Red Notes
Lesson C
Grouping: Pairs or small groups (3–4)
Time: 25-40 minutes

Materials:
- Pen or pencil
- Activity Worksheet (this page)
- Poster stations with brief case studies (4–5 total: mix of innovations & policies)
- Timer or clock

Objective:
Explore real-world agricultural innovations and policies, evaluate their pros and cons, and develop discussion skills through group collaboration.

Instructions:
1. Form small groups (3–4 students).
2. Review each poster station or website (4–5 total).
    a. Read or watch the short description.
    b. Jot down one benefit and one challenge of the solution.
3. After all rotations, regroup with your team.
4. Discuss:
    a. Which idea seemed most immediately doable?
    b. Which was the most surprising?

Your Task:
At each station:
- Record 1 benefit (why it's good) and 1 challenge (what could make it hard to implement).
    After rotations:
- Write your answers for the two discussion questions at the bottom.

Websites to Use:
1. Circle Economy – Circular Food Systems
Features the largest online library of circular economy case studies, including many focusing on urban food systems and regenerative practices. Great for exploring real-world innovations and policies.
https://www.circle-economy.com/

2. WRAP – Food System Case Studies
Offers global examples of circular economy in action, such as the Horizon 2020 AgroCycle project, which uses agri-waste to create biodegradable packaging.
https://www.wrap.ngo/

3. Sustainable Food System Innovation Platform (SmartChain-Platform)
Includes searchable databases of case studies, initiatives, innovations, practice abstracts, and publications. A versatile hub for diverse agri-food sustainability examples.
https://www.smartchain-platform.eu/en

4. Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance – Case Studies
Showcases real-world impact stories—like animal health labs, dairy innovation, and veterinary capacity

programs—in agri-food research and delivery.
https://www.uoguelph.ca/alliance/impact/case-studies

5. IFAMR Case Study Library
A curated academic repository of agri-food case studies covering topics such as cluster development, supply chain innovations, and e-commerce adoption. Especially useful for policy-centered examples.
https://www.ifama.org/case-study-library

Fill in the following:
This is not a fixed "right" or "wrong" answer key but rather an example set of possible responses to guide discussion.

Station/Website	Case Type	Example Solution	Possible Benefit	Possible Challenge
1	Innovation	Solar-Powered Drip Irrigation	Saves water, lowers energy bills	High installation cost
2	Policy	Citywide Composting Law	Reduces landfill waste, improves soil	Requires resident compliance
3	Innovation	Aquaponics Greenhouse	Year-round fresh produce	Requires technical knowledge
4	Policy	Farm-to-School Program	Supports local farmers, healthier lunches	Logistics of food delivery
5	Innovation	Drone Crop Monitoring	Detects plant stress early	Privacy concerns, tech costs

Discussion Questions – Sample Teacher Notes
Which idea seemed most immediately doable? Why?

Answer:

Most immediately doable: Farm-to-School Program — uses existing farms and schools.

Which idea was the most surprising? Why?

Answer:

Most surprising: Aquaponics Greenhouse — combines fish and plants in a closed loop.

Reflection – Key Themes:
What did this activity teach you about how policies and innovations can impact food systems?

Both policies and innovations address sustainability in different ways. Implementation challenges vary based on cost, community engagement, and technical needs. Some ideas are more scalable or adaptable than others.

Skills You'll Use:
- Critical thinking
- Observation & note-taking
- Team communication
- Comparing and contrasting solutions
- Reflective thinking

Example:

Station/Website	Case Type	Solution Name / Summary	1 Benefit	1 Challenge
1	Innovation	Solar-Powered Drip Irrigation	Saves water and reduces electricity costs	High installation cost for small farms