

Managing Risk & Adaptation

Building Resilience in Local Food Systems

Adaptation Planning – From Risk to Response

Adaptation means responding creatively when things change.

This can be as simple as adjusting harvest dates, sharing storage space, or updating delivery routes after a fuel price increase.

The goal is not to eliminate uncertainty but to stay flexible and connected.

Example Hazard Matrix

Hazard	Impact	Response
Heavy rain during harvest	Crop loss or event delay	Adjust schedule, use polytunnel, partner for backup supply
Fuel cost rise	Higher delivery costs	Pool routes, move to electric vehicle, add delivery fee
Cold spell	Reduced yields	Diversify crops, store surplus, schedule later planting
Supplier unavailability	Stock shortage	Build relationships with secondary suppliers

Blank Hazard Matrix Template

Use this table to map your own potential risks and responses.
(You can print and reuse this each season.)

Hazard	Impact	Response / Action Plan

Checklist for Adaptation

- Review key risks at the start and end of each season.
- Share information with partners to anticipate disruptions.
- Keep at least one backup supplier and transport option.
- Document lessons learned after each challenge.
- Invest in diversity - of crops, partners, and income sources.