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**The rise of sustainable agricultures as food markets evolve and food security becomes a major challenge: The roles and characteristics of sustainable agricultures in food land belts around cities**

After several decades of the development of productivist agriculture and the increasing recognition of the negative environmental consequences of this type of agriculture, food markets have begun to evolve quite rapidly in the last 20 years or so. Increasingly Sustainable Agricultures have become the center of attention. The sustainability dimension not only refer to reasonable incomes generated for farmers who are the basis of much food production, but also the reduction of negative environmental consequences in terms of water pollution and in terms of the quality of the foodstuffs produced for human health. The health issues have also become an important dimension of Food Security. This evolution has been recognized in the development of many small-scale food production projects based on agriculture around cities as well as with the development of Food Land Belts comprised of many small and medium scale food projects around cities such as Liège, Belgium, and Montreal, Canada, and their development in other countries such as China. In this presentation, we discuss the rise of sustainable agricultures and their roles in food markets and

in dealing with food security issues. We also present the characteristics of Food Land Belts that make them successful, recognizing that the conditions for success can vary substantially between the surroundings of different cities, as well as the conditions that can give rise to unsuccessful Food Land Belt projects. The roles of farmers as producers and citizens as consumers, as well as social organizations in achieving success for Food Land Belts are also emphasized.

### **Speaker Biography**

Christopher Robin Bryant has a PhD from the London School of Economics and Political Science (1970) and has been Professor at the Universities of Waterloo (1070-1990) and Montréal (1990 to 2014) and is currently Adjunct Professor, School of Environmental Design and Rural Development, University of Guelph (1912 onwards), and he is also Adjunct Professor, Geography Department, University of Montreal (2014 onwards). His fields of research are: Agriculture in and around cities and metropolitan centers; community development; land use planning; strategic development planning for communities, organizations and agriculture; resilience building for communities exposed to flooding and climate variability; adaptation of agriculture and tourism development to climate change and variability. He is placed in the top 5% of researchers on Research Gate.

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