



Lyon (France)

520,000 inhabitants



💡 Raised awareness on systemic change

🍎 Nutrition, quality, taste, freshness, seasonality

🧑‍🌾 Small farmers + social integration of disadvantaged groups

Institutionalising Market Dialogues through the 'Agricultural Commission'

What? To strengthen market dialogues for fair and balanced school catering through the agricultural commission. To raise local food supplies through balanced relationships with producers.

When? 2026 - 2030

Who? 207 publicly managed pre- and elementary schools

"Thanks to high quality requirements achieved through market dialogue, school food quality in Lyon has increased since 2022."

The challenge?

Establishing the Agricultural Commission required building trust between stakeholders before sensitive information, constraints, and expectations could be openly discussed. Creating a common foundation for collaboration was essential to develop a mutual understanding of key concepts such as local/ regional sourcing.

The solution!

Lyon established the Agricultural Commission in its 2022–2026 school catering tender to address (organic and local) food supplies and relationships with farmers. Participation of the city, agricultural organisations and farmers are included as a contractual requirement for the caterer as a permanent space for dialogue, joint problem-solving, and collaboration.

The results:

Since its launch, the Agricultural Commission has provided a trusted space to turn dialogue into concrete, system-wide improvements. It unites all school food supply stakeholders: the city, Education and Children's City Department, elected officials, agricultural organisations, farmers and suppliers.

- **Economic impact:** The Commission provided support which expanded market opportunities, fair trade, and long-term demand for local producers, boosting sales, hiring and land management.
- **Social impact:** The Commission has empowered farmers with a voice in decision-making, fostering more balanced relationships across the supply chain.
- **Environmental impact:** The Commission has contributed to increased share of organic and local food while supporting lower-emission sourcing. Collaborative crop planning with farmers and suppliers reduces food waste.



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Key Takeaways for Cities:

Embed participation in the commission within tender specifications, as a requirement for all successful applicants.



Establish clear rules and shared definitions early, ensuring a common understanding of objectives, roles, and expectations among all partners.

Bring all key stakeholders to the table and ensure equal participation, creating a trusted space where every perspective can contribute to solutions.



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