



**Regional Workshop in East Africa:
“Food for the Cities: Ensuring Resilient
Food Systems in African cities”**

Nairobi

13 December 2011

*The Role of Urban Planning for Food and
Nutrition Security*

Contents

- Historical and UN-Habitat perspectives on urban agriculture
- Linkages between food systems and the management, governance and planning of cities
- Focus on rapid urban growth in secondary cities in developing countries
- Integrating urban agriculture in climate change, green economy and urban planning debates
- Key Messages

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Urban Agriculture: Back to the Beginning

- The world's earliest cities (BCE 8,000) preceded the emergence of agriculture (BCE 7,000)
- Permanent human settlements were necessary for innovation and knowledge sharing, and to house people in proximity to stationary fields and livestock
- Through most of the 19th century even large European cities like Paris maintained circular metabolisms with 'night soil' regularly collected to fertilise urban and peri-urban agricultural plots
- We need new ways of **reconnecting** cities and agriculture, of shortening the farm-to-table link and of converting linear resource flows back to circular ones

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UN-Habitat and Urban Agriculture

- Urban Management Programme (1986-2006)
- Sustainable Cities Programme (1992-2008)
- Localising Agenda 21 Programme (1995-2008)
- Global Campaign on Urban Governance (2000-2007)
- Lake Victoria City Development Initiative (2002-2010)
- **Cities and Climate Change Initiative (2008-)**
- **Urban Patterns for a Green Economy (2010-)**
- **Urban Planning Back to the Basics (2010-)**

Examples of participating countries:

Argentina, Cuba, Ecuador; the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vietnam; Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

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Factors influencing the development of urban agriculture policy and institution-building

Variable / City	Kampala	Nairobi	Yaoundé
Informal settlement	Mostly dense but dispersed	Very dense and highly concentrated	Mostly dense but dispersed
Evictions / harassment of informal dwellings	Patchy, recent	Extensive since independence	Sporadic since independence
Percent households farming in town	About 49%	20%	35%
Control of land allocation	Formal but traditional systems respected	Formal corrupted, informal controlled by chiefs	Formal corrupted, informal controlled by chiefs
Civil society	Emerged late 1980s after civil war	Repressed till 1992, harassed till 2002	Repressed till late 1990s
Urban farming	Ignored till 1990s	Repressed or ignored till 2000s	Repressed or ignored till 2004
UA research	Since 1980s substantial investment	Since 1980s, intermediate investment	1998-2000s, small investment
Central government engages with UA	2000	2006	2004
City government engages with UA	1993	Not yet	2004

Reference: African Urban Harvest – Agriculture in the Cities of Cameroon, Kenya and Uganda
 Editors: Gordon Prain, Nancy Karanja, Diana Lee-Smith, 2010, page 303

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Linkages between Food Systems and Urban Management, Governance & Planning

- **Urban Management:** stocks and flows, health control measures, storage and processing, land legislation, land tenure systems, access to water, use of vacant land, credit facilities
- **Urban Governance:** inclusion of vulnerable groups, gender and youth, migrant workers, quality of relationships between stakeholders, security, amplify voice, transparency
- **Urban Planning:** sustainable spatial structure, land mosaics, transport and mobility, location of market centres, mediating the public realm, flood plains, land slide areas, disaster risk reduction

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Second Urbanisation Wave



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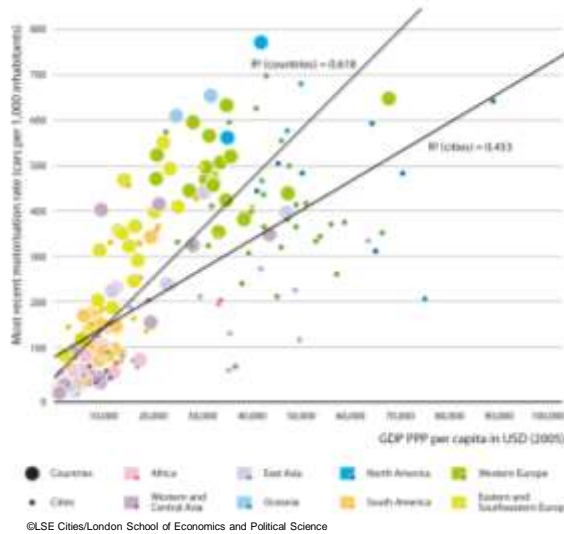


- Large majority of the additional 3 billion people by 2050 will live in Asian and African medium-sized cities.
- Pressures will be greatest where urban and institutional infrastructure is weakest.
- Many of the cities that will be created do not even exist yet
- Many of the ones that do are ill equipped to handle such large scale expansions.

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Cities and Resource Decoupling



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Role of Urban Agriculture in “Decoupling”

- Decoupling means **enhancing the quality of life** while minimizing resource extraction, energy consumption and waste generation and while safeguarding ecosystem services
- Decoupling will depend on how cities are planned and on how city-based **energy, waste, transportation, food, water and sanitation** systems are expanded and/or reconfigured.
- Well planned and managed urban agriculture can play a key role in decoupling, as part of the overall food systems within a **city-region**



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Expanding the range of planning scales

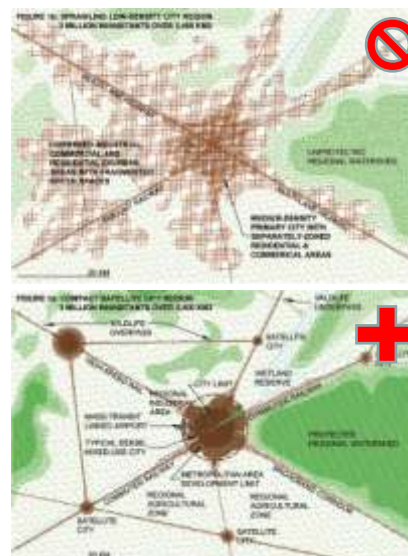
1. National urban policy
2. National/international: corridors (energy, transport, natural)
3. **City-region** (urban patterns for the green economy)
4. City expansion (and infill)
5. Neighbourhood improvement and street building



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Planning at the City-Region Level

- Plan for land mosaic patterns that promote sustainable development
- Protect valuable ecosystems and biodiversity hotspots
- Preserve natural corridors preventing flooding and landslides
- **Plan for agriculture as a key land use feature in the city region**
- Optimize and expand existing network infrastructure
- Promote compact cities and planned extensions
- Construct built environment that uses water and energy efficiently



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Co-benefits of Urban Agriculture (1/4)

- **Circular Urban Metabolism:** Urban agglomeration advantages make viable the collection of agricultural waste for composting and biogas production
- **Low-cost Green Economy Transition:** Urban farming may not require expensive technologies and patented seeds because of its smaller scale and proximity to supply and demand chains (with more variety)



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Co-benefits of Urban Agriculture (2/4)

- **Low-cost Green Economy Transition:** Urban farming may not require expensive technologies and patented seeds because of its smaller scale and proximity to supply and demand chains (with more variety)
- **Open Space Preservation:** Giving economic value to open and 'marginal' space helps prevent development encroachment



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Co-benefits of Urban Agriculture (3/4)

- **Job Security:** Shortened farm-to-table distances improve not only food security but also livelihoods closer to markets
- **Civil Society Capacity:** Informal supply networks require urban food cooperatives, building civil society capacity



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Co-benefits of Urban Agriculture (4/4)

- **Climate Change Mitigation:** Shorter farm-to-table food transportation distances will reduce GHG emissions
- **Climate Change Adaptation:** Peri-urban agricultural areas can function as buffer zones against effects like flooding



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City-Region Planning and Landscape Mosaics



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Integrating Agriculture and Urbanism Caracas, Venezuela



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Integrating Agriculture and Urbanism Durban, South Africa



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Integrating Agriculture and Urbanism Tetouan, Morocco



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Integrating Agriculture and Urbanism Uberlandia, Brazil



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New Additional Theme for 2012-13

With RUAF, integrating urban and peri-urban agriculture and forestry (UPAF) in UN-Habitat's Cities and Climate Change Initiative and partner cities' adaptation and mitigation strategies and programmes

- Selection of cities
- Assessment and packaging of UPAF models
- Development of indicators and tools for quantifying co-benefits
- Review of experiences through workshops
- Organization of policy awareness seminars
- Assisting cities to pilot replicable UPAF models
- Local testing and revision of draft tools
- Publication and dissemination of results

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Key Messages

- Mainstreaming urban agriculture in land use planning and food security agendas
- Further integration in urban policies at various levels
- Quantifying co-benefits: reduced resource use and emissions intensity
- Impact through scaling up from neighbourhood to city-region

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Regional workshop in East Africa – FAO – Food for the Cities
Ensuring resilient food systems in African Cities
Nairobi, 13-14 December 2011
Partner organization : Mazingira Institute



20-22 June 2012 Rio + 20, UNCSD, Brazil
1-7 Sept. 2012 WUF 6, Naples, Italy