



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

development
planning
unit



INTEGRATING FOOD INTO URBAN PLANNING

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTION

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Bartlett Development Planning Unit (DPU) of the University College London have agreed to collaborate on the development of a book on **Integrating food into urban planning**. In the context of this initiative both institutions are linking up their efforts with those of expert based networks, including RUAF-Foundation, International network of Resource Centres on Urban Agriculture and Food Security.

Urban food security and food systems are receiving a growing attention world-wide, however the issue of food and urban planning is insufficiently covered by existing literature. How food is produced, processed and distributed, and how local food systems complement rural agriculture are issues that relate closely to urban planning, which can be either an opportunity to better feed cities or an obstacle to making food systems work sustainably.

While literature on this topic is limited, and there exist very few planning manuals that properly consider food-planning and the integration of local and non-local food systems, which may be part of formal and/or informal food systems, some cities and regions have made huge progress over recent years. However, their practices have not been made visible to a wide audience, and the reflections on their limits and successes deserve greater attention. This book aims to address the gap.

The call is open to a wide range of planning approaches and traditions, be it strategic planning, sectoral, inter-sectoral, or spatial planning. One of the objectives of the call is precisely to make visible and reflect upon the various ways food systems planning links up with different planning practices.

Urban planners and local and regional authorities, who have been traditionally less engaged in food related issues, are now asked to take a central and active part in mainstreaming food into urban planning. The intention of this book is precisely to bring to the fore not only experiences but some of the key issues that need to be addressed, such as land-planning and planning local food distribution that deals with preserving and delineating new spaces for food markets, food fairs or street trading in the city as a whole. As a result, the target audience of the book is decision-makers, local government staff, and planners working, or potentially working, on food-related issues. At the same time the book should be useful for planners in general and broaden their knowledge. The book should be conceptual but also applied and useful for 'doers' primarily town planners, decision makers and actors involved at local and regional levels.

The overall objective of the book is to develop an approach to mainstreaming food systems, into urban planning, informed by various municipal experiences from across the global North and South.

THEMATIC FOCUS OF THE CALL

Through this call, FAO and DPU welcome conceptual and practical contributions from researchers, experts, urban practitioners or local decision makers on successful experiences and case studies related to the integration of food into urban planning. Even if food implies a multi-scalar perspective from global to local, the call focuses primarily on the regional down to metropolitan level, as well as municipal and intra-

municipal issues.

Contributions should fall under one of the following strands:

Strand 1. City based narratives: How Regions, cities or neighborhoods plan their food systems. Learning from experience

Contributions are expected to be written in a narrative style and should address wherever possible: the process of planning and the role of the different actors; the technical and legal documents that resulted from the process; the outcomes these planning exercises and their impact; key issues that should be addressed for successfully integrating food into planning; and lessons learned from the experience.

Experiences could include:

- Integrated food planning approaches.
- Planning local food systems (including urban and peri-urban productive areas)
- Multi-scalar regional planning for food self-sufficiency.
- Food strategies and their link to regional and local government planning.
- Planning systems supporting food (i.e. local and healthy food)

Strand 2. Key issues to consider to Integrate successfully food into urban planning

Given the limited length of the papers, contributors are invited to focus only on one key issue, with the possibility of link it up with others that will be addressed in only a secondary way. At the same time they could be illustrated by experiences from different cities, regions and neighbourhoods.

Examples of key issues to integrate successfully food into urban planning are listed below and are far from being limitative:

- Land planning for local food system (production, storage and transformation, markets and distribution, and food waste management).
- Planning food distribution (markets, fairs and street trading) addressing, from a planning prospective: i) informal and formal distribution systems; ii) informal food distribution activities and their connection with the formal market; iii) food access (including healthy food access) in remote and slum areas.
- Planning as a tool to improve food accessibility, including mobility and food transportation.
- Planning for food waste reduction, reuse and recycling, including the concept of urban metabolism
- Food related income-generating activities
- Multi-stakeholders and participatory planning methods for integrating food into urban planning.

Submission deadlines and guidelines for the call

Deadline for submission of 300 to 500 words abstract: November 30 2015.

Notification of selection potential papers: December 15 2015

Deadline for submission of full contribution: February 15 2016.

Notification of outcome: February 28 2016.

Contributions are expected to contain between 3000 and 5000 words, and should be written in a non-technical, simple, clear and concise manner. Inclusion of maps and photographs with captions is needed. Final texts should be submitted in English and will be published in electronic format as an *ebook* and possibly printed as a book, as some publishers have already shown interest. All final papers are subjected to an internal clearance process by FAO.

Abstracts and full papers should be sent through email to MUFN@fao.org, cecilia.marocchino@fao.org and y.cabannes@ucl.ac.uk