



## Community characteristics & orientation

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### Instructions

Research the community you are most interested in exploring using links from the UN Sustainable Goals website (<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>) and others. In your exhaustive research, answer the following.

Community characteristics		
Community life-cycle (current state)		
Where is your community in its life-cycle?	What you need to focus on:	Special needs
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Just forming</b> Need basic tools to connect, but not sure from there	Research and/or discuss the potential of some basic tools with members, explore what ideas it might give them, and see what they might bring in with them.	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Self-designing</b> Information stage, but with a strong sense of what it wants to accomplish	Contribute ideas to the design. Analyze systematically the implications of their community design for technology, infrastructure, and technology skills.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Growing &amp; restless</b> Ready to add new functionality to its tool configuration	Try to make this a community reflection and self-design event. Does their restlessness suggest a major change, such as a transition to a new platform?	The market already offers To-Do lists, calendar reminders, and note-taking apps for grocery management, but they lack specialized features to tackle food waste. Economic and environmental factors drive people towards searching for more intelligent waste prevention solutions. GroceryMind goes beyond basic lists, serving as a smart food inventory that helps manage groceries, streamline meal planning, and prevent duplicate purchases.
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Stable and adapting</b> Just needing some new tools	How much disruption will the community tolerate? How will the new tools be integrated into or affect existing practices?	
Constitution		
Diversity: How diverse is the community?		
Topic	Your notes	



What are the different types of members and what are their levels of participation?	<p>This project idea is mainly focused on these two groups:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Individual households: Households use GroceryMind to track food inventory, receive expiry reminders, and plan meals, ensuring less food waste and smarter shopping.</li> <li>2. Food Business (Restaurants, Cafes, etc.): Restaurants and cafes can monitor stock, reduce waste, and optimize ingredient usage, leading to cost savings and sustainable operations.</li> </ol>
How spread apart is it in terms of location and time zones?	The community is global, as food waste is a universal issue.
What language(s) do members speak?	English is the current language offering.
What other cultural or other diversity aspects may affect your technology choices?	Device accessibility, and consideration of varied dietary practices can be the affective attributes.

**Openness:** How connected to the outside world is your community?

Topic		Your notes
How much do you want to control the boundaries of your community? Does your community need	<input type="checkbox"/> To be private/secure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open boundaries <input type="checkbox"/> Both private & public spaces	The community is open to all users, allowing anyone to access and utilize GroceryMind for food tracking and waste reduction.
How does your community need to interact with other communities? Do you need common tools for sharing and learning with them?		Users can share their food list with anyone who is a member of their team/group, making it easier to coordinate grocery purchases and reduce waste collectively.

**Technology aspirations**

**Technology savvy, tolerance, & constraints:** What are your community's technology interests and skills and patience thereof? What are the constraints imposed by technology factors?

Topic	Your notes
How interested is your community in technology?	The GroceryMind community is moderately interested in technology, as they seek digital solutions to simplify grocery tracking and reduce food waste. Users prefer intuitive, automated tools with features like web-based platforms, push notifications, barcode scanning, and AI-driven meal planning to enhance efficiency and ease of use.
What is their capacity for learning new tools?	The community has a moderate capacity for learning new tools, preferring simple, intuitive interfaces with minimal onboarding for easy adoption.
What is the range of skills? If their interests and/or skills are diverse, could it cause conflict or distraction?	The community has a diverse range of skills, from tech-savvy users to those preferring simple, automated tools. This diversity may require a user-friendly design to prevent confusion and ensure smooth adoption without causing conflict or distraction.



How tolerant are members of the adoption of a wide variety of tools?	The community is moderately tolerant of adopting new tools, as long as they are intuitive, easy to use, and require minimal effort. Users prefer seamless integration without complex learning curves, ensuring a smooth transition to new features.
How many technological boundaries are they willing to cross, e.g. sign in to more than one web-based tool, learn to use new tools, or give up old favorites? This helps you understand what level of integration you need.	The community is willing to cross minimal technological boundaries, preferring a single, seamless platform over multiple tools. While users may sign in to a web-based system, they expect easy navigation, minimal setup, and integration with familiar tools rather than learning entirely new systems or replacing existing habits.
What are your members' technology constraints (e.g., bandwidth, operating systems, etc.)?	The community may face technology constraints such as varying internet bandwidth, reliance on different operating systems (Windows, macOS, Linux), and limited access to high-performance devices.
How much time are members able to be online and from where (office, home, field)? Some people have limited online time, or are able to be online only in specific locations. Others are always on. Very diverse situations can affect participation	The community has varied online availability, with most users accessing the platform from home or while grocery shopping. Some may have limited online time and prefer quick interactions, while others may engage more frequently.

## Community orientation

**Relevance to community:** Use the range from 0 (no relevance) to 5 (high relevance) to determine what matters most to the community. Look at these from the perspectives of the different types of members (under "constitution"). Also discuss the "value-added" to each member group

0	1	2	3	4	5	Orientations	Variants	Key activities/your notes
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Meetings</b> Many communities place a great emphasis on regular meetings where members engage in shared activities for a specific time. Meetings, and the visible participation of members, assert the community's existence	<input type="checkbox"/> Face-to-face/blended <input type="checkbox"/> Online synchronous <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Online asynchronous	Meetings have low relevance for the community, as the platform focuses on automated tracking and reminders rather than active discussions. If needed, asynchronous interactions through forums or shared content can support knowledge sharing on food waste reduction and sustainability. Structured meetings are not essential, as users engage with the system independently at their convenience
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Open-ended conversation</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Single-stream discussions	Open-ended conversations have moderate relevance mainly for



						Some communities maintain ongoing conversations as their primary vehicles for learning. Open-ended conversations are common when a community is co-located and people keep the conversation going as they “bump” into each other.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multi-topic conversations <input type="checkbox"/> Distributed conversations	sharing food management tips and sustainability practices. Multi-topic discussions can help users exchange ideas on reducing food waste and meal planning, but real-time conversations are not essential since the platform focuses on automation and reminders.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Projects</b> In some communities’ members want to focus on particular topics, go deep, and collaborate on projects to solve problems or produce useful artifacts. Learning is not just a matter of sharing knowledge or discussing issues. Members need to do things together in order to develop their practice. Projects usually involve a subgroup within the community	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice groups <input type="checkbox"/> Project teams <input type="checkbox"/> Instruction	While this project focuses on individual tracking and reminder, projects play a moderate role in fostering collaboration on food waste reduction and sustainability efforts. Users can engage in practice groups to exchange best strategies, enhancing their commitment to responsible consumption.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Content</b> Some communities are primarily interested in creating, sharing, and providing access to documents, tools, and other content. Valuable and well-organized content is a useful resource for members	<input type="checkbox"/> Library <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structured self-publish <input type="checkbox"/> Open self-publish <input type="checkbox"/> Content integration	Content has high relevance as users benefit from organized resources on food storage, waste reduction, and meal planning.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Access to expertise</b> Some communities create value by providing focused and timely access to expertise in the community’s domain, whether internally or externally. Communities with this orientation focus on answering questions, fulfilling requests for advice, or engaging in collaborative, just-in-time problem solving	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Questions & requests <input type="checkbox"/> Access to experts <input type="checkbox"/> Shared problem solving <input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge validation <input type="checkbox"/> Apprenticeship & mentoring	Access to expertise has moderate relevance for this idea, allowing users to seek guidance on food storage and waste reduction through a question & request system.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Relationships</b> Some communities focus on relationship building among members as the basis for both ongoing learning and being available to each other. This orientation emphasizes the	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Connecting <input type="checkbox"/> Knowing about people <input type="checkbox"/> Interacting informally	Relationships have low relevance as the platform focuses on individual food tracking rather than networking. However, users can still connect informally by sharing shopping list and saving tips before the



						interpersonal aspect of learning together. Communities with this orientation place a high value on knowing each other personally, emphasizing networking, trust building, and mutual discovery		food get expires within the community.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Individual participation</b> Learning together happens in the context of a group, but it is realized in the experience of individuals. People bring different backgrounds, communication styles, and aspirations to their participation in a community. People have different levels of commitment, they take on different roles, and they use tools differently	<input type="checkbox"/> Levels of participation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Personalization <input type="checkbox"/> Individual development <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-membership	Individual participation has high relevance for GroceryMind, as users engage at different levels based on their food tracking habits. The platform supports personalization, allowing users to customize notifications, shopping lists, and inventory preferences to fit their needs.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Community cultivation</b> Some communities are happy with loose self-organization and unplanned evolution, while others thrive on attention to community cultivation. They have a need to reflect on the effectiveness and health of the community to make things better, joined with a willingness to work on it	<input type="checkbox"/> Democratic governance <input type="checkbox"/> Strong core group <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internal coordination <input type="checkbox"/> External facilitation	Community cultivation has moderate relevance as the platform thrives on user engagement and shared best practices. Shared common shopping list with roommates/housemates can be effective to reduce food and money waste.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Service context</b> In some cases, serving a specific context becomes central to the community's identity and the ways it operates. They may live inside an organization, whose charter their practice needs to serve. They may have a mission to provide learning resources to the world or to recruit members widely. Or they may seek interactions with other communities whose domain complements their own	<input type="checkbox"/> Organization as context <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-organizational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other related communities <input type="checkbox"/> Public mission	Service context is highly relevant as it supports a public mission to reduce food waste and promote sustainable consumption (SDG 12) through collaborations with organizations and sustainability groups.
Scratchpad (other interesting insights, questions/answers, etc.)								