Sustainable Public Procurement of food: Strategic lever to systemic change

EU Member States are market actors with great purchasing power

- Percentage of budget EU Member States spend on goods and services for public sector (€1.9 trillion) - 14%
- Percentage of public contracts that are green (2018 data) - 9.49%

Investing in sustainable public procurement (such as sourcing more organic products) can:

**Protect the environment**
- Organic farming sequesters more carbon, 37 t/ha (organic) vs 26 t/ha (conventional)^3
- Organic farming increases biodiversity. Species richness is 30% higher in organic lands^4
- Organic farming reduces water pollution, saving 20 - 466/ha/year in France^5

**Reduce costs for public buyers**
- Purchase of organic products can reduce costs through the reduction of waste. In a study on hospitals, waste was reduced by over £758,000^6
- Products labeled “cheaper” upfront can be more expensive in the long run^7

**Benefit local economies**
- Compared to another food-sourcing alternative, the Cornwall Food Programme providing local products to hospital patients generates £47,000 more for the local economy for each £100,000 spent^8
- The United States local farm-to-school procurement led to the farms purchase more inputs from the local economy^9

**Decrease health systems costs**
- Providing organic food in public procurement reduces obesity prevalence by 5% from projected levels. This translates into 5.2% to 13.2% less costs for the health systems 2020 and 2060^10
- Organic food helps prevent chronic disease. A high level of organic food consumption reduced overweight by 23% and obesity by 31%^11

Sources:
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