

Invitation: Friday, 29 July 2016, 2:00 – 4:30 PM

Why Food Matters for Cities – A Youth Perspective



Photo credits: Harlem Grown

Food security and nutrition are key to liveable cities and sustainable urban development. Youth – today's and tomorrow's food growers, consumers and city dwellers – play a critical role in shaping the future of food and cities.

The UN Food Gardens initiative, in partnership with FAO, WFP and IFAD, as well as the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, is organizing a discussion among youth leaders, government officials, experts and UN representatives on challenges and solutions that work for creating sustainable food systems, thriving cities and rural areas, and opportunities for youth.

The event will be attended by youth from all five boroughs of New York City, involved in various community gardens. Held just after the last session of the Preparatory Committee of Habitat III, the event aims to encourage young people to play an active role in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda, to be adopted in October this year. At the same time, it aims to inspire governments to support youth-led solutions to urban and rural food challenges.

29 July 2016, 2:00 – 4:30 PM

Part 1: Welcoming Remarks at the UN Food Gardens (2:00 – 2:45 PM)

Part 2: Discussion in Conference Room 1 (3:00 – 4:30 PM)

The UN Food Gardens is located by the satellite dish; on the day of the event it can be accessed through the doors close to conference room 9, or from the corridor where Café de la Paix is located. When exiting into the library building, make a left entering the SA-1B corridor and exit through the revolving doors to your left.

Programme:

Part 1, 2:00 – 2:45 pm: Welcoming Remarks in the UN Food Gardens

Erika Joergensen, World Food Programme (WFP)

Marianna Kovacs, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Nicole Carta, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Liam Kavanagh, First Deputy Commissioner, New York City Department of Parks and Recreation

Part 2, 3:00 – 4:30 pm: Interactive Discussion in Conference Room 1

Speakers:

Corey Wilkins, GrowNYC Youthmarket

Kadi Ba, Harlem Grown (tbc)

Barbara Turk, New York City's Director of Food Policy

Liam Kavanagh, New York City Department of Parks and Recreation

Fredrick Lee-Ohlsson, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Sweden to the UN

Ephraim Leshala Mminele, DPR, Permanent Mission of South Africa to the UN

Representative of the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the UN (tbc)

Lucas Tavares, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Moderator: Catherine Zanev, UN Food Gardens

About the UN Food Gardens

The UN Food Gardens project aims to transform unused land at the United Nations Headquarters into sustainable food gardens. By integrating small-scale food production into its own landscape, the UN translates global priorities related to increased biodiversity, good land stewardship, sustainable food systems and greener cities into action and leads by example. The first garden was officially opened by the UN Secretary-General in July 2015. A wide variety of edible plants from around the world have since been grown in the garden. UNICEF's and the UN Secretariat's caterers have turned some of the garden produce into super-local, healthy food for UN staff. Native pollinators have returned to the area.

To learn more about the UN Food Gardens initiative, visit www.unfoodgardens.org.

