

**A cohesive
development
approach**
towards
building
a sustainable
urban utopia

Agricultural Development
in Gierstadt

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Fig.1: Image of Gierstädt

01. Preface

This booklet provides a brief introduction about Agricultural Development in Gierstädt, located in the rural district of Gotha for the annual academic study project. To gain a holistic understanding, the concept for the proposed development has been introduced in an abstractive manner.

The booklet concludes with the proposed interventions for agricultural development in Gierstädt based on the concept developed.

This booklet was created as a final assignment in the course “New Urban Approaches towards a healthier and smarter Thuringia”, which was led by Prof. Dr.-Ing. Bernd Nentwig and Shimin Huang M. Sc., at Bauhaus-University Weimar in the summer semester 2021.

02. Introduction

The Fahner Höhe also called as Fahnersche Höhe is densely forested area located at the southwest of Thuringian Basin in Germany (Wikipedia.de). The Fahner Höhe district lies within the jurisdiction of the district of Gotha in the west, the district of Sömmerda in the northeast and the state capital Erfurt in the southeast, roughly in the middle of the triangle Erfurt - Gotha - Bad Langensalza (ibid). The Fahner Höhe consists of the following municipalities: Dachwig, Döllstädt, Gierstädt, Großfahner, Tonna

The focus area of the project is the district Gierstädt. Location on the northeast part of Fahner- Höhe, Gierstädt is considered as the orchard of Thuringia considering its versatile fruit production (Thuringer-wald.de). It is situated only a few kilometers from the state capital Erfurt and the residential city of Gotha. It is considered as the center of fruit production in the Fahner Höhe with processing plants as well (ibid).

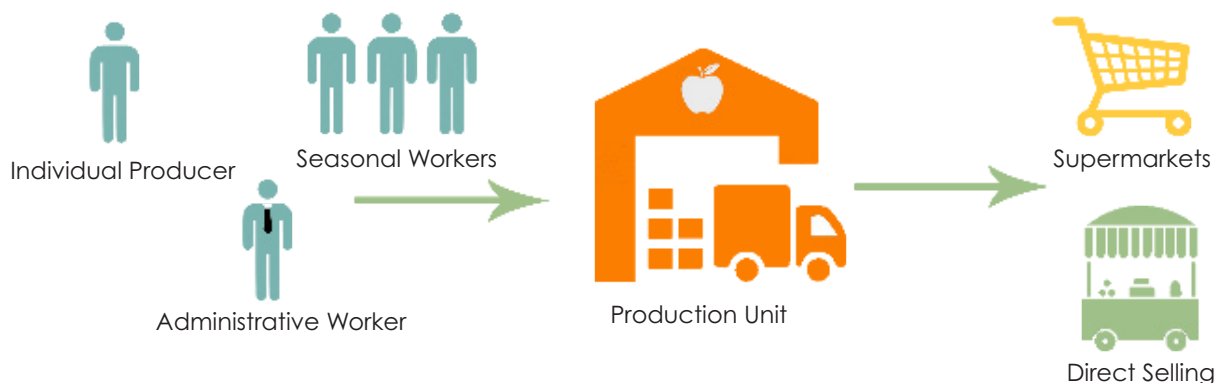
Key highlights of the district:

Fruit Growing/ Self Picking/Wholesale: The district of Gierstädt is known for the fruit production of namely apples, sweet and sour cherries, plums, pears, apricots and elderberries which are grown over 1000 hectares of land (Thuringen.info). Along with Gierstädt, the district of Döllstädt also offers self-picking of fruits along with direct sales from farm shops (ibid).

Fahner Frucht: Processing and creating cider: A lot of fruits are processed as ciders, juices, wines, mulled wines etc. and exported to all over Thuringia (Thuringen.info).

Tradiitonal Celebrations: Gierdtadt is really famous for its flower festival which dates back to 1898 (Thuringen.info). The flower festival takes place on the last weekend in April. The local fruit growers celebrate the harvest in autumn (ibid).

Fruit Park and Green Classroom: The self-picking plantation culture led to the formation of Gierstädter fruit park along with adventure hiking and nature trails and seasonal gastronomy (Thuringen.info). Along with this, to educate children, green classrooms are also established (ibid).



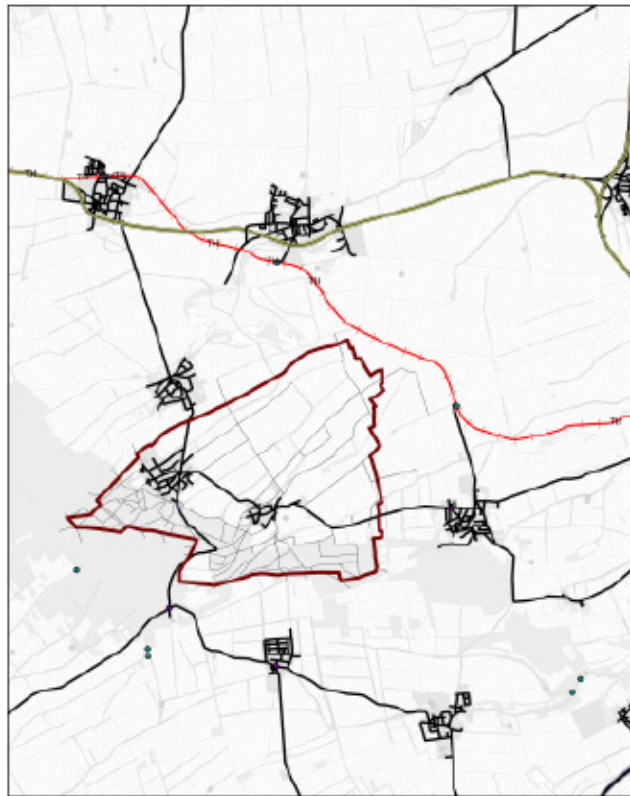


Fig.2: Transportation Map of Gierstädt

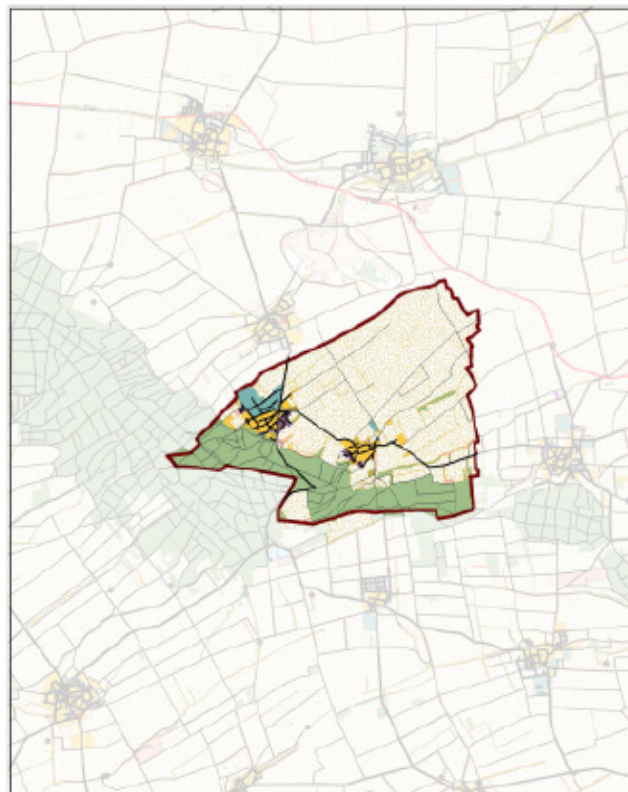


Fig.3: Land-use Map of Gierstädt



03. Cohesive Agriculture Development

Doing justice to the project title, our concept aims at a very coherent approach towards the development of Gierstädt. Based on three main pillars - economic development, social development and spatial development, the goal is to make Gierstädt self-reliant and sustainable in all aspects.

Economic Development aims at promoting the local economic activities in the district creating a platform and opportunities for individual farmers and local residents of the area boosting the economy at a local level. On the other hand, Social Development aims at improving the sociability in the neighbourhood by creating more interactive public spaces in the district. Furthermore, Spatial Development aims at improving the infrastructure and mobility in the area creating a much efficient and accessible network.

All the three aspects are co-related to each other in a very holistic manner. Economic-Social Development contribute to empower communities at the local level. Social-Spatial Development promotes the Placemaking concept and Spatial-Economic development aims at creating a public realm in the area.

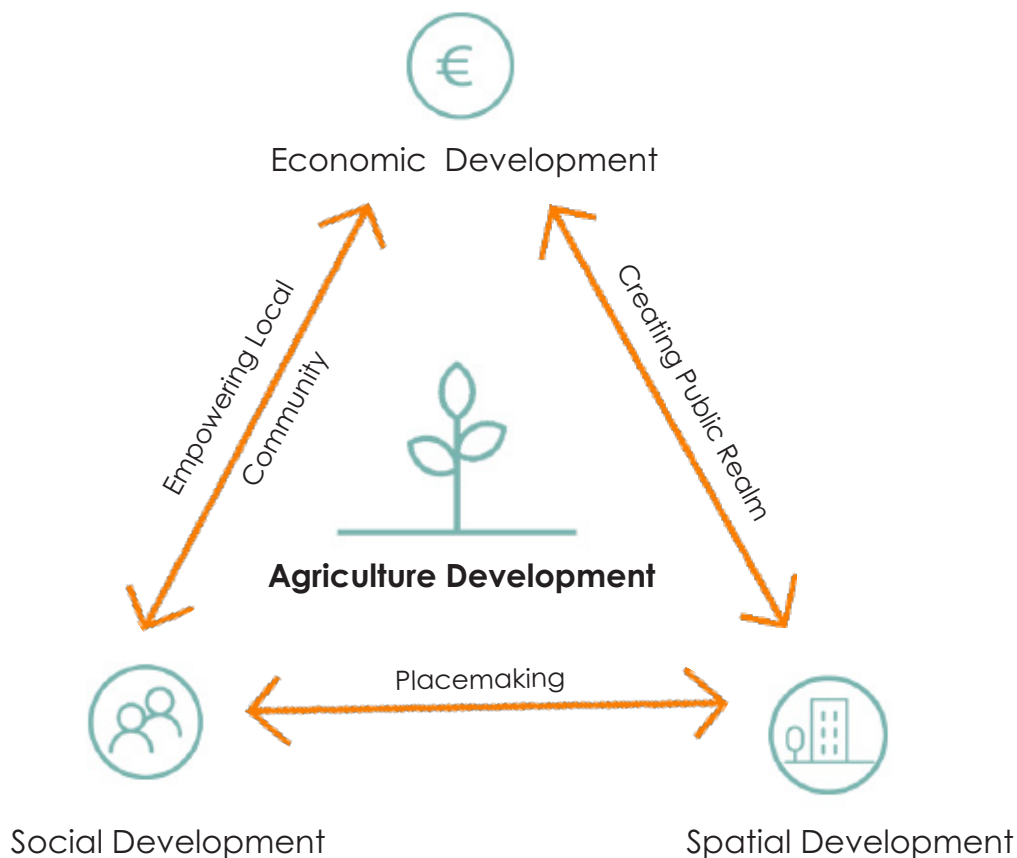


Fig.4: Conceptual Model

04. Spatial Development

Spatial development or infrastructure development is a very crucial aspect in the development process and it also contributes to the social and economic development in the area. The settlement pattern in Gierstädt is quite versatile with residential area on one side and industrial area on the other. The goal is to establish an efficient transportation network by improving the mobility within the region of Gierstädt for better linkages and accessibility.

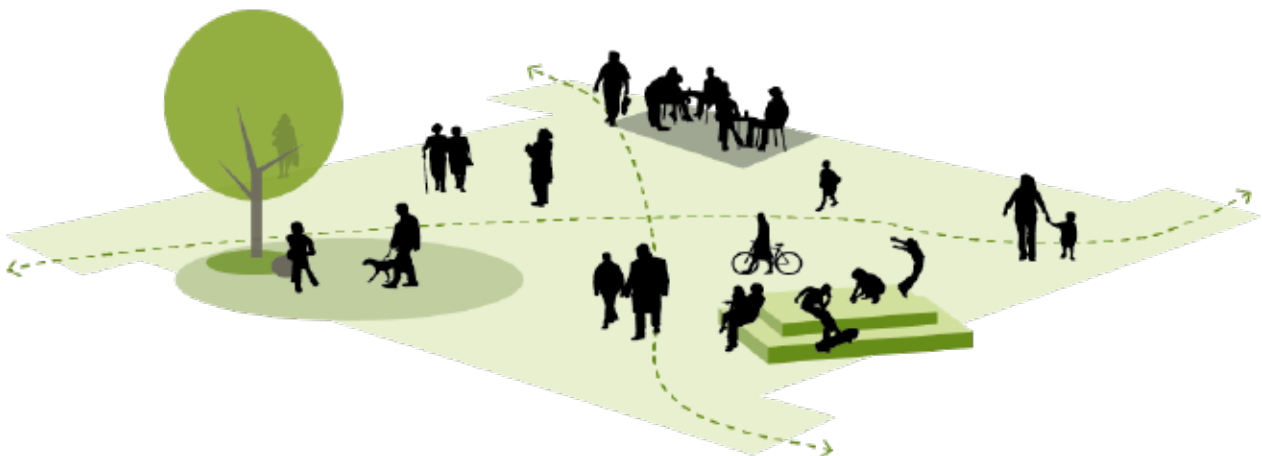
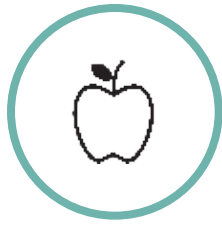


Fig.5: Spatial Connections



05. Economic Development

To boost the economy at a local level and making Gierstädt self-reliant, the vision for economic development in Gierstädt is based on diversifying economic activities by motivating the individual farmers to grow and sell their products. Since fruit manufacturing is the primary economic driver for Gierstädt, this diagram shows the process of how an individual farmer can process his grown fruits at the Fahner Fruit Factory and then later can sell it to the public markets.



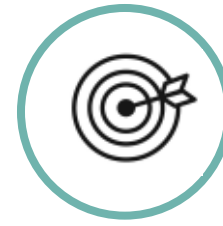
Situation

Mostly depend on single economic activity



Strategy

Local farmers to Market



Result

Increased resilience in economy



Individual Farming



Processing of Fruits



Selling Products at Public Market

Fig.6: Economic Development

06. Social Development

Using the wheel of Placemaking and its four major elements, Sociability, User and Activities, Comfort and Image, Access and Linkages, the goal is to enhance the social development in the area by creating more interactive public spaces which can improve the social character of the area and. All these elements constitute to form a more sustainable neighbourhood with much public interaction creating a healthy atmosphere in the area.



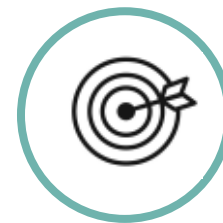
Situation

Lack of Public spaces for social interactions



Strategy

Create a 'space of expression' with a multifaceted character



Result

Enhanced sociability of the place

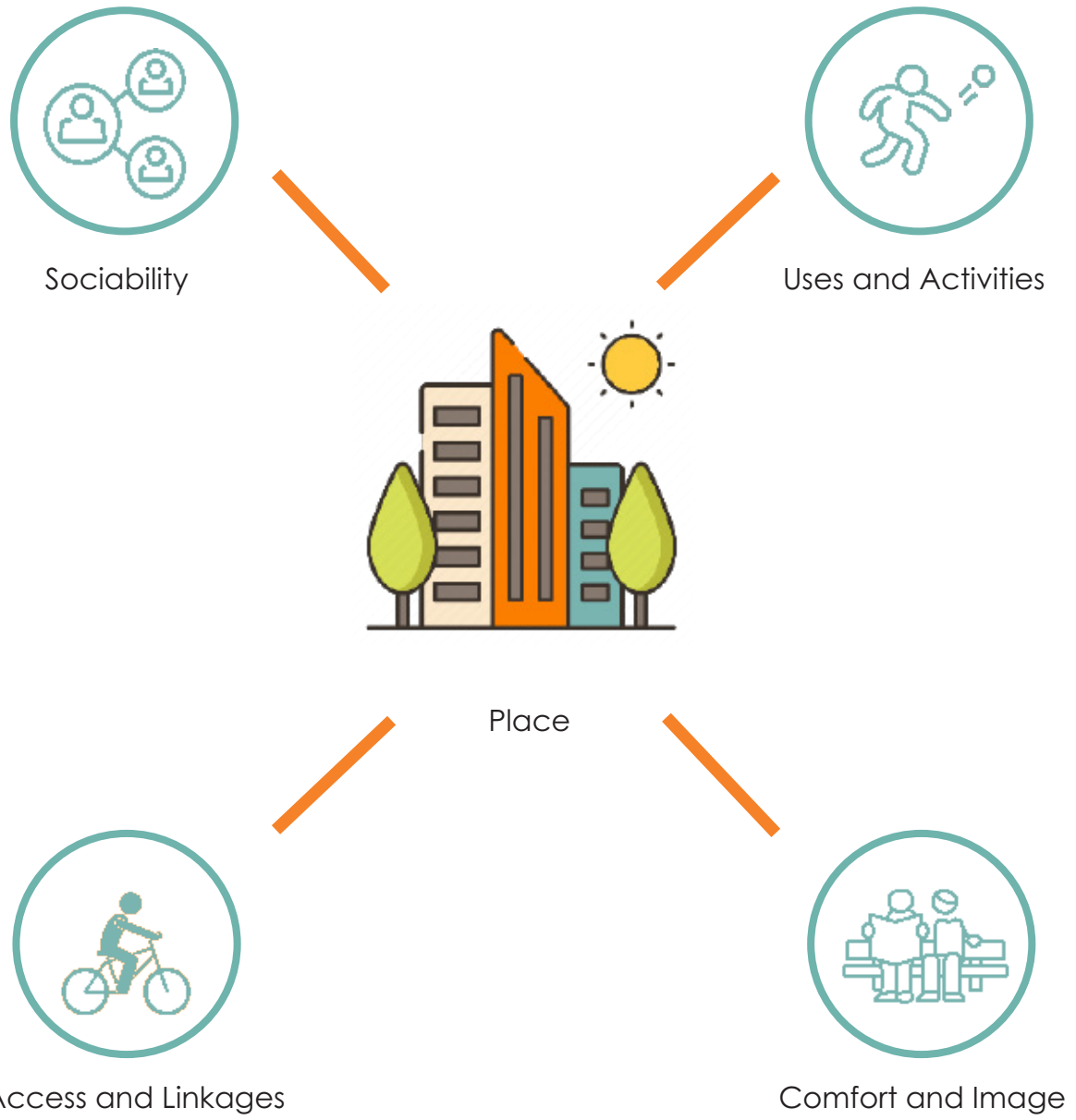


Fig.7: Social Development

06. Proposals

With our 3 main pillars, we created three proposals based on our concept:

- 01. A transportation hub for Gierstädt
- 02. A public market
- 03. A public garden in the churchyard.

06. 1 Transportation Hub for Gierstädt

After a brief analysis of the area, the entry point of Gierstädt has certain traffic management problems but also the potentials for open spaces and better connections with nearby villages and also within the region. Also the enhanced accessibility promotes a better connection with other proposed interventions in Gierstädt.



1. Bicycle Parking 2. Playground 3. Eating Area 4. Market Trailers 5. Car Parking 6. Motel

Fig.8: Plan of Transportation Hub

This schematic plan demonstrates the re-arranged traffic connection at the entry point of Gierstädt. Pedestrian crossings are introduced for better pedestrian network along with a redesigned turning area for buses with a roundabout. For green area, the pedestrian connection is created which ensures safety considering the pedestrian movement across the highway.

Activities



Walking



Resting



Sitting - Eating



Children Playing

Service Facilities



Pedestrian Crossing



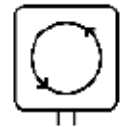
Sitting



Information for attractions



Lighting Elements



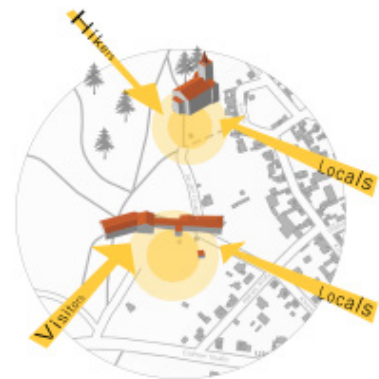
Roundabout



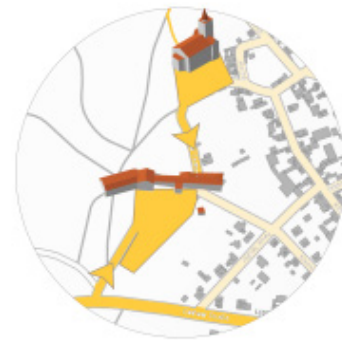
Fig.9: Collage of Transportation Hub

06. 2 Public Market

The public market promotes the individual farming approach and provides a platform to the farmers to showcase their fruits and sell them. This boosts up the economy at a local level making Gierstädt self-reliant and also act a space for public interaction. The public markets also serve as an opportunity for the individual sellers of the nearby villages to connect with Gierstädt and establish a better collaboration network. The location chosen for the proposal is quite prime. It is located at the garden of Guest house & Motel Zur Festwiese Inh. Axel Schneider which is very well connected to the autobahn as well as internally with main city as well. By creating a connection between the church and the vacant land near the motel, the aim is to attract different target groups such as visitors, locals and hikers.



Attractive urban spaces for different profiles



The connection of Churchgarden/Market Place/Autobahn/Lutherweg



1.Bicycle Parking 2.Playground 3.Eating Area 4.Market Trailers 5.Car Parking 6.Motel
Fig.10: Plan of Public Market

The plan demonstrates the public market at the backyard of the motel which is well connected to autobahn and the city itself. Many activities like small playground, market trailer, eating joints have been introduced to make the market more socially active and vibrant. For better connection in terms of mobility, bicycle and car parking have also been incorporated.



Fig.11: Food Tent in Public Market



Fig.12: Food Stands in Public Market

06. 2 Church Garden

Located amid the lush green forest and famous hiking trails, the St.-Bonifatius-Church serves as a very prime location to promote social activities and create a livelier public space. The church dates back to the 19th century with its high tower depicting the gothic style character, while the church was constructed in a renaissance style (ekmd. de). The church used to serve as a space for children's afternoons, house groups and handicrafts gatherings including small exhibition with nearby villages (ibid). The aim was to create a sustainable public space attracting various target groups like hiker and local residents which could improve the sociability of the place.



The plan demonstrates the existing churchyard and the new development around which includes spots for a social gathering in the church garden. To enable hikers to relax, a gathering spot has been introduced with shaded sitting areas.



Fig.13: Plan of Church Garden

The spot can act as a starting/relaxing point for the hikers amid the trails which go through the forests. The churchyard is also well connected to the public market developed. This will enable people from the public market to visit the church garden establishing the successful connection between the Social-Economic aspect.



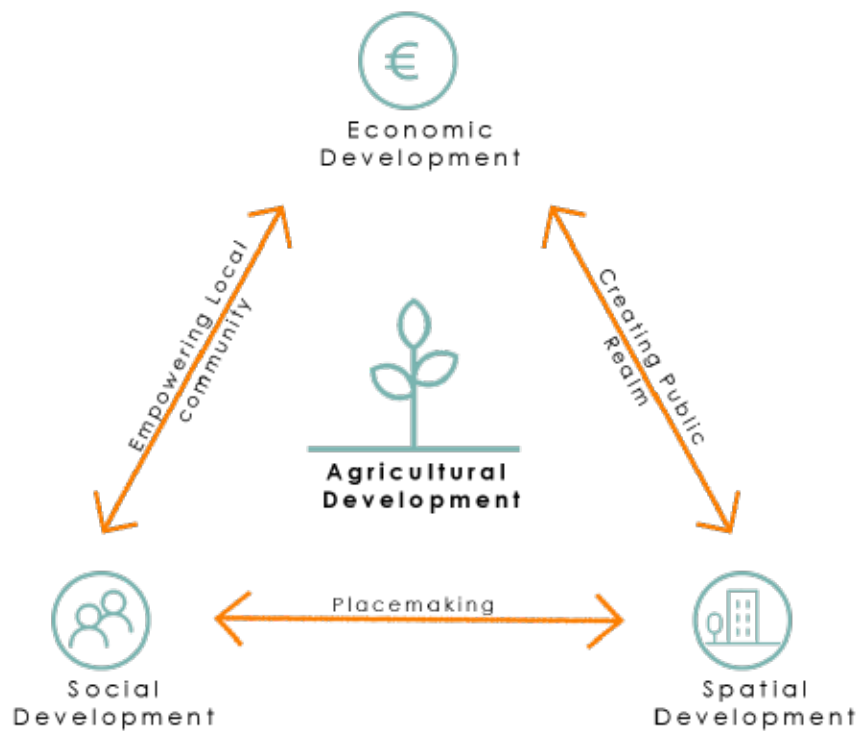
Fig.14: Sitting Areas of Church Garden



Fig.15: Sitting Areas of Church Garden

08. Conclusion

Based on three pillars of development introduced in the project, the proposals fit to each aspect in a very coherent manner. Economic Development: The Public Market acts as a “Place of Generation” generating economy at the local level. Social Development: The public garden in the church yard acts as “Space of Expression” enabling people to act and respond in any possible manner creating more lively social character. Spatial Development: The Transportation hub acts as an “Efficient mobility approach” improving the internal mobility of Gierstätt with better accessibility and linkages. Hence this three tier interconnected approach helps achieve the final goal with the agricultural development and upliftment of Gierstätt in a very cohesive manner.



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