



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Monitoring Framework

July 2018 version

Indicator 30: Number of urban and peri-urban food producers that benefited from technical training and assistance in the past 12 months

MUFPP framework of actions' category: Food production

The indicator monitors the number of food producers (horticultural growers, smallholders and farmers) in and close to the city that have received technical training and assistance over a given time period (e.g. last twelve months).

Overview table

MUFFP Work stream	Food production
MUFFP action	Help provide services to food producers in and around cities , including technical training and financial assistance (credit, technology, food safety, market access, etc.) to build a multigenerational and economically viable food system with inputs such as compost from food waste, grey water from post-consumer use, and energy from waste etc. while ensuring that these do not compete with human consumption.
What the indicator measures	The indicator monitors the number of food producers (horticultural growers, smallholders and farmers) in and close to the city that have received technical training and assistance over a given time period (e.g. last twelve months).
Which variables need to be measured / what data are needed	-Total annual number of urban and peri-urban food producers (horticultural growers, smallholders and farmers) -Total number of food producers that benefited from technical training and assistance -Type of beneficiaries -Type of training and technical assistance provided If desired: -Type of training providers (e.g. municipality? NGOs, universities, etc.)
Unit of measurement (i.e. Percentages, averages, number, etc.)	Number of food producers (horticultural growers, smallholders and farmers)

Unit(s) of Analysis (i.e people under 5 years old, etc.)	Data disaggregation by type of food producers (share of men/ women; youth/adults; other socio-economic categories; type of food produced; location; scale of production) and by type of technical assistance and/or service provider
Possible sources of information of such data	-Records from national government, local government, non-governmental organisations, private sector training and technical assistance programmes
Possible methods/tools for data-collection	Analysis of records of technical training and assistance programmes Food producers survey
Expertise required	Survey design and implementation
Resources required/ estimated costs	
Specific observations	Important to decide clearly on who the food producers are – the suggestion is to focus on those who derive some sort of economic livelihood from working on the land and producing food. There will be others who are involved with urban food growing or farming but it may be for more social or leisure reasons, not for economic reasons.
Examples of application	Several cities monitor the number of beneficiaries of technical training and assistance programmes for food producers. This monitoring is however mainly limited to their own municipal programmes and services. Additional effort is needed to collect data from other levels of government and organisations.

Rationale/evidence

Urban and peri-urban food production can, in all its diversity, serve as a future innovator of resource-efficient production, which will be instrumental for all agriculture systems and indispensable to increasingly, resource-challenged (i.e., land, water, energy) cities throughout the world. The diversity of urban and peri-urban agriculture models provide opportunities for both capital- and labour-intensive production systems.

Urban and peri-urban food producers however require technical skills to set up and manage productive, sustainable and resource efficient production systems. While urban and peri-urban agriculture today ranges from the small garden plots to medium-sized community farms to even larger scale commercial operations, technological, financial and social innovations are increasingly redefining urban and peri-urban food production to meet competition for resources, address constraints related to scarce and high priced land and more efficient water and energy usage, to safeguard environmental and human health, or to meet changing consumer demand. The lack of such skills continues to be one of the key barriers keeping producers, and in particular women, youth and small-scale producers, from innovating and improving their production systems.

A vibrant, sustainable food production system needs workforce development to ensure that there are properly trained and educated male and female, youth and adult, small, medium and large-scale producers whose skills are regularly updated. Stronger partnerships with non-governmental organizations and private sector firms are crucial for developing the requisite skills.

Glossary/concepts/definitions used

Urban and peri-urban primary food production (urban agriculture)

For this indicator, primary urban food production can also be called urban agriculture. This can be defined shortly as the growing of plants and the raising of animals within and around cities. The most striking feature of urban agriculture, which distinguishes it from rural agriculture, is that it is integrated into the urban economic and ecological system: urban agriculture is embedded in -and interacting with- the urban ecosystem. The RUAF Foundation provides useful definitions of types of actors, locations and products that typify urban agriculture.¹

Urban food producers - horticultural growers, smallholders and farmers

Urban and peri-urban food producers are people who produce food from urban or peri-urban land for economic purposes. In many countries this group have the lowest incomes of all urban dwellers. Some cultivate/manage very small areas of land; they may only grow vegetables or they may have enough land to keep small numbers of livestock. Some cities have larger farms within or around the edges of city boundaries. For this indicator, the particular group of urban food producers are those who derive some kind of livelihood from trade/sales of their food products.

Technical assistance is non-financial assistance taking the form of sharing information and expertise, instruction, skills training, transmission of working knowledge, and consulting services. The aim of technical assistance is to maximise the quality of food production systems and impact by supporting administration, management, development, capacity building, etc. Ideally, the technical assistance focuses on particular needs and priorities identified by the beneficiaries. Technical assistance to urban and peri-urban food producers can take the form of instruction and training in areas like:

- Agro-ecological or organic production methods
- New production technologies (hydroponics, vertical farming, greenhouse production)
- New production systems and crops/products (sprouts, spirulina)

¹ What is urban and peri urban agriculture? RUAF Foundation <http://www.ruaf.org/urban-agriculture-what-and-why>

- Waste recycling
- Crop rotation and associations
- Soil and water management
- Weeds, pest and disease management
- Food safety and environmental management
- Climate smart agriculture/conservation agriculture
- Business planning and management
- Processing
- Marketing
- Etc.

Youth (aged 15-24 years) and **adults** (aged 25 years and above).

Small, medium and large-scale producers: use local categories.

Preparations

The team responsible for monitoring this indicator should agree on:

1. Type of data disaggregation and categories that will be used (see further below)
2. Data collection method
3. If surveys are to be used, information should be collected first on the total number of food producers (for sampling purposes) and a survey instrument has to be designed. Training of survey enumerators may be needed.

Sampling

If data are not available from programmatic records (national government, local government, non-governmental organisations, private sector training and technical assistance programmes), surveys among food producers can monitor the type and frequency of technical training and assistance received in the past 12 months. Additional survey questions can provide information on the service providers, costs of training and assistance, use and application of past training and assistance or still unmet needs and demands.

If a specific policy priority, surveys could be implemented among specific target groups (e.g. youth, women, small-scale producers etc.) or in specific areas of the city.

In general, a 10% sample (10% of all food producers) will provide reliable data.

Data collection and data disaggregation

Data disaggregation can be done by 1/ type of beneficiary and 2/ type of technical training and assistance.

1. Type of beneficiary

Indicate the different number and types of beneficiaries that received technical training and assistance:

- Youth vs. adults
- Men vs. women
- Small scale, vs. medium-scale or large scale farmers
- Any other category (e.g. horticulture vs. livestock farmers; community gardeners vs. commercial producers etc.).

2. Type of technical training and assistance

Both the type of service as well as its content can be recorded:

- Type: Information sharing; practical instruction, skills training, consulting services
- Content: what was the technical training or assistance about?
- If desired: Type of service provider

Data can be collected from:

1. Analysis of records

Look at records from national government, local government, non-governmental organisations, private sector training and technical assistance programmes on number and type of beneficiaries, type and content of training/assistance and if available amount and source of funding for the technical training and assistance programmes.

2. Food producer surveys

If no records are available, a survey among a sample of urban and peri-urban food producers would yield the needed information. This survey could integrate questions that would also provide data for other indicators, like land ownership and tenure regimes (see indicator 28 *Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land for food production, by sex*), area under sustainable agriculture (Indicator 29 *Proportion of agricultural land in the municipal area under sustainable agriculture*))

[Data analysis/calculation of the indicator](#)

The indicator is computed by calculating the total number of urban and peri-urban food producers that received some form of technical training and assistance in the past 12 months. As different service providers (e.g. local government, a NGO) may have provided training/assistance to the same beneficiaries, adding up numbers from different institutional records may lead to double-counting. Where possible, this should be corrected.