



# URBAN AGRICULTURE STAKEHOLDERS' NETWORK CREATION WORKSHOP

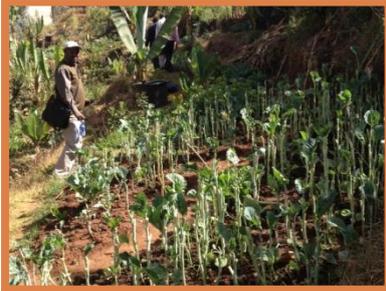
21<sup>ST</sup> - 22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY  
2012

TAITU HOTEL  
ADDIS ABABA



## WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

ADDIS ABABA  
URBAN AGRICULTURE  
CORE PROCESS



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The ‘Urban Agriculture Stakeholders’ Network Creation Workshop’ was organised by the Addis Ababa Urban Agriculture Core Process with the support of by FAO on the 21<sup>st</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2012 in Addis Ababa. Over sixty participants attended. The purpose of the workshop was to bring together different UA stakeholders from the government, international organisations and NGOs to share best practice and explore the possibility and potential of launching an Addis Ababa Urban Agriculture Stakeholders’ Network with a view of sharing knowledge, enhancing coordination and harmonisation approaches. In turn the vision is to support, strengthen and promote UA in Addis Ababa.

The workshop included presentations from representatives of government bodies, international organisations and NGOs. These outlined different themes related to Urban Agriculture (UA) including ongoing projects, lessons learned, opportunities, challenges, environmental protection and the benefits of networks. Throughout the presentations the need for better coordination was emphasised by all stakeholders. The workshop also included site visits to three UA sites in Addis Ababa, followed by group discussions on limitations and challenges; benefits of establishing a network; the roles of different stakeholders in UA; and essential ‘next steps’.

The way forward was discussed during the final plenary discussion carried out at the end of the two-day workshop. The participants concluded that a Addis Ababa UA Stakeholders’ Network is indeed necessary to meet the sector’s need for better direction, improved coordination among stakeholders (avoiding duplication of efforts and gap identification); knowledge-sharing; and harmonisation. A Steering Committee was established made up of representatives of: the Addis Ababa UA Core Process, Selam Children’s Village, USAID Urban Gardens Programme, ENDA Ethiopia, the

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Environment Protection Authority, the Addis Ababa Urban Planning Institute, the Addis Ababa Finance & Economy Bureau, and FAO Ethiopia. The committee was given the task of developing a proposal for the promotion of UA activities in the city, which FAO will seek donors for. FAO will provide Administrative support thought the process.

# CONTENTS

- 1.0 WORKSHOP INTRODUCTION ..... 1
  - 1.1 BACKGROUND TO WORKSHOP ..... 1
    - 1.2 AIMS & OBJECTIVES ..... 1
    - 1.3 AGENDA ..... 2
- 2.0 WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS..... 4
  - 2.1 DAY 1..... 4
    - 2.1.1 *Presentations & Open Discussions* ..... 4
    - 2.2 DAY 2..... 13
      - 2.2.1 *Site Visits* ..... 13
      - 2.2.2 *Group Work*..... 14
- 3.0 WORKSHOP CONCLUSIONS ..... 16
  - 3.1 WAY FORWARD ..... 16
  
- ANNEX 1 ..... 17
  - LIST OF PARTICIPANTS ..... 17

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# 1.0 WORKSHOP INTRODUCTION

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## 1.1 BACKGROUND TO WORKSHOP

Despite Ethiopia's impressive economic performance over recent years, the country's human development measures, although improved, remain unacceptably low. The agriculture sector, critically important to both overall economic performance and food security, has performed strongly over the last decade. However, there is still a need to improve agriculture production and productivity. Food insecurity persists. This, however, is not a problem for rural populations only. Addis Ababa is experiencing a high rate of urbanisation. According to UN-HABITAT, Ethiopia's current urban population of 12 million will triple by 2030, reaching 32 million. This rapid growth will have a major impact on livelihoods, food security and the environment including in Addis Ababa.

Urban Agriculture (UA) has the potential to significantly alleviate these difficulties by improving food security; increasing and diversifying household incomes; and building people's capacity to produce and consume nutritious foods. Sectoral collaboration can not only address challenges to UA, but support and promote its expansion.

The Addis Ababa Urban Agriculture Core Process, with FAO support, held a "Urban Agriculture Stakeholders' Network Creation Workshop" on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2012 at Taitu Hotel, Addis Ababa. Over 60 UA stakeholders attended, including representatives from government agencies, international organizations and NGOs. The workshop presentations addressed UA issues in the Addis Ababa context, including current UA programmes in the city; benefits and challenges; and potentials for UA. Primarily, the workshop provided a platform for stakeholders to determine the relevance of establishing a Addis Ababa UA stakeholders' network and a way forward.

## 1.2 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The objective of the workshop was to bring together different UA stakeholders from the government, international organisation and NGO spheres to discuss UA in Addis Ababa and explore the possibility and potential of launching a Addis Ababa Urban Agriculture Stakeholders' Network. The overall aim was to initiate the formation of such a network, thus enhancing coordination, knowledge-sharing and harmonisation amongst stakeholders, in turn allowing them to collaboratively support, strengthen and promote UA in Addis Ababa.

## 1.3 AGENDA

*Day 1: 21<sup>st</sup> February 2012*

Time	Activity	Presenter/Chair
08:30 – 09:00	Registration	Organising Committee
09:00 – 09:10	Programme Introduction	Ato Yemane Sahlu, Addis Ababa Urban Agriculture Core Process
09:10 – 09:20	Welcome Speech	Ato Alemayehu Taye, Addis Ababa
	Urban	Agriculture Core Process
09:20 – 09:30	Opening Remarks	Ato Taye Challa, Deputy Head, Trade & Industry Development Bureau
09:30 – 09:45	Keynote Address	Mr. Adrian Cullis, DRM Coordinator, FAO
09:45 – 10:15	UA Feeding Cities	Ato Girma Kebede, Private
10:15 – 10:45	Addis Ababa UA Overview	Ato Abebaw Gizaw, Addis Ababa Urban Agriculture Core Process
<i>~ 10:45 – 11:15 TEA BREAK ~</i>		
11:15 – 11:45	School Gardens Experience	W/ro Alem Yalew, USAID Urban
	Gardens	Programme
11:45 – 12:15	UA Experience, Opportunities & Ethiopia	Ato Haymanot Desalegn, ENDA
	Challenges	
12:15 – 12:45	Discussion	Participants
<i>~ 12:45 – 14:00 LUNCH BREAK ~</i>		
14:00 – 14:30	Compost as UA Input and Solid	Ato Waltenege Wogayehu, Association
	of	
	Waste Management Strategy	Ethiopians Educated in Germany
14:30 – 15:00	Integration of UA into	Ato Bayou Tolessa, Addis Ababa
	Environmental Protection	Environmental Protection Agency
<i>~ 15:00 – 15:30 TEA BREAK ~</i>		
15:30 – 16:30	Strengthening UA through	Mr. Adrian Cullis, DRM Coordinator, FAO
	Stakeholders' Networking	
16:30 – 17:00	Discussion	Participants

*Day 2: 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2012*

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Presenter/Chair</b>
08:30 – 12:30	UA Site Visits	Organising Committee
<i>~ 12:30 – 14:00 LUNCH BREAK ~</i>		
14:00 – 15:00	Group Discussion	Participants
<i>~ 15:00 – 15:30 TEA BREAK ~</i>		
15:30 – 16:00	Presentations	Group Representative
16:00 – 16:30	Creation of Network Framework	Participants
16:30 – 16:45	Wrap-up & Closing Remarks	Ato Alemayehu Taye

## 2.0 WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

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### 2.1 DAY 1

#### 2.1.1 PRESENTATIONS & OPEN DISCUSSIONS

The “*Urban Agriculture Stakeholders’ Network Creation Workshop*” opened on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February 2012 at 9:00 with Ato Yemane Sahlu from the Addis Ababa Urban Agriculture Core Process welcoming the 66 participants and introducing the programme for the workshop.

#### *WELCOME SPEECH*

*ATO ALEMAYEHU TAYE, ADDIS ABABA UA CORE PROCESS*

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Ato Alemayehu Taye began his address by welcoming the participants to the workshop and thanking them for attending. During his speech he spoke about the mounting pressures on cities and food security, explaining that rapid urbanisation; ineffective agricultural policies; crippled domestic distribution systems; and rising unemployment have led to food shortages in cities. Consequently, UA has become an effective approach for responding to this problem, playing a significant role in obtaining nutritious foods and sustainable livelihoods for poor communities. The benefits of UA, he said, have long been recognised in the developed world. In Africa, he said, it supports the livelihoods of many urban and peri-urban low income families.

He went on to say that homestead farming (in the form of rearing cattle, sheep and chickens; and growing vegetables in backyards or along river beds) is a traditional urban and peri-urban farming practice in Ethiopia. The products yielded are mainly used for household consumption, but a portion is sometimes sold for added income. Because UA utilises scarce resources such as land and energy efficiently, it is a fundamental survival strategy for low income populations, and is contributing to food security in Addis Ababa.

Ato Alemayehu went on to explain that various studies have indicated that UA has the potential of achieving food security and an improved quality of life for many people in Addis Ababa, and will remain a significant strategy for sustainable livelihoods of the poor. Finally, he invited Ato Taye Challa to officially open the workshop.

## *OPENING REMARKS*

*ATO TAYE CHALLA, DEPUTY HEAD, ADDIS ABABA CITY TRADE & INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BUREAU*

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Ato Taye Challa opened the workshop by expressing his concern that the theme for the workshop – namely, creating a UA network among stakeholders in Addis Ababa – is a timely theme to discuss, deserving serious attention. He explained that increased population pressure in coming years will result in an increased demand for agricultural products. In this regard, UA can make a significant contribution towards food security; nutrition; and income diversification, as well as helping vulnerable groups such as orphans, women, disabled people and the elderly. One of the great global challenges over the next decade, he said, will be to preserve natural resources while at the same time producing sufficient amounts of food to satisfy the demands of a growing population, and an increasingly urban one at that – by 2025 60% of the global population is expected to live in cities.

Ato Taye explained that in order to cope with these pressures, the Addis Ababa administration has a UA department under the Trade & Industry Development Bureau, the Addis Ababa Urban Agriculture Core Process, which undertakes and overlooks UA activities in the city. Addis Ababa's rapid urbanisation has resulted in a dramatic increase in the demand for agricultural products. In this regard, the UA Core Process is fully committed to promoting sustainable food security, increasing incomes of UA farmers, creating employment opportunities and playing an influential role in the city's natural development.

He affirmed his belief that this kind of workshop will encourage integration among UA stakeholders which, together with other activities, will strengthen the existing development. It will also help the public recognise UA's tremendous role in the city's economy, as well as shape UA policy, providing strategy and guidance, and help determine priorities in the sector. He asserted that this is a remarkable achievement for Addis Ababa and, by consequence, other Ethiopian cities. He invited the participants to contribute their valuable suggestions, to be actively involved in the sector and to work together.

## *KEYNOTE ADDRESS*

*MR. ADRIAN CULLIS, DRM COORDINATOR, FAO*

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Mr. Adrian Cullis' keynote address focused on questions about the future for Urban Agriculture in Addis Ababa. He began by stating that Ethiopia is too often in the international media and that sadly Ethiopia has become synonymous with drought and hunger – last year's La Niña episode, which brought drought to the southern rangelands, made headlines around the globe. Much less is however said about Ethiopia's impressive economic growth. Ethiopia aims to become a middle-income country by 2025. Rapid

urbanisation and an increased global population will result in the need for more food production.

Mr. Cullis explained that farming systems around the world are under pressure and stressed the importance of new technologies and approaches including re-greening deserts. The world is seeing a transition in what we eat and how we secure that food. UA is being employed more and more as a response to the changes occurring in the global village.

The question of what Addis Ababa will look like in 2050 was posed: Will it be a concrete jungle or have green spaces for recreation? How will the city procure its food? Mr. Cullis expressed his appreciation for the workshop, which he said was very timely and important. It is an opening to sharing best practice and opportunities in Addis Ababa, and lay the foundations for a network, which will include the participants of the workshop. The participants, he said, will be able to drive and shape the agenda for UA in Addis Ababa.

### *PRESENTATION: UA FEEDING CITIES*

*ATO GIRMA KEBEDE, PRIVATE*

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Ato Girma Kebede's presentation focused on the contextualisation of UA – what it is, why it is needed, and the benefits it brings. He began by outlining the problems brought on by rapid urbanisation taking place today: Growing cities cannot keep pace with their increasing populations, who in turn demand more food, natural resources, services and employment; and produce too much waste. Moreover, these challenges will only intensify as the current 50% of the global population living in cities is expected to reach 65% by 2025. Feeding people in cities will place a severe strain on natural resources such as land, water and air, damaging them.

Cities dependent on imported food and looking to the future are now reviving UA in order to meet food shortages locally. Ato Girma defined UA as agricultural activity taking place “within (urban) or on the fringe (peri-urban) of a town, city or metropolis.” UA, he added, is “an industry which grows or raises, processes and distributes a diversity of food and non-food products; (re)using largely human and material resources, products and services found in and around the urban area; and in turn supplying the products to that urban area.”

“What benefits does UA bring?” he asked. Why do people get involved in UA? Ato Girma explained that UA significantly contributes to food security: It not only improves the availability of food in urban areas, but urban dwellers' access to it. Moreover, it improves access to quality foods. It thus alleviates nutritional deficiencies. Urban dwellers carry out homestead production for personal consumption of products; income augmentation; income or asset diversification; and to counter the effects of economic crises, food inflation, conflict or poor weather.

Many policy makers have recognised the opportunities offered by UA and promoted it in their countries. Cities such as Kinshasa, Dar es Salaam, Maputo and Addis Ababa have made provisions for UA in their cities' master plans. Ato Girma ended his presentation by noting that policy makers around the globe should do the same, pushing and strengthening UA activities.

### *PRESENTATION: ADDIS ABABA UA OVERVIEW*

#### *ATO ABEBAW GIZAW, ADDIS ABABA URBAN AGRICULTURE CORE PROCESS*

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The presentation given by Ato Abebaw centred, as indicated by the title of the presentation, on an overview of UA activities in Addis Ababa. He began by outlining the activities of the Addis Ababa Urban Agriculture Core Process, which is organised under the city's Administration Trade & Industry Development Bureau. The organisational structure is divided into agriculture development versions and multiplication centres, and extends to sub-city and woreda level.

Ato Abebaw outlined the types of services the Addis Ababa UA Core Process offers UA practitioners in the city in order to improve UA production and productivity. These include: provision of technical support; introduction and training of new technologies; input provision and facilitation; veterinary services; artificial insemination services; competence certification services; and meat & meat production quality/hygiene control.

The types of UA activities occurring in the city were then outlined: 20.4% of Addis Ababa's 54 000 ha of land is used for UA. UA is dominated by mixed type farming in Addis Ababa and includes:

- Crop production: cereal production utilising 14.3% of Addis Ababa's land; and horticulture production utilising 0.6% of the land. More than 3 186 households undertake crop production, including cereals, pulses, oil crops and horticultural crops. Mushroom and silk production are also carried out.
- Livestock production (mainly cattle and poultry) utilising 5.5% of the land for grazing. Ato Abebaw asserted that there are an estimated 5 000 urban dairy farmers in Addis Ababa. This particular sector accounts for the livelihoods of 30 000 people in Addis Ababa. Women are the main actors in urban dairy farming. Honey production is also carried out.

UA significantly contributes to Addis Ababa's food supply – specifically, dairy farmers in Addis Ababa supply 60%-70% of the milk in the city. 30% of the vegetables found in the city are grown in the city (60%-70% of leafy vegetables). 40%-50% of eggs in Addis Ababa come from UA.

With regards to policy, Ato Abebaw explained that the Addis Ababa UA Core Process, in collaboration with USAID, has been preparing UA policy and strategy, considering the following UA key issues: access to land; access to water; access to support

services; health and environmental issues; enhancing legal framework and awareness; institutional framework for supporting UA; gender and social issues; and capacity building.

Ato Abebaw rounded off his presentation by outlining challenges to UA, and then by indicating that there are ample opportunities to strengthen and expand UA activities in the city and reap its benefits. In this regard, he suggested a way forwards, which included: UA awareness-creation at the city administration level; a government-led UA strategic plan; investment into UA research and extension; dissemination of good practice and new technologies; provision of inputs and training; introduction of waste water treatment technologies; formation of a dairy zone; and coordination amongst UA stakeholders.

### *PRESENTATION: USAID SCHOOL GARDENS EXPERIENCE*

*W/ro ALEM YALEW, USAID URBAN GARDENS PROGRAMME*

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W/ro Alem Yalew presented on the USAID School Garden Experience under their Urban Gardens Programme. She shared lessons learnt from the experience. W/ro Alem explained that under the School Garden project, USAID partnered with GOs, NGOs and school clubs to establish urban gardens in 22 schools (addressing 686 students) in Addis Ababa, to be managed by the students. Training was provided with health & nutrition, water & environment, and sustainable livelihoods issues being integrated into the programme.

She explained that the programme contributed to: social wellbeing (increased self-esteem, community building, school attendance); increased awareness of environmental issues (new irrigation technologies to save water, use of household waste for compost); life skill development (hands-on experience); and academic understanding (awareness of environmental issues, sense of pride from accomplishments, learning about savings and loans).

The key challenges to the project, W/ro Alem said, were the lack of consistent water access and availability; high cost of municipal water; land scarcity; low commitment of school communities; low attendance during certain some periods (for example, during exam times); and patience (students rather work somewhere where, unlike UA, they get immediate returns).

Lastly, W/ro Alem shared the lessons learnt. She noted that commitment from the school principal and the students' families is vital to the successful continuation of the gardens. Also, the gardens must be managed by the students themselves for best results. Knowledge and technologies are easily transferred through UA-themed school/student contests (with prizes for the winners). Lastly, linkages made with GOs and NGOs provide a strong support system to these programmes.

## *PRESENTATION: UA EXPERIENCE, OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES*

*ATO HAYMANOT DESALEGN, ENDA ETHIOPIA*

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The presentation given by Ato Haymanot Desalegn illustrated ENDA Ethiopia's experience in UA, their first UA project commencing in 2002 and targeting the urban poor in 3 sub-cities of Addis Ababa. The programme undertook bio-intensive gardening and small-scale dairy production, and involved the provision of training, start-up capital and creation of public awareness. Notable results were achieved, including improved health and nutrition of target groups; self-employment opportunities; increase and diversification of income for poor households; empowerment (increased self-confidence among target groups); enhancement of UA public awareness; and environmental protection.

Having recognised the livelihood benefits experienced by the target groups, ENDA Ethiopia next planned a project linking UA to HIV/AIDS infected/affected households. The project beneficiaries were households and youth groups infected/affected by HIV/AIDS in 8 sub-cities of Addis Ababa, the aim being to improve their nutrition and income levels. This second project took place between 2006-2011. Activities consisted of homestead vegetable farming, poultry farming, and small-scale sheep fattening, and involved technical and nutrition training; provision of inputs; and supervision and technical support. The same achievements as above were recorded, as well as social inclusion, asset building and skills transfer.

Ato Haymanot noted that through these projects ENDA Ethiopia has identified several opportunities for strengthening UA activities in Addis Ababa, including: Policy support (introduction of UA policy); increased involvement from different actors; use of Addis Ababa's organic waste for compost preparation; among others. ENDA Ethiopia's major challenges during the projects were identified as being: Lack of awareness at different levels; access to land; water availability and cost; aid dependency (dependency on handouts as these programmes are, for now, mainly run by NGOs or international organisations); quality and availability of seeds; and lack of coordination amongst stakeholders.

The main lessons learnt, Ato Haymanot explained, were that providing a complete package in terms of a project achieves better results. Close follow-up, technical supervision and support at start-up is essential. In this regard, capacity building is critical (leadership for group activities, financial management, communication and the like). Moreover, UA training should also target dependants. Integration with other IG activities/formation of savings and credit groups sustains the initiative. Lastly, water conservation techniques, such as the use of recycled water, should be further assessed.

## *OPEN DISCUSSION*

*QUESTION & ANSWER PANEL, LED BY MR. ADRIAN CULLIS*

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Once the morning presentations were concluded, the floor was opened for questions. Concerns were raised about the safety of river water usage for UA, as these are highly polluted in Addis Ababa. Indeed pollution in Addis Ababa in general (water, air, land) was a main concern – “how does Addis Ababa’s high pollution level affect UA? If nothing is done about pollution in the city, how can UA be sustainable here?” In this regard the presenters communicated the same concerns and expressed the need to collaborate with different bodies to address this sizeable problem.

Land issues were also a main concern: “How much area is allocated to green areas in the city plan? Can green areas be used for UA, and if so, how much?” Questions about land holding and tenure security were also raised. The panel responded that the city plan is currently being revised. As for land tenure security, they agreed that it is an obstacle to UA which needs further attention.

Finally, a question was raised about the linkage, if any, between UA and Ethiopia’s *Growth & Transformation Plan (GTP)* and the *Agricultural Sector Policy and Investment Framework (PIF)*, which is structured around 4 pillars. “Activities under UA are targeted towards which PIF pillar?” Concern was expressed in terms of the need to align UA with a core policy programme and the need to create some sort of linkage with the GTP or PIF. The panel responded by explaining that even though UA is not directly mentioned in the GTP or PIF, it is nonetheless in line with these policy documents. The PIF’s 4 pillars are based on the improvement of productivity and production; agricultural commercialisation and agro-industrial development; reduction in degradation and improvement in productivity of natural resources; and the achievement of universal food security and protection of vulnerable households from natural disasters. UA is therefore aligned to the PIF, and the 4<sup>th</sup> pillar in particular.

## *PRESENTATION: COMPOST AS UA INPUT & SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY*

*ATO WALTENIGUS WEGAYEHU, ASSOCIATION OF ETHIOPIANS EDUCATED IN GERMANY (AEEG)*

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Following the lunch break, Ato Waltenigues Wegayehu walked the participants through the project carried about by the Association of Ethiopians Educated in Germany (AEEG)’s on compost and waste management. The project, which was launched in 2009, aimed to: demonstrate the production of compost from organic solid waste and its environmental and economical value; characterizing compost in terms of nutrient value and content of hazardous substances; introducing source-separated waste collection and waste reduction; raise awareness and encourage knowledge transfer; implement process

monitoring, quality assurance and laboratory protocol; support the benefit of compost application through scientific research; assure the marketing opportunities of compost.

The aerobic composting method was adopted for the project (from Guinea). A two-day training programme was delivered to 70 selected households and 30 participants from 3 pre-waste collectors associations. The input material used for the project was both household and market waste. Ato Waltenigus said the project was a success, showing that source-separation is possible if the community is trained in and has information on the subject. It however needs close supervision and incentives for it to be sustainable.

The presenter then linked solid waste management to UA, showing that a school gardening programme used the compost produced for UA. Composting he said, can be used as a UA input, improving production and productivity, and thus increasing food supply and/or income to the family/community. Composting also creates job opportunities and income generation if the fertiliser is sold. The AEEG plans on scaling-up the initiative in order to target increasingly more beneficiaries.

### *PRESENTATION: INTEGRATION OF UA INTO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION*

*ATO BAYOU TOLESSA, ADDIS ABABA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY*

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Ato Bayou Tolessa begun by asserting that UA must be integrated with Environmental Protection. “Concepts of conservation, sustainability and protection of natural resources must be taken into consideration when planning UA activities,” he said. Scientists have long stressed that if environmental deterrents continue at present rates, irreversible damage to ecological cycles will occur. Fundamental changes are needed: The global village must devise new strategies that mesh environmental protection with economic growth.

Ato Bayou then shifted his focus to Addis Ababa. According to the Addis Ababa’s master plan, the city’s green frame is made up of 4 components: green along the river banks; forest and woodlands; UA; and parks. There are, however, many informal settlements carrying out UA. The city is also highly polluted and suffers from environmental degradation. One of the major causes is discharge from factories and hospitals flowing directly into rivers. UA, if not carried out suitably, can contribute to pollution and environmental degradation as well. Therefore, a regulating mechanism should be developed to make the sector environmentally friendly.

He emphasised that environmental impact assessments are essential before carrying out UA. Moreover, licences from the Addis Ababa Environmental Protection Agency must be obtained before undertaking UA activities. In this regard, implementation monitoring should be carried out in order to ensure compliance. Overall, a system must be put in place which can guide sustainable UA development in the city in a way which is

environmentally friendly. Developing such a policy document with a delineated base map should be a priority for the City Government of Addis Ababa, he said. Such a document would aid the Addis Ababa AU Core Process in identifying informal activity and carry out gap analysis (in turn identifying intervention areas). However, lack of awareness, information and coordination is a major obstacle, he said.

### *STRENGTHENING UA THROUGH STAKEHOLDERS' NETWORKING*

*MR. ADRIAN CULLIS, DRM COORDINATOR, FAO*

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Mr. Cullis' presentation provided insight into the benefits which are most likely to be felt from the formation of a UA Stakeholders' Network. He began by noting that in recent years Ethiopia has developed a strong economic growth and agriculture sector policy environment which has resulted in the release of high quality policy documents. The Government's over-arching economic policy is the *Growth and Transformation Plan 2010-2014* while in the agriculture sector the *Policy Investment Framework 2010-2020* is the key document. Within the latter document the focus is primarily on rural food production and food security in three areas: *adequate* and *inadequate moisture* and in *pastoral areas*.

It is recognized at almost all policy levels in sub-Saharan Africa that Africa's once heavily rural population is transforming to a more nuanced balance between rural and urban and that urban areas can be expected to grow rapidly during the period to 2025, the date that Ethiopia intends to achieve middle income status. In order to support this process and to ensure that Ethiopia adequately prepares for increased numbers of people living in its cities it is important that as much as possible food that can be grown locally is produced in a way that does not compromise the health of the producers, consumers or indeed livestock. Mr. Cullis explained that to do this it is important that evidence-based promising and best practice is shared and that information and lessons are quickly and effectively shared. It is also important that urban and peri-urban agriculture initiatives are appropriately coordinated in order to avoid duplication and inefficient use of resources. Finally, it is important that emerging best practice is disseminated and efforts are made to harmonise future investment in order that progress is effectively disseminated and taken to scale.

In order to ensure rapid progress is made in each of these three areas: *information sharing*, *coordination* and *harmonisation* it will be necessary for the Government to take a lead. Learning from other Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Trade & Industry successes, one way forward would be to establish a network that would be able to champion urban and peri-urban agriculture with municipalities and town administrations. Mr. Cullis concluded by expressing his belief that it would therefore be appropriate for the issue of a network to be discussed in the planned discussion sessions, perhaps resulting in a recommendation to the Urban Agriculture Core Process.

## *OPEN DISCUSSION*

*QUESTION & ANSWER PANEL, LED BY DR. DEMISSIE G/MICHAEL*

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A second discussion session was held at the end of day 1, following the afternoon's presentations. Questions were raised about licensing and regulations – Who is responsible for issuing licences for UA? Is there a set of rules and regulations? If so, who has set these? Is there a guide to UA in Addis Ababa? Has UA been considered in the city master plan, and how? The panel responded by explaining that the Environmental Protection Agency has a set of regulations and is responsible for issuing licences in order to ensure that UA activities being carried out in the city are environmentally friendly. At the same time it was pointed out that the Addis Ababa Beautification, Parks & Ceremony Development and Administration Agency also has a set of guidelines directing UA. With regards to the city's master plan, it was stated that the master plan is currently being revised, and therefore it is not yet clear how UA will be guided by it. Overall, it became clear that a cohesive guideline (or set of “rules and regulations”) should be developed across all bodies so as to have a clear and consistent guide to the UA sector.

A question was raised about the efforts made by the AEEG to replicate their solid waste management project in response to declining use of compost. Ato Waltenigus responded that compost use is in fact not declining. The same was confirmed by the Selam Children's Village representative, who explained that the division which produces and sells compost has no lack of customers. With regards to replicating the AEEG project in other areas, Ato Waltenigus explained that securing funding for other projects is problematic, and that a possible solution would be for the sub-city to provide funding to undertake the project in their respective sub-cities.

## 2.2 DAY 2

### 2.2.1 SITE VISITS

During the morning session of Day 2, the workshop participants visited three UA sites. The first two sites demonstrated UA projects implemented by Common Vision for Development (CVDA). The project of the third site was implemented by Progress Integrated Community Development Organisation (PICDO).

#### *SITE VISIT 1 & 2*

##### *COMMON VISION ETHIOPIA FOR DEVELOPMENT (CVDA)*

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The first site visit was at the private house of a CVDA beneficiary where homestead farming is carried out, including dairy and poultry farming. The beneficiary walked the participants through his UA farming activities, explaining how with CVDA support he successfully runs a UA poultry and dairy farm on an appreciably small piece of land, which is his sole income.

The second site was a multi-purpose communal garden of 2.5 ha managed by a number of women, growing vegetables, medicinal plants and fruit trees. The site is supported by the CVDA project entitled “Introducing Nutrition Organic Garden for HIV/AIDS Affected and Infected Women and OVC”, funded by USAID Urban Garden Program and targeting 207 beneficiaries, of which 90% are women. The land was previously used as a waste dumping site. It was highly degraded with only 20cm soil depth and with slopes ranging between 45-70%, and was thus thought to be unusable for UA. However, the project brought multiple positive outcomes, namely: improved nutrition (balanced diet), source of income (ETB150/month/beneficiary); reduced stigma and discrimination; diminishing anxiety of people living with HIV/AIDS; improved sanitation of the area resulting in a decrease in communicable disease; improved ecology of the area through soil and water conservation practices and vegetation cover; and the rehabilitation of disintegrated families. On-farm training for the target group was carried out in the year 2006/2007 – the existence of the garden today indicates its sustainability. The UA garden has become a model for the community at large and backyard gardens have become common in the target area.

### *SITE VISIT 3*

#### *PROGRESS INTEGRATED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION (PICDO)*

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The workshop participants then visited PICDO's school garden, office container garden and beef fattening project, serving over 130 beneficiaries. PICDO's objectives in carrying out these activities are to improve urban food security, improve nutrition, improve income opportunities, and introduce and transfer new technologies and skills. PICDO has provided technical and financial support to these UA activities. The project has resulted in several benefits for the beneficiaries and their families, including improved food security; improved nutrition; improved financial situation; knowledge and skill transfer; social inclusion; improved living environment; empowerment; business skills development; and promotion of a working culture.

### **2.2.2 GROUP WORK**

Following the morning's site visits, the participants were divided into three groups, and each group was asked to reflect on the following four subjects: limitations and challenges to UA in Addis Ababa; benefits of establishing a network; the roles of different stakeholders in Addis Ababa UA; and suggestions on essential 'next steps' and the way forward. The following were the main ideas presented by the groups on the four topics:

#### *LIMITATIONS & CHALLENGES*

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The main limitations and challenges identified by all groups were: lack of awareness at all levels; limited access to resources (land, water, funds and inputs such as tools and seeds); poor technical capacity; absence of a policy framework; and poor coordination amongst stakeholders. Group 3 also identified pollution as a major challenge.

#### *BENEFITS OF ESTABLISHING A NETWORK*

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All groups identified the establishment of a network as providing significant solutions to the identified limitations and challenges. The main idea was that the establishment of a network would result in the formation of a system with high levels of collaboration and coordination amongst stakeholders. As such, the network would push for improved knowledge-sharing; awareness at all levels; reduction in resource duplication; the development of a policy framework and implementation guidelines; and generally strengthen the UA movement in Addis Ababa.

## *THE ROLES OF DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS*

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Subsequently, the roles of different stakeholders were discussed. The government was mainly seen as the chief actor for the development of a policy framework. It was also seen as the main facilitator for creating a conducive environment by creating links with research institutions; providing technical assistance and inputs; and playing a lead role in coordinating the stakeholders. NGOs were seen as supporting the sector in accordance with government policy. More importantly, they were seen as being the ones to provide information and training on new technologies and best practice. Lastly, the role of the private sector was discussed. The private sector was seen as providing investment into the sector, creating market linkages and promoting a market for UA products. It was also seen as being able to provide the sector with inputs such as seeds and compost.

## *NEXT STEPS*

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The key 'next steps' identified were the following: set up a committee made up of key UA stakeholders; develop ToRs for the network; and define common concerns and objectives.

## 3.0 CONCLUSIONS

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An open discussion followed the group work and group presentations. It was widely agreed that UA in Addis Ababa needs better direction and coordination. A network would have great potential for providing such direction and coordination, as well as alleviating existing challenges such as lack of a policy framework, resource duplication, and the like. The participants concluded that a Addis Ababa UA Stakeholders' Network is indeed necessary to: *(a)* meet the sector's need for better and clear direction; *(b)* improve coordination among stakeholders (avoiding duplication of efforts and gap identification); *(c)* enhance knowledge-sharing; *(d)* create harmonisation amongst stakeholders; and *(e)* push for the development of a policy framework.

### 3.1 WAY FORWARD

Finally, the way forward was discussed. A network was established at the workshop, the members of which consist all of the participants. The participants decided a steering committee should be established, which would guide the process of creating a Addis Ababa Urban Agriculture Stakeholders' Network. A Steering Committee was established made up of representatives of: the Addis Ababa UA Core Process, Selam Children's Village, USAID Urban Gardens Programme, ENDA Ethiopia, the Environment Protection Authority, the Addis Ababa Urban Planning Institute, the Addis Ababa Finance & Economy Bureau, and FAO Ethiopia. The committee was given the task of developing a proposal for the promotion of UA activities in the city, which FAO will seek donors for. FAO will provide Administrative support thought the process.

# ANNEX 1

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