Connected Cool Centres

Technology Innovation Idea
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Connected Cool Centres (CCC), CaaS

This food supply chain innovation aims to support small (organic) farmers and urban food producers with limited resources, by providing an online platform together with physical cold storage facilities to provide cooling as a service (CaaS). The technology would help keep regional produce of multiple farmers (collectives) in a shared cold storage facility. A network of centralized cold storage facilities will include inventory monitoring technology (cameras, sensors & AI), in order to document the type, quantity and quality of stock provided by connected (small holder) farmers. The data can be analysed (AI) and communicated through a CCC platform making use of cloud services (PaaS & SaaS). The online platform would function as a central point for organic produce sales for distributors, resellers and provide valuable data analytics for the smallholder farmer communities.

The service of storing, keeping cool and keeping inventory while keeping the value chain connected may support the transition to more of organic farming and create higher food availability at competitive prices, i.o.w. increasing food security regionally. CCC would lessen food waste, give small holders better insight in regional agro-activity or consumer demand creating flexibility that supports regenerative multi-crop farming practices and takes away farmers worries on sales. Gaining the trust from local small farmers with consistent securities for sales, CCC will spread by providing small farmers the opportunity (through the platform and facilities) to scale and tailor their production practices to market needs ahead of time and give them insights as to what crops to focus on or direct potential crop-diversification practices based on the farmers knowledge and potential.

The CCC cool centres may also be used as repositories for the seeds that come from the urban produce. Using smart monitoring and AI will allow customers & resellers to remotely check inventories and order (or bid) on available produce and connect with the increasing diversity and quality of organic regional produce and farmers.

"*We cannot afford to not invest in the access to adequate affordable nutrition.*" Josette Sheeran
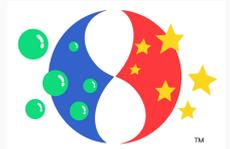
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