

The urban producer's resource book

A practical guide for working with Low Income Urban and Peri-Urban Producers Organizations.



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NOTE TO USERS

If you have any comments on or
suggestions for improvements to this
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Your comments and suggestions
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future editions

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The text draws on findings from ten city case studies of UPA conducted through the project and supplemented with other material worldwide, in particular material from FAO policy briefs, and from the global Resource Centres on Urban Agriculture and Food Security (RUAF). The ten case studies conducted through the project were:

1. Accra, Ghana
2. Antananarivo, Madagascar
3. Cairo, Egypt
4. Caracas, Venezuela
5. Dakar, Senegal
6. Harare, Zimbabwe
7. Hyderabad, India
8. Kinshasa, DR Congo
9. Nairobi, Kenya
10. Phnom Penh, Cambodia

A three day workshop was held at FAO headquarters in Rome in February 2007 to discuss the findings of the case studies and to help prepare an outline for the present guidelines. The authors acknowledge the contributions made by the authors of the above case studies and others present at the workshop in particular Marielle Dubbeling from RUAF/ETC International, and John Rouse, Peoples Participation expert. Many others have also provided useful comments and contributions during the development of these guidelines, in particular Ann Thomas and Sarah McCans from IDRC and the project coordinator, Emmanuel Chengu for FAO.

It is recognised, that due to limitations of time and funding, not all aspects of UPA could be comprehensively dealt with in these guidelines – particularly where issues were not covered in the case studies. Comments on the guidelines and in particular additional material and case studies to cover issues where readers find significant omissions are welcomed.

Acronyms

AERI	Agriculture Economic Research Institute, Cairo, Egypt
AMA	Accra Municipal Assembly
AREX	Department of Agricultural Research & Extension services, University of Zimbabwe
CIRAD	Recherche agronomique au service des pays du sud
CBO	Community Based Organisation
ETC/RUAF	Educational Training Consultants/Resource Centres on Urban Agriculture and Food Security
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCIT	FAO Food for the Cities programme
GA	Group advisor
IAGU	Institut Africain de Gestion Urbaine, Dakar, Senegal
IDRC	Canada's International Development Research Center
IWMI	International Water Management Institute
KARI	Kenya Agricultural Research Institute, Nairobi, Kenya
LIPO	Low Income Producers Organization
MDP - ESA	Municipal Development Programme for Eastern and Southern Africa, Harare, Zimbabwe
NEFSALF	Nairobi and Environs Food Security, Agriculture and Livestock Forum
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PA	Periurban Agriculture
SENAHUP	Service National d'Horticulture Urbaine et Periurbaine, Kishasa, RDCongo
UA	Urban Agriculture
UPA	Urban and Periurban agriculture

Preface

Globally, our cities and their immediate peripheries are already producing, and will continue to produce, an important part of the food they need to sustain their populations, while providing jobs and employment to the urban poor. The main actors, the producers themselves and particularly the poor, however, continue to be largely absent from urban policy tables. Although urban and peri-urban food production is on the rise in many regions of the world, it faces persistent challenges

In cities, as elsewhere, it quickly becomes apparent that there is no future for unorganised constituencies. What can urban producers, NGOs, CBOs and public agencies do to strengthen the organization of poor urban and peri-urban food and agriculture producers and reinforce their voices and their contribution to the shape and nature of our cities? This manual is a first and timely response to this need.

The manual is the product of collaboration between FAO, Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and several other partners. This collaboration was formally initiated in 1993 when a group of agencies convened in Ottawa to formalise a support group on urban agriculture. FAO formed an internal working group around 1996 and in 1999 its Committee on Agriculture passed a resolution calling for stronger coordination of its activities in this area. This translated into a new Priority Area for Interdisciplinary Action (PAIA) named Food for the Cities. During this period, FAO and IDRC, together with UN Habitat, have staged joint events at global summits, regional forums and workshops.

The manual focuses on issues of central concern to urban producers worldwide: access to resources for production; financial constraints; policy and regulatory environment; local government and institutional support; environmental and food quality; and safety standards and group organization. Not only does the manual advise urban producers on how to tackle these issues, it does so by showing and illustrating how much more effective it is for producers to tackle these issues as groups rather than as individuals. It explains how urban producers can be assisted in forming themselves into organizations or how they can strengthen their

existing organizations. It distinguishes between issues whose solution lies within a group's control from those, usually more serious ones, whose solution requires co-operation with other groups and stakeholders.

It shows how urban producer groups can cooperate with specific categories of urban actors for their mutual benefit. One action, in particular, seems needed – to document and disseminate to others in the city, the progress made by urban producer organizations in helping to resolve some of the city's key challenges and the progress made by the producers themselves in improving some of their own practices that have raised concern among other urban actors, including local authorities. Showing focus, commitment, self-reliance and transparency improves respect and legitimacy of urban producers in the public eye as trustworthy builders of a better city.

This manual draws on FAO's programme experience with rural producers and agricultural enterprises, as well as with UPA through various sector and commodity-specific interventions. It also draws on information from networks active in urban and peri-urban agriculture (UPA), such as the Resource Centres on Urban Agriculture and Food Security (RUAF), supported by the Dutch DGIS, IDRC and other bilateral agencies. This network recently issued a special issue of its Urban Agriculture Magazine on urban producers' organizations, a timely support to this manual.

The manual is written in a simple and clear language. It is very much a live document, to be further enriched as a growing pool of experiences from the field is tapped into.

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