

## **Academic Research Policy.**

**We are able to only respond positively to a small number of requests from students and academic institutions each year. This policy is intended to outline and explain how we engage with academic research and give guidance to anyone thinking of approaching us as part of their studies or academic research.**

### **Background**

We get a significant number of requests from students and academic bodies interested in sustainable food and our work, asking for information or an opportunity to study us.

Very often we find that the proposed research has been carried out before and limited benefit would be gained— either for our organisation or the cause of sustainable food or positive social change, beyond the researcher’s improved awareness and understanding of the subject.

We are a small organisation with limited resources. As such, we can only engage in academic research where we can mutually benefit and where this research is carried out in a sensitive manner that recognises the constraints we face as an organisation.

### **What we are seeking from researchers**

If we are to invest time and resources in research collaborations, we need to know that:

- The area to be studied is unique, novel and ideally focused on a challenge we face in the short term.
- The research brings meaningful benefits to the cause of positive social change.
- The quality of the work is exceptional and ultimately accessible outside of academia.

### **Approaching us with a proposal**

Before approaching us, please look at our website and other academic papers about us (see appendix). We would encourage students and researchers to contact us, only if:

- You can show an understanding of our current work and underlying objectives and philosophy.
- Your area of research has not been completely defined and you are genuinely interested in talking to us to explore topics that may benefit us or our partners.

- This research cannot be carried out using secondary sources i.e. like our website and e-news and watching our past videos or research conducted previously.
- You are offering other benefits to us and our partners beyond your academic research, for example by offering volunteer hours, raised our profile, or introducing us to new audiences.
- You have thought about and can articulate the true benefits of the proposed research beyond the academic sector.
- The research covers a unique and novel aspect of sustainable food or positive social change.
- Your work will be actively distributed and be influential outside of academia.
- You are committed to sharing the findings of your research in an accessible way with the Kindling Trust, and consequently help to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our team.

**We acknowledge that work within the educational sector can have hugely positive impact on the third sector and society as a whole. However, research that benefits us in the short-term or is an area of mutual interest will be prioritised.**

#### **How to approach us:**

The best way for us to get to know you, and for you to communicate an interest in carrying out research with us is to get involved in our projects. We would encourage you to volunteer with us.

We welcome researchers conducting Action Research that engages with our day to day work and where researchers are able to volunteer and give their time to work with us to generate knowledge (see below).

#### **Appendix:**

*Koirala-Azad, S & Fuentes, E (2009-2010) 'Introduction: Activist Scholarship - Possibilities and Constraints of Participatory Action Research', Social Justice, 36:4, pp-1-5.*

*de Moor, J; Philip Catney, P & Doherty, B (2019) 'What hampers 'political' action in environmental alternative action organizations? Exploring the scope for strategic agency under post-political conditions', Social Movement Studies,*