

PART 3. ROLE OF BIOLOGICALLY INTENSIVE AG IN F-E-W NEXUS

- 1) How can *biologically intensive* agriculture be implemented to address global food security?
- 2) How can the food-energy-water crises drive the shift to healthy ecologically sustainable food growing solutions?
- 3) How can we use metrics to identify sustainable food growing paths now to avoid crises in the future? What are the best metrics to use?
- 4) What training programs and certification procedures might be useful?
- 5) Who are potential financial supporters and partners?
- 6) What do you think of our proposal for U.S. implementation? For example, how about a Biointensive Stimulus Package for this and other countries at the national level reminiscent of the Economic Stimulus Package?
- 7) How can we break into existing institutional settings (e.g., schools, juvenile detention centers, prisons) to equip our population with food-growing skills? Farming communities for the homeless?

Actionable Outcomes: Ideas from Workshop Participants

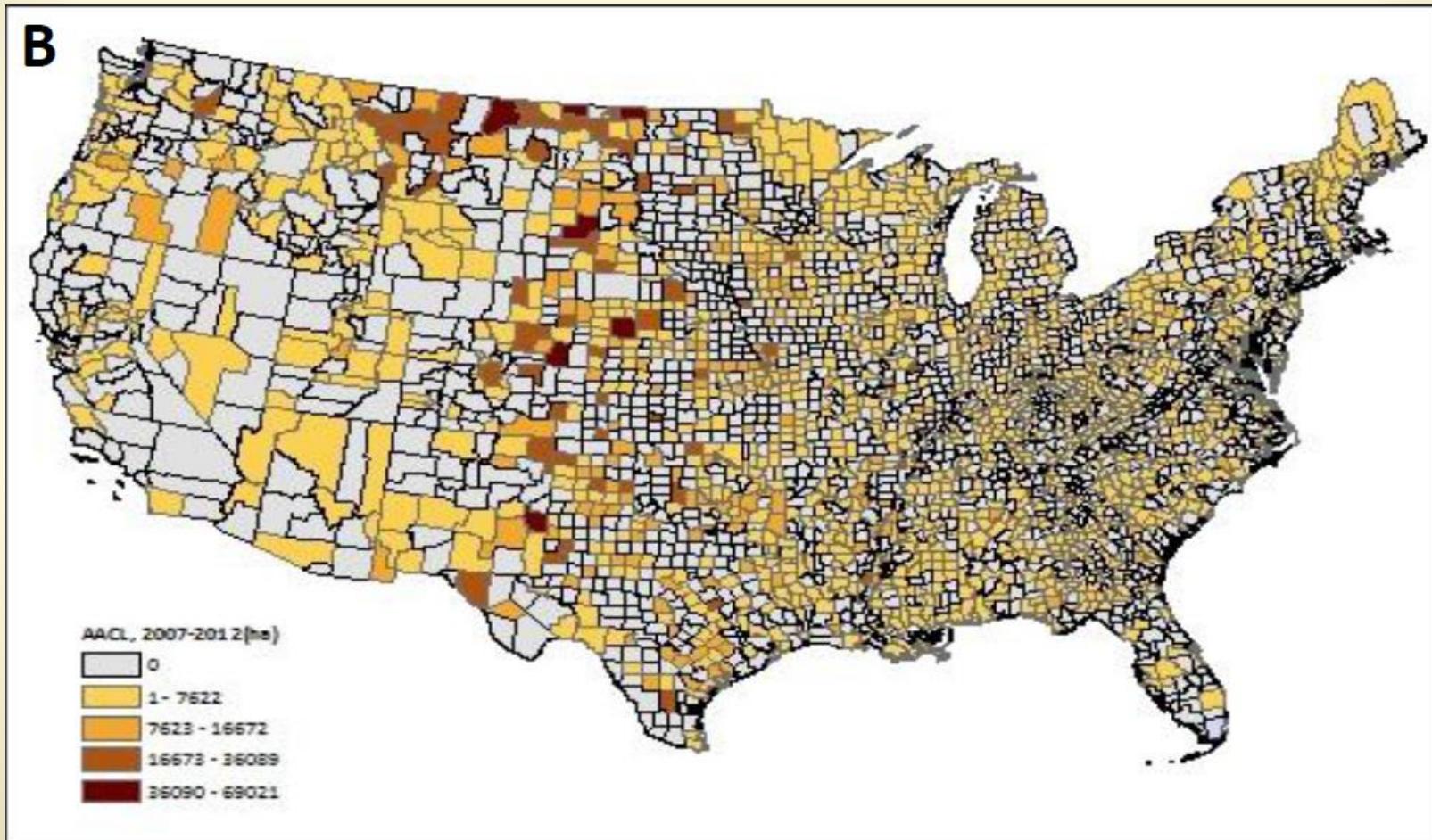
- 1) Teach issues around GB/food growing at college level, using food in a broad, lateral focus across disciplines.
- 2) Consider how to achieve this politically (laws, codes, backlash, etc.).
- 3) Use available resources on how to foster “home-grown connectivity” and green infrastructure for restoring pollinators and wildlife to residential areas. For example, see this 2013 report by the American Planning Association on creating havens for pollinators and wildlife PAS 571 at this link:
<https://www.planning.org/store/search/results/?tagids=&rows=&sortfield=&sortdirection=&Keyword=green+infrastructure>
- 4) Bring this understanding to inmates in jails and prisons.
- 5) Create cookbooks and nutritional guides focusing on how to harvest the food *and* what to do with it.
- 6) Consider spatial aspects: people are often not where the land is, so offer ways and resources for even people living in hi-rise apartments to grow some of their food.
- 7) Institute a New Homestead Act: make abandoned agricultural lands (which abound in the U.S.) easily available to people willing to move there.
- 8) Look to cities which are starting to grow food within city limits, like Salt Lake City.
 - a) <http://www.slcgov.com/slccgreen>
 - b) And a dashboard at: <http://dotnet.slcgov.com/PublicServices/Sustainability/>
- 9) Try new modes of social organizations and new community design: a cooperative model is necessary (note that for example, in Kenya, the government does not support bio-intensive agriculture – it spreads by word of mouth).

Actionable Outcomes: Ideas from Workshop Participants (cont.)

- 10) Create social networks to spread knowledge of the potential of bio-intensive agriculture.
- 11) Consider vacant prisons and prison farm grounds as potential for new communities.
West Moreland, NH for example, brings together 7-8 organizations and a soup kitchen.
- 12) Look to working examples for inspiration to jumpstart more school garden programs. For example, the Maryland Association for Outdoor Education (<http://maeoe.org/>) and Slow Food USA (<https://www.slowfoodusa.org/>), and Dr. Antonia Demas' *Food is Elementary* program (www.foodstudies.org).
- 13) Find areas of overlap in common interests with key partners: e.g., seed diversity groups.
- 14) Change codes to allow gardens over grass turf – see *Bringing Nature Home* book (<http://www.bringingnaturehome.net/>).
- 15) Create a biointensive stimulus package (in conjunction with settling abandoned agricultural land, or vacant plots in cities) – in lieu of an “economic stimulus package” (since money cannot be eaten!).
- 16) Certify biointensive gardens like the way NWF certifies backyards.
(<http://www.nwf.org/How-to-Help/Garden-for-Wildlife.aspx>).
- 17) Find sympathetic lawyers! Workshop attendees from the U.S. cited code and land-use reforms needed to allow households to grow food around their homes – reforms for which proper and expensive legal representation would be necessary.
- 18) Create a new food-growing advocacy organization equipped with attorneys.
Brainstormed name for this: “Advocates for Food Sovereignty” akin to Citizens for Health (<http://www.citizens.org/about/>).

Seeking Actionable Outcomes: Ideas from Workshop Participants: image for item 7

Hectares of Abandoned Agricultural Land 2007-2012



Source: “Spatial analysis of abandoned agricultural land in the U.S.” poster, Kaley Weinstein, Ryan Baxter, Kirby Calvert: Penn State U. Dept of Geography, 2015.