Afro-Turf: The Future of Food Communities

Menilek Beyene
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A Collaborative endeavour with

The Toronto Black Farmers & Growers Collective
&
Lucky Bug Farm.

School of Cities, University of Toronto
Land acknowledgement

• I would like to acknowledge that we are on and operate on the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples. This land is, and has been, the home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.
What is Afro-Turf?

• Descriptive of a place where black peoples can safely come together to share ideas, resources, and build communities.

Afro-Turf

The Mississippi Delta country where over 80% of the population is black.

When the Johnsons were transferred by Kraft Foods to manage the Uncle Ben's Rice mill at Greenville, they were shocked to find out they were a white minority and were living on afro-turf.

by Richard Black March 02, 2005
Food Communities!

- Network of food connections
- The sharing of resources and support
- Solutions to systemic issues in our communities!
What are some of the issues?

**Food Insecurity and Participation in Community Food Programs among Low-income Toronto Families**

Sharon I. Kirkpatrick, PhD, RD,1 Valerie Tarasuk, PhD2

**ABSTRACT**

Objectives: Responses to food insecurity in Canada have been dominated by community-based food initiatives, while little attention has been paid to potential policy directions to alleviate this problem. The purpose of this paper is to examine food security circumstances, participation in community food programs, and strategies employed in response to food shortages among a sample of low-income families residing in high-poverty Toronto neighbourhoods.
What are some of the issues?
What are some of the issues?
Global food supply chain
Local food chains

- Farmers markets
- Restaurants
- Groceries
Food sovereignty

“The food sovereignty movement initiated in 1996 by a transnational organization of peasants, La Via Campesina, representing 148 organizations from 69 countries, called for the right of all peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food and the right to define their own food and agricultural systems.” - Charlotte Coté, 2015

It’s not just availability of food but also the affordability
It’s not just healthy options but also culturally relevant ones
It’s not just access to food systems but also who controls them
About us!

Important to document and share perspectives, ideas, and visions for the future of our communities and food systems.

We spoke with three black farmers on their experiences growing food in Ontario and working towards food sovereignty in their communities.
Meet the Farmers

[Image of a person]

https://luckybugfarm.square.site/
@luckybugfarm

[Image of three people holding harvested vegetables]

https://www.torontoblackfarmers.ca/
@torontoblackfarmers
Key Take-aways

Access to the spaces, resources, and decision making are all limitations in their ability to shape their own food futures
  • This is the case for many peoples of colour

Takes a community of diverse people to design and plan good and just food systems

Starts with meaningful engagement, action oriented conversations, and people sharing their experiences and challenges with the existing systems
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Thank you for watching! Questions?