

Cities Farming for the Future

Policy Support, Action Planning, Training and
Information Exchange on Urban Agriculture through
Multi-stakeholder Processes



Background

Since 1999, the global network of Resource Centres on Urban Agriculture and Food Security (RUAF) supports awareness raising, documentation and exchange of information on urban agriculture. **Urban agriculture refers to the production, processing and marketing of food** (e.g. fruits, vegetables, eggs, milk products, meat, fish) **and other agricultural products** (e.g. ornamental plants, tree seedlings, herbs) **in and around urban agglomerations**. An estimated 800 million urban and peri-urban farmers are engaged in urban agriculture world-wide, producing between 15-20% of the world's food needs.

The RUAF programme is coordinated at global level by **ETC**, The Netherlands and at regional level by the regional resource centres on urban agriculture. These are: **IPES** for Latin America and the Caribbean, **AUB** for the Middle East and North Africa, **MDP** for Southern and East Africa, **IAGU** for Francophone West Africa, **IWMI-Ghana** for Anglophone West Africa, **IWMI-India** for South and East Asia and **IGSNRR** for China.



Vegetables are grown on available open spaces within the city.



From stable to table: urban livestock production under zero grazing.

The CFF Programme and its Goal

In 2005, RUAF launched a global programme called 'Cities Farming for the Future' (CFF). The overall goal of the CFF is to contribute to urban poverty reduction, urban food security, and improved urban environmental management, by assisting the city authorities in recognizing the benefits of urban agriculture, whilst addressing also its challenges. The specific objectives are:

- To enhance awareness regarding the potential of urban agriculture and facilitate its recognition as an area for government intervention.
- To facilitate access of local stakeholders to documented experiences, in order to enable practical policy and technology interventions.
- To support local capacity development and networking regarding urban agriculture.
- To facilitate the participatory formulation and implementation of gender sensitive policies, action plans and programmes on urban agriculture.

To achieve these objectives, **RUAF supports local authorities, initiatives and networks** while at the same time maintains close working relations with various international organisations and programmes that have major initiatives on urban agriculture including FAO, CGIAR, UN Habitat, WHO, and IDRC.



Urban agriculture creates opportunities for recycling of urban waste.

The Programme Approach

The main approach in the implementation of CFF programme is **Multi-stakeholder Processes for Action Planning and Policy Formulation** (MPAP). MPAP aims at bringing together major stakeholders in a new form of communication, dialogue, situation analysis action planning and implementation of pilot projects.

The programme is being implemented in seven regions of the world under the coordination of Regional RUAF partners. In each region, RUAF supports capacity development and participatory formulation of policies and action programmes on urban agriculture in three pilot cities and shares experiences gained with stakeholders in a further selected partner cities.



Dialogue is a key element in multi-stakeholder processes.

In West Africa, the CFF programme is being implemented through MPAP in Accra, Freetown, Ibadan, Dakar, Cotonou, Ouagadougou, as pilot cities.

Activities

Capacity development for local stakeholders such as Municipal Departments, CBOs, NGO's, Research and Training Institutes, by organizing policy seminars, training of trainers workshops, general training in urban agriculture and study visits.



Training offers opportunities for building the capacity of stakeholders on relevant issues in urban agriculture.

Knowledge management: Participatory development of guidelines, working methodologies and instruments for the various local stakeholders such as policy briefs, fact sheets, good practices guidelines. The Programme facilitates access to relevant information as well as the setting-up and maintenance of bibliographic databases, and publication of the **Urban Agriculture Magazine** on the internet and in hard copies, in six languages.



Operation of a web of websites that provides access to e-conferences and information on literature, resource persons, upcoming events, important web links etc.

Facilitation of local policy formulation and action planning on urban agriculture

Assisting in the organisation of regional and local training workshops and supporting local policy formulation, preparation and implementation of action plans, and participatory design and implementation of pilot projects on issues prioritised in the individual city context.

Focus Cities

Accra, Freetown, Ibadan (Pilot cities)
Kumasi, Tamale, Banjul, Bamenda, Jos and Lagos (Partner Cities)

Project Partners

In each pilot city, the CFF programme involves key urban agriculture stakeholders such as:

- Government departments on Food and Agriculture, Urban Planning, Public Health, Environment etc
- NGOs
- CBOs
- Research and Training Institutes
- Farmers Organizations
- Development Agencies

The International Water Management Institute (IWMI)

IWMI is a non-profit international agricultural research organization operating worldwide under the umbrella of the **Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)**. IWMI's mission is improving the management of water and land for food livelihoods and nature. In West Africa, IWMI works on several project including the quantification of benefits of urban and peri-urban agriculture, nutrient recycling from solid waste and sludge, urban malaria as well as health risk reduction related to the use of polluted irrigation water.

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