

WHO WE ARE

NURTURING LAND, NOURISHING PEOPLE

FARMERS

Farmers and producers are the visible part of the Co-op, the plants and food. What they produce enables our local food system to thrive.

CONSUMERS

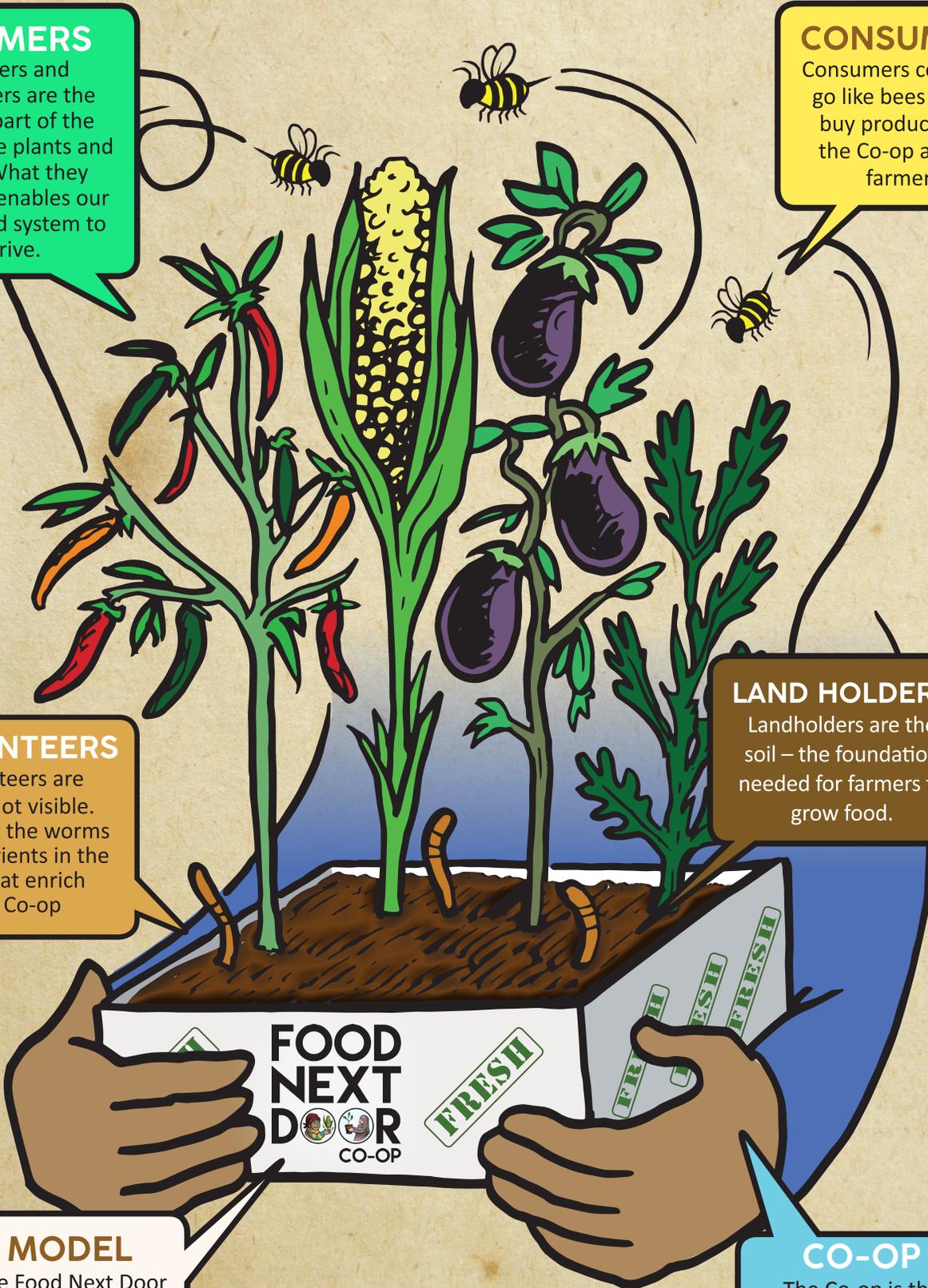
Consumers come and go like bees as they buy produce from the Co-op and the farmers.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are often not visible. They are the worms and nutrients in the soil that enrich the Co-op

LAND HOLDERS

Landholders are the soil – the foundation needed for farmers to grow food.



MODEL

The Food Next Door model is the box that is replicable and transportable to other regions and other communities.

CO-OP

The Co-op is the framework, the arms, holding everything together so that its members can thrive.

FOOD NEXT DOOR

NURTURING LAND, NOURISHING PEOPLE

WHY DID FOOD NEXT DOOR CO-OP FORM?

Food Next Door formed in Sunraysia to find solutions to one main problem: the lack of a strong local food system. The problem requires a whole-of-system collaborative approach and forming a co-operative was the best vehicle for this. Co-operatives are for mutual benefit – members contribute to benefit the co-op, and members benefit from the co-op.

WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE?

Food Next Door matches under-utilised farmland with landless farmers to support smallscale regenerative farming, growing diverse crops & engaging people from diverse backgrounds to supply food to local households.

WHAT ARE OUR PRIMARY ACTIVITIES?

1. We support landless farmers to farm. We do this by facilitating access to suitable farmland through landshare agreements, and by providing technical, educational and other support to the farmers.
2. We support a local food economy. We do this by creating and strengthening distribution channels for the sale of locally grown and produced food within our region.

WHO CAN BE A MEMBER?

Any person who is able to use or contribute to the services of the co-op can be a member. There are four types of membership: consumer, producer, landholder, volunteer.

WHAT DO MEMBERS HAVE TO CONTRIBUTE?

Membership fees for 2019 are \$30 for an individual, a couple, or a family. There is no joining fee.

Members have to meet 'active membership' requirements, which are one or more of the following:

- Purchase a minimum of \$100.00 worth of products from the co-op within a calendar year;
- Supply the co-op with \$100.00 (wholesale price) of food, food related products, or other products sought by the co-operative, in a calendar year;
- Provide volunteer labour to the co-op for activities such as working in the co-operative's store, for a minimum of 20 hours in a calendar year; or
- Provide access to land for a minimum of three years for food-growing activities through way of a Memorandum of Understanding.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BEING A MEMBER?

Members become part of the Food Next Door community, supporting the primary aim of the co-op to assist newly arrived migrants and refugees to re-engage in farming and growing food.

Consumer members benefit by access to high quality locally grown produce supplied to the co-op.

Producer members gain the support of the co-op via knowledge exchange, shared tools and equipment, access to local markets.

Landholder members benefit from improved soil health and biodiversity on their land from regenerative farming practices.

Volunteer members benefit from increased knowledge and skills, access to professional development and training opportunities, mentoring, and working as part of a team.

WHO ARE WE?

Our Board has seven Directors with skills in farming, beekeeping, film-making, social work, governance, risk management and community development. We have three paid staff, six volunteer staff, and three contractors who work with us on translation through design, biodynamic and regenerative farming, and research, documenting and analysis. Our Advisory Board has six members with skills in co-op management, governance and law, organic farming, organisational culture, business planning and human geography.

HOW DOES OUR BOARD WORK?

Directors are elected at each AGM for a three year term, with a maximum of three terms. Positions are rotated so that each year two to three positions are available for re-election. The majority of directors must be members of the co-op.

WHAT DO OUR STAFF DO?

Our paid staff manage and oversee day-to-day operations of the co-op and the weekly Out of the Box local produce subscription. Our volunteer staff assist in managing Out of the Box on a weekly basis.

HOW DO WE REPORT TO MEMBERS AND KEEP THEM INFORMED?

We hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) in November that all members are invited and encouraged to attend. At the AGM an annual report from the Board and financial statements are presented.

A members gathering is held mid-year to report to members and provide an opportunity for members to have input into co-op activities.

A weekly Out of the Box newsletter is emailed to all registered members and subscribers.

For more info visit www.foodnextdoor.coop or email hello@foodnextdoor.coop