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## URBAN FOOD ACTION

# Local Food Production and Marketing

Reinforcing the climate resilience  
of short food supply chains for zero  
hunger and improved nutrition

## The issue

Rapid urbanization has fuelled demand for food and basic services. This poses complex challenges for local authorities, who must ensure their constituents have access to nutritious food, clean water, clean air, sustainable energy and green areas and address conflicts of interest related to land use. The burgeoning growth of cities has prompted competition for the very land that provides vital food. A lack of effective urban and territorial development plans is resulting in unsustainable patterns of land use, overcrowded and unhealthy cities and peri-urban areas, and high vulnerability to extreme weather events and other natural disasters.

Meanwhile, cities are among the main contributors to greenhouse gas emissions and have an important role to play in climate-change mitigation and adaptation. Promoting sustainable food production in an urban and peri-urban context, nutritious food outlets and efficient food distribution contributes to the reduction of environmental impacts, while increasing opportunities for inclusive local supply chains and access to nutritious foods.

## The action

The programme aims to reinforce sustainable food systems by promoting the preservation of agricultural land and bolstering short supply chains. The programme takes a city–region food-system approach, focusing on areas surrounding a city and its peri-urban and rural environs, connecting them through food production, processing, distribution and marketing.

Food production and supply will be reshaped in urban and peri-urban areas through (1) sustainable and climate-resilient food production; (2) efficient land-use planning to promote the preservation of agricultural land; (3) short supply chains and efficient food distribution to reduce food miles and carbon footprints; (4) the integration of smallholders, farmers and vulnerable groups across the supply chain, increasing their participation in public procurement markets, short chains and territorial markets.

## The issue in numbers



Over **800 million**  
people worldwide practice urban  
agriculture, it is estimated



**66%**  
of global energy demand and 70%  
of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions stems from cities



**30%**  
of all greenhouse gas emissions stem  
from food production and distribution

## Programme targets



**7**  
cities in seven countries promote  
sustainable agriculture in land-use and  
urban development plans



**7**  
producer/consumer networks in seven cities



**2 100**  
producers adopt more sustainable and  
climate-resilient practices and are better  
linked to markets

## The budget



**USD 6.5 million**



**4 years**



**7 countries**

## Expected results

- Urban and peri-urban agricultural land preserved through land-use planning and natural resource management;
- Increase in urban and peri-urban food production adopting climate-resilient practices;
- Urban and peri-urban producers incentivized through inclusive local supply chains;
- Market spaces protected through public procurement schemes and other mechanisms;
- Food environment improvements in urban and peri-urban areas.

## Geographic focus

The programme will focus on urban and peri-urban areas in countries that have submitted specific requests and/or which have benefited from previous FAO-supported projects in similar areas of work. The countries will be selected from the following: Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Peru, Rwanda, Senegal, Sri Lanka and Zambia.

## In partnership with

In addition to national and local policymakers, civil-society organizations and innovators in sustainable food systems, FAO will collaborate with:

- Local-government networks, such as the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, the C40 Food Systems Network, United Cities and Local Governments, and Rikolto, to promote city-to-city cooperation and knowledge sharing within and among pilot cities; and
- The International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), the RUAF Global Partnership on Sustainable Urban Agriculture and Food Systems, the International Network for Community Supported Agriculture (URGENCE), Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et de Producteurs de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (ROPPA) and La Via Campesina to map markets for healthy and diversified food.



### SDG contribution



## Championing community gardens in Colombia

FAO has been assisting local governments in promoting agricultural programmes in urban and peri-urban areas to meet numerous challenges, including rural–urban migration, food security and climate shocks. In Medellín, Colombia, in 90 local authorities, more than 7,500 families have benefitted from community gardens. FAO has been supporting the departments of Nariño, Antioquia and Boyacá in reforming their public procurement frameworks to enhance collaboration with rural development agencies. Bean producers, many of them victims of Colombia's armed conflict, today supply the public and private markets of the three departments. The positive results there have had a knock-on effect at national level. Colombia is developing a number of political, legislative and governmental initiatives to promote rural–urban linkages through public procurement, and these have been incorporated into Colombia's post-Peace Agreement strategy for Comprehensive Rural Reform.



## Why invest?

Increased investment in this programme will support local production and more sustainable food systems. Opportunities for social equity and inclusiveness in local food systems will also be realized, while measures to ensure environmental sustainability and increased capacity to react to climate shocks will also be put in place. Long-term sustainability and scalability of results are ensured by empowering local stakeholders and proposing context-specific solutions. Investing in strengthening local food systems will also pay off in terms of revitalizing the local economy, while safeguarding the environment, making cities and their surrounding areas more viable and sustainable.

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