

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

Thematic Working Group 1:
Institutionalizing urban food and nutrition and food system at the local level of governance

The group discussion begun with the common understanding that at present time the complexity and dynamic of food systems in urban areas is not reflected within the local authorities. Hence the governance of food systems within growing cities may be affected at efficiency and appropriateness level.

The discussion then naturally followed identifying which areas of action should be considered to enable the local level of governance to institutionalize food systems in urban areas. Six different areas of actions have been therefore identified, all of them considered to be contributing to the institutionalization of urban food systems. And in particular:

1. Knowledge, Capacities, and awareness of stakeholders need to be increased on the main following topics:
 - a. Economic opportunities and benefit for both public and private sector deriving from the proper exploit of integrated production cycles within the systems of production and consumption of food
 - b. Urban agriculture
 - c. Legal framework and guidelines for market transparency and to ensure health standards
 - d. Legal framework and guidelines to ensure health standards
 - e. Options for Treatment of solid waste, and waste water
 - f. Nutrition elated issues (needs, facts, indicators...)
 - g. Experiences shared from other urban areas/cities
2. In order to avoid overlaps and confusion between concerned stakeholders the institutional architecture and the stakeholders framework requires to be investigated and a clear picture should be available for improved planning activities about their:
 - a. Mandate;
 - b. Role, responsibility, and accountability; and
 - c. What are actual linkages with other actors as well as what and where are the missing linkages.
3. Broad spectrum and inter sector policies/plans should be developed addressing the proper linkages and cycles between different economic sector related to food production and distribution;
4. Mechanisms for the inclusion of producers and consumers within the local governance of food systems in urban areas should be developed and made operative;
5. Linkage to National level policies: Guidance on food system should come from a coordination of concerned Ministries, and explicitly those related to Health, Environment, Agriculture and livestock production including aquaculture;
6. Expert agencies should develop tools to profile the Eastern Africa Subregion surveying the state of food security and nutrition in urban areas, including the outline of its causes and consequences.