



Open Agriculture Supply - Executive Summary

Ian Coll McEachern

Open Agriculture Supply creates, manufactures and sells open source “Food Computer” kits to facilitate the MIT Open Agriculture Initiative. A Food Computer is a small device that allows one to grow your own food to an exact “climate recipe” regardless of geographic location. Our kits allow for a lower technical cost of entry into this exciting new open source movement which we believe will be transformative to our relationship with food as a society. It will change how we grow, view, consume and relate with our food at the most basic level. It has the potential to feed the future by democratizing fresh, healthy & organic produce.

Open Agriculture Supply provides Food Computer kits that have all of the most difficult and technical assembly steps already completed. This allows for a far lower technical cost of entry into building your own Food Computer making it viable for the everyday person to build their own Food Computer.

A major limitation to the adoption of this exciting new agricultural platform is the difficulty of sourcing and assembling many of the components. With Open Agriculture Supply’s kits, all of the most difficult to source and assemble custom components (custom circuit boards, etc.) are pre-assembled. The steep learning curve, technical expertise, and supplier connections needed to source many of these complex components is beyond the reach of many budding agricultural hobbyists, farmers and students.

Akin to the growth of the 3d printer industry after the Open Source RepRap project becoming viable, there are opportunities for small, nimble, and clever companies to leverage this new platform to deliver exciting new products, services, resources and kits to hobbyists, parents, educators, farmers and technical professionals in this budding movement.

Open Agriculture Supply has been able to leverage the existing business infrastructure in place by its’ founder, Ian Coll McEachern, whom provides Product Design and Engineering consulting services. With his consultancy, Ian helps companies design cutting edge products and technologies - with clients all around the US, across a wide variety of industries, from startups to large established brands. Thus far, Open Agriculture Supply has self-funded and will expand organically as the need for its products and services grows alongside the Open Agriculture Movement.

Open Agriculture Supply is led by Ian Coll McEachern. Ian is a very passionate and experienced product designer and engineer. He has worked for 13+ years designing all types of complex products from Artificial Hearts, LVADs & Dialysis Machines, to Underwater Projector Enclosures for the Disney Parks and large Custom Digital Signage Projects for Times Square. Ian has designed and built products displayed in Times Square, the Disney Parks, Argonne National Labs, the Smithsonian and yes – even implanted in many people. To date, Ian is named as inventor on a half dozen granted and pending patents including core technologies of vital products for companies such as: Baxa (now Baxter), Thoratec (Now St. Jude/Abbott), and Covidien (now St. Jude).

Food Computers are the future of food. Open Agriculture Supply is committed to the Open Agriculture Movement and determined to share with as many people as possible the exciting possibilities it has to offer.