



# Defining and Valuing Local and Sustainable Food

We sent a survey to food producers, processors, and distributors involved in local and sustainable food across Ontario, Canada.

We heard back from 125\* operations connected to **food hubs**.

Here's what we learned about **values** and **definitions** around **local food**.

### What is a food hub?

Food hubs are actual or virtual spaces that collect and distribute food to processors, retailers, restaurants, and/or consumers.

Food hubs can also provide space for other activities including food preparation, handling, processing, education, and/or training.

### What do we mean by "sustainable food"?

Sustainable food systems demonstrate varying degrees of economic viability, social justice/equity, and ecological regeneration from seed to plate

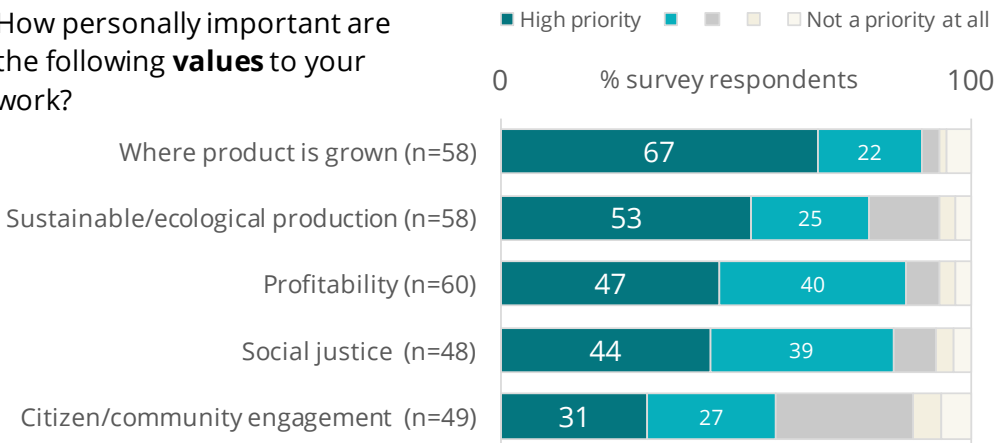
\*Our total sample was 125; response rates for each question may be lower.



## Local and Sustainable Food Values

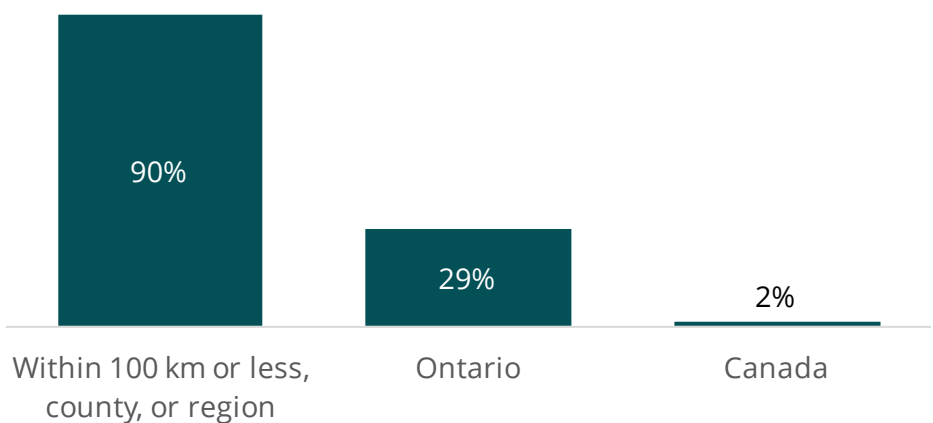
Top values for respondents are **where the product is grown, sustainable and ecological production, and profitability**.

How personally important are the following **values** to your work?



## Local Food Definitions

"Local food" means within 100km, county, or region, for most respondents. About a third define local as within the province. Note that participants could define "local" using more than one category.



How respondents define "local food" (n=63)

Learn more about Ontario food hubs and sustainable food:  
[FLEdGEResearch.ca](http://FLEdGEResearch.ca) @FLEdGEResearch

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