

## English summary – SFC specialist report

# Information technology innovations for Short Food Chain systems (SFCs) – challenges and solutions related to IT and the internet in developing (scaling) of SFCs and distribution channels

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The report reviews the latest IT solutions now being applied to support different kinds of Short Food Chain systems (SFCs) in Europe, but also in Asia, USA, Australia and in the countries of Africa. Based on this review, what are the most interesting conclusions for the groups being targeted in the information campaign on Short Chain Food systems?

1. Information on the proliferating internet sales platforms, which allow farmers to offer their products to consumers via the internet, and which allow consumers to buy products from specific farmers.
2. The need to link the growing scale of direct purchasing of food products through internet platforms to increasing profitability of traditional, small farms and small food producers.
3. Information about the possibilities of deploying technologies based on decentralised registers (block chain) to solve logistical challenges on local food markets and to build networks of geographically dispersed small farmers and individual consumers that enable direct sales transactions. This relates to parallel processes which enable:
  - a. transactions to be realised without intermediaries,
  - b. the origin of the food to be traced from ‘farm to fork’
  - c. logistical needs to be solved without resorting to transport companies as intermediaries and without investment expenditures, which typically escalate in uncontrolled fashion,
  - d. elimination of centralised management.

It is recommended that the organisers of the SFC information Campaign focus attention on three phenomena, which are new to Poland.

1. Internet sales platforms in Poland, which can best be illustrated by reference to functioning examples: [lokalnyrolnik.pl](http://lokalnyrolnik.pl) and <http://zakupy.koszyklisiecki.pl> and buyers’ groups associated with these platforms.
2. Economic aspects of sales from traditional farms, growing thanks to use of internet platforms, which can best be understood through interviews with farmers participating in networks operated by Lokalny Rolnik or Local Product from Malopolska.
3. The potential for using blockchain technologies and geolocation through mobile devices as ways of solving the fundamental logistical challenge facing local agricultural markets, which can be illustrated by the proposed Collaborative Logistics project, which has been developed in Krakow in connection with the Local Product from Malopolska, Buyers’ Clubs and the IT PLM sales platform.

Our recommendation is to take special note of new technologies: private B-2-B networks utilising decentralised registers (block chain) and mobile geolocation technologies, which create the possibility for completely new ways of realising tasks focused on (a) economic benefits of collaboration; (b) sharing economy and (c) circular economy.

The new technologies discussed should be linked to information on possible application of IT solutions of the FinTech type to the specifics of small farms. Example of such future FinTech solutions for small farms is Ricult [<http://www.ricult.com/>].

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**Operacja: Wiedz i Mądrze Jedz: Ogólnopolska kampania na rzecz Krótkich Łańcuchów dostaw Żywności.**

**Operation: Eat Well. Know what you Eat! Campaign on Short Food Chain supply systems**

**Realizacja/Implementation: Fundacja Rozwoju Podhala w ramach umowy/agreement no nr KSOW/2/2018/038.**

