

The Ten Founding Principles of the Teikei System in Japan

1. Principle of Mutual Assistance

The principle of mutual assistance is intended to direct both consumers and producers toward a mutually supportive and beneficial relationship based on a shared understanding of each other's needs and desires.

2. Principle of Intended Production

The principle of intended production is intended to guide growers to produce the maximum diversity and highest quality of produce within the production capacities of the farm unit.

3. Principle of Accepting the Produce

This principle encourages consumers to accept the produce that has been grown in accordance with the previous consultations between growers and consumers; their diet should depend as much as possible on the produce provided.

4. Principle of Mutual Concession in the Price Setting Decision

This principle encourages the use of full disclosure and an open discussion of the true costs and benefits of CSA for both producer and consumer when establishing the price of a given CSA share.

5. Principle of Deepening Friendships

Founded on the assumption that enduring partnerships require true friendships, the principle of deepening friendly relationships encourages frequent contact among CSA members and producers.

6. Principle of Self-distribution

This principle encourages reliance on the producer or shareholders for the distribution of CSA shares and discourages the use of professional transporters.

7. Principle of Democratic Management

The principle of democratic management encourages both producer and consumers to practice democratic decision making with shared responsibilities.

8. Principle of Learning Among Each Group

This principle encourages the continued development of friendship and non-material culture, in order to avoid the tendency for CSA to devolve into an exclusively commodity/trade-based relationship.

9. Principle of Maintaining the Appropriate Group Scale

As the size (or scale) of the producer or consumer groups will determine the ability of the above practices to be maintained, the principle of maintaining the appropriate group scale encourages the limitation of scale to appropriate levels.

10. Principle of Steady Development

The principle of steady development encourages the continued effort of engaging in mutual cooperation in order to achieve satisfactory conditions for both producer and consumer groups.

Adapted from *Sharing the Harvest: A Guide to Community Supported Agriculture*, by

Elizabeth Henderson and Robyn Van En. Chelsea Green Publishing Co., 2007.