Benefits of Sustainable Public Procurement

Organic farming increases species richness in landscapes by 30%¹

Healthier options in school canteens led to:
- 15% decrease in absences
- 4.5% increase in their results in English
- 6% increase in their results in Science²

Lacto-vegetarian dishes & organic ingredients cost the same as a meat-based diet³

Organic public procurement results in:
- Less pesticide exposure for children and less risk to develop attention deficit or hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)⁵

Organic conversion projects supported by sustainable public procurement create new knowledge, attitudes, and competencies among employees and users⁴

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Nottinghamshire’s local, seasonal spending for school meals generates a return of £3.11 for every £1 spent. Local suppliers and business benefited the most, with a return of £3.6M or 69% of total spending⁶

The city of Turin (Italy) introduced vegetarian school meals 2013-2014. This reduced the school’s carbon footprint of food by 1/3⁷

The city of Copenhagen reached 90% of organic ingredients in school meals with no additional cost thanks to waste reduction and kitchen staff training and empowerment⁸

Sources:
2. Belot M. and James J. (2011) Healthy school meals and educational outcomes
5. Bouchard M., Bellinger D., Wright R. et al (2010), Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder and urinary metabolites of organophosphate pesticides
6. The New Economics Foundation (2011), The benefits of procuring school meals through the Food for Life partnership
8. IFOAM Organics Europe (2020) Best practice in Organic Public Procurement: The case of Denmark

Public procurement is the purchase of goods, services, and works by a public institution. Sustainable procurement goes beyond financial criteria by including sustainability in contracts, such as increasing the use of organic products.

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