



# “Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture”

*(Home and School Gardens)*

Jethro Greene,  
Chief Coordinator



## Caribbean Farmers Network

[cafancaribbean@gmail.com](mailto:cafancaribbean@gmail.com)

[www.caribbeanfarmers.org](http://www.caribbeanfarmers.org)

# About CaFAN

**CaFAN** (Caribbean Farmers Network inc.) has been established since 2002 as a regional network of Farmers Organizations (FO) within the Caribbean region, with a mandate to represent farmers regionally.

## **Key Features of CaFAN:**

- 500,000 Farmers in over 15 Countries
- Unique Farmers Network
- Unifying Network
- Active Communication Channels
- A Culture of Sharing & Capacity Building
- A Culture of Youth Succession
- A Culture of ACTION

In 2006, the Eastern Caribbean Trading Agriculture and Development Organisation (ECTAD) became its Secretariat, led by Chief Coordinator, Mr. Jethro Greene.



Focus Crops: Roots and Tubers

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# CaFAN Approach to UPA

CaFAN sees Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture as complimentary with rural agriculture. We believe it is important that agriculture and food security not only be placed in the hands of farmers and farmers organisations, but the entire population.

To change the image of agriculture, CaFAN approach is to develop an appreciation for agriculture starting at pre-school levels by promoting the link between agriculture, health and nutrition.



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# CaFAN's supporting Programs

CaFAN has embarked on supporting programs such as:

1. The encouragement of school garden programmes
2. The encouragement of home gardens

*Families have been encouraged to grow food and to show how food is connecting to agriculture. This is being encouraged this within the urban and rural areas to widen awareness of food and nutrition security.*



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# Secondary and Primary school students involved in school gardens



# Home Garden



# Potential for Development of the UPA in the Caribbean.

1. Increase in Rural-Urban drift (55-65%) of persons living in urban areas.
2. A lack of structure and organization in relation to UPA.
3. The incorporation of UPA into national and regional food program (Plan).
4. Shared experience from Cuba and other countries in the region.



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# Opportunities for supporting UPA

1. Income generating;
2. More direct access to fresh products cutting down on preservatives;
3. It can utilize local organic matter and recycle;
4. Use of inputs is minimized;
5. Crops are grown that can be readily utilized in homes;
6. It provides an opportunity to teach children how to plant foods and show how the food is connected to agriculture;
7. To give us an opportunity to show how healthy food production and consumption can be used to fight non-communicable diseases;
8. It can stagger production so that food can be grown all year round; and
9. It encourage school garden programmes to incorporate the products into school feeding programmes;



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# Main Challenges for UPA

The main critical issues to deal with are:

1. Pest and diseases issues;
2. Health and safety issues; and
3. Use of pesticides and organic matter



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# Conclusion

1. The future of the agricultural sector lies in the hands of youthful energies guided by tested experience and wisdom.
2. The UPA must be seen as a part of the solution to guarantee food and nutrition security in the region.
3. Agriculture must not be left in the hands of farmers and farmers organisations. Each member of the population have a role to play.
4. Supporting UPA is supporting consumption of locally grown foods reducing the food import bill



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## Recommendation

1. Develop “do-it-yourself” manuals for persons interested in doing home gardens
2. Develop home garden tech-packs
3. Create a link between home garden and community shops
4. The importance of agriculture and UPA promotion in Schools throughout the Caribbean.
5. Inclusion of the concept of the UPA in countries national and regional food program (plan).
6. That studies be done in the region to asserting the shift in rural urban-drift.



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THANK YOU!



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