they have become more aware but they have taken more action and have shown bigger interest in contributing to our different activities (buying a vegetable bag, farm to table diners, planning conferences when possible again...)



As a project leader do you see connections between the impact of COVID-19 and the global Climate and Ecological Emergencies?

Yes. More financing possibilities are being made available for project that directly contribute to fix the global Climate and Ecological Emergencies (for example: <https://www.vinnova.se/en/calls-for-proposals/vinnovas-call-eureka-covid19-call-2-eureka-covid19-call-2-innovative-2020-02353/>)

As a project leader do you see how your involvement in the Saturn project could help tie all 3 of these agendas together?

If the project allows for better spreading and further development of best practices within land use, small scale farming and resilient food systems then yes.

EBBA WILHELMSSON



ph. Martin Berg

Has the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic made your project users, customers or partners; more or less aware of the natural environment?



Ebba Wilhelmsson:
Substitute
Project Leader
Modellodlingen
at the Property
Management
Department at
the Municipality
of Gothenburg

My understanding is that there is an increased awareness of the dependence of the natural environment in Sweden in general. In Sweden, our food security is low, and in times of crisis, that is something that is brought to people's attention. The need to use our natural environment wisely, for example for food production, is probably higher on the agenda than before the pandemic. Within the field of small scale farming, I can definitely see increased interest from the public and policymakers.

As a project leader do you see connections between the impact of COVID-19 and the global Climate and Ecological Emergencies?

In Sweden, we import a lot of our vegetables from other parts of Europe and for various reasons this import has been threatened during the pandemic. Though the imports were never stopped, this was a reminder of how fragile our access is and what would happen if it stopped. Climate change could also lead to hardship in food production in many places, and the circumstances for where it's ideal for growing vegetables might change.

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The pandemic has brought an increased focus on local perspectives and with that comes focus on land use. The importance of sustainable land use is very evident. For some places that might mean small scale farming in semi-urban areas to provide food for the local network, in other places something different entirely. Another essential factor, that I think the Saturn project provides, is international cooperation. A decrease in international traveling and international trading, due to either the pandemic or climate change, could decrease the international cooperation. Therefore I think it's great how the Saturn projects provides a platform for international cooperation in these issues.

MARTIN BERG

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Planning Officer at
at the Municipality
of Gothenburg

I see a growing concern about the natural environment. Local food has really been boosted. Customers to greater extent want honest food that doesn't stress local ecosystems.



<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/59/Slottskogen1.jpg>

As a project leader do you see connections between the impact of COVID-19 and the global Climate and Ecological Emergencies?

COVID-19 has create a situation were we cannot travel to the same extent. At the same time we connect traveling and how we eat and live to our impact on climate. Customers are more concerned about the impact on imported food. And Climate are common reasons why customers choose to buy local food and why more and more farmers wants to buy periurban food production.

As a project leader do you see how your involvement in the Saturn project could help tie all 3 of these agendas together?

The above mentioned concerns also shows how local politicians act, during this period there has been an increased interest from politics on these matters. SATURN offers these concerns in a scheme that is connected and thought through.