

CITIES FARMING FOR THE FUTURE



Multi stakeholder policy formulation
and action planning on urban
agriculture in developing countries

OVERVIEW

- What is RUAF and what do we do ?
- Multi-stakeholder strategic action planning on urban agriculture: the case of Bulawayo (Zimbabwe) and Rosario (Argentina)
- Constraints encountered and new challenges for policy formulation

RUAF FOUNDATION

- International network of 8 **R**esource centers on **U**rban **A**griculture and **F**ood security
- Active in 20 cities in 17 countries
- RUAF focus is “pro poor”, capacity development, policy influencing



The RUA Foundation-its programmes

Cities Farming for the Future (05-08)- In 20 cities:

- Established a Multi-stakeholder Forum; Analysis of urban agricultural, actual policies and regulations
- Joint Policy (re-)formulation and Action planning; Integration of urban agriculture in land use planning, institutional programmes and budgets

From Seed to Table (09-10)- In 18 cities:

- Strengthening (poor) urban producer groups
- Enhancing their capacity to innovate their production systems; Stimulating direct marketing of fresh or processed products (mainly organic)
- Enhancing access to local financing

Why do local and national governments support urban agriculture?

Urban agriculture can contribute to answering important urban challenges:

- Growing urban poverty and social exclusion (“urbanization of poverty”)
- Growing food insecurity in cities (nutritious food more difficult to access for urban poor; food crisis hits especially the urban poor)
- Growing need for more resilient cities (to mitigate climate change and reduce the “foot/d-print” of cities)

THREE POLICY PERSPECTIVES ON URBAN AGRICULTURE:

1. The social perspective (inclusive city)
2. The economic perspective (productive city)
3. The ecological perspective (healthy city)

ECOLOGICAL

(Environmental Healthy City)

Multi-functional urban agriculture

- Urban Greening
- Recreation
- Productive Use of Urban Wastes
- Reduction Ecological Footprint
- Improved Urban Micro-climate
- Management of Landscape and Biodiversity

SOCIAL

(Inclusive City)

Subsistence oriented urban agriculture

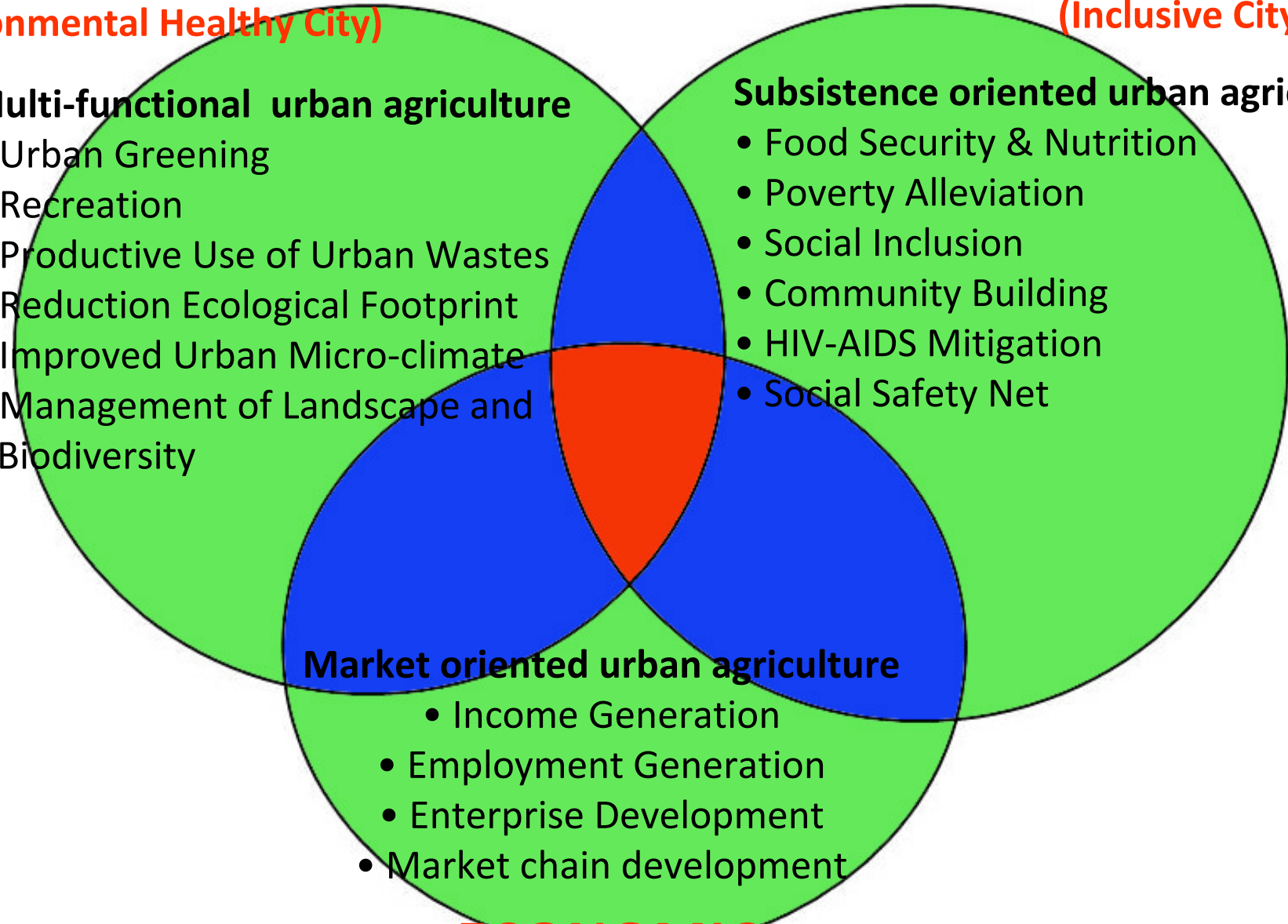
- Food Security & Nutrition
- Poverty Alleviation
- Social Inclusion
- Community Building
- HIV-AIDS Mitigation
- Social Safety Net

Market oriented urban agriculture

- Income Generation
- Employment Generation
- Enterprise Development
- Market chain development

ECONOMIC

(Productive City)



Case BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe

- 1,4 million inhabitants
- Unemployment level at 80%
- Poverty around 60% of the population



- Policy awareness seminar
- Establishment of the Bulawayo Urban Agriculture Forum (multi- stakeholder) and the Municipal Interdepartmental committee on UPA
- Forum members received intensive training
- Situation analysis: review existing policies and regulations, mapping vacant open spaces; SWOT analysis existing urban farming systems



- Strategic Action planning (committees)
- BUAF Policy Formulation Workshop
- Approval Bulawayo Policy on Urban Agriculture by Council Committee
- Establishment of the Municipal Urban Agriculture Bureau



URBAN AGRICULTURE POLICY



- Inclusion of urban agriculture in the annual budget
- And in the city development and land use plan;
- Making Municipal land available to groups of poor urban households
- Making treated wastewater available to a large community garden (450 hectares; 1000 households)





- Implementation of various projects with groups of poor urban households by BUAF members, including:
 - Establishment of 22 new community gardens (World Vision)
 - Training in ecological horticulture practices (AGRITEX)



- Projects with mushroom growing, cultivation of herbs, poultry keeping (MDP and other actors)
- Strengthening of producers groups and facilitating farmers marketing (SNV)



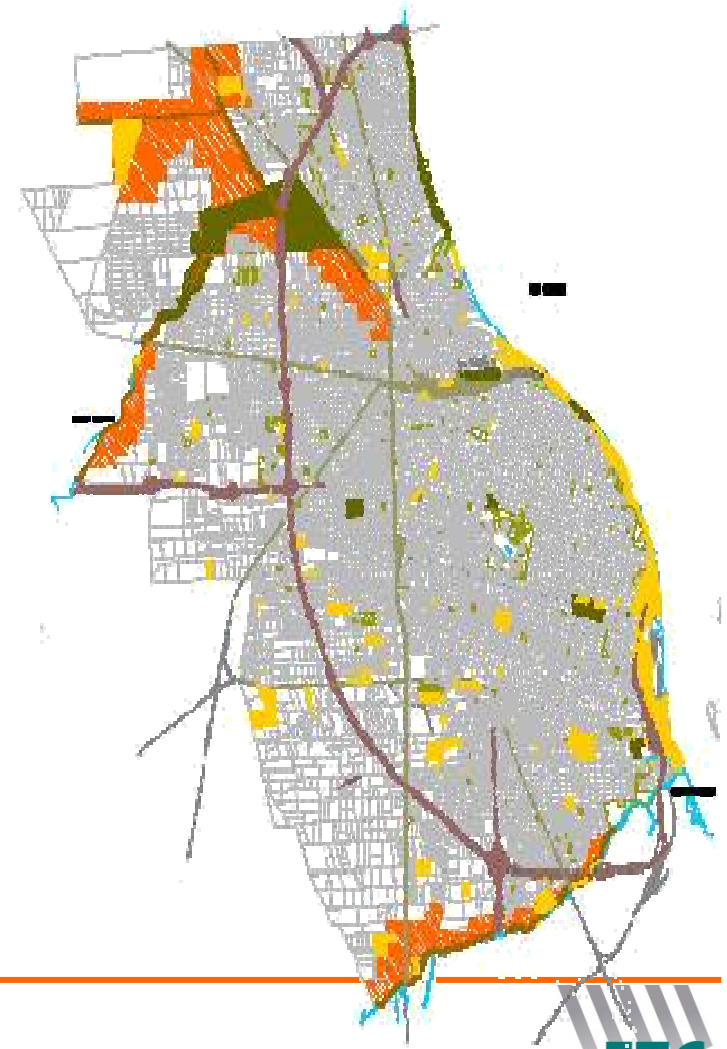
Some impacts

- Since 2005 some 5000 households got access to land and water for food production
- A high number of indirect beneficiaries (improved access to nutritious food)
- Enhanced public-private cooperation



CASE ROSARIO, Argentina

- 1 million inhabitants
- 60% poverty, 22 % extreme poverty
- End of 2000: economic crisis
- A municipal urban agriculture program was established
- How to best strengthen existing urban agriculture activities ?



The access of urban poor to land for urban agriculture is improved by:

- Mapping of vacant land
- Setting up a Land Bank
- Exemption from property tax for landowners that...
- Inclusion of UA in the urban development plan and in social housing schemes



The production is strengthened by:

- Setting up a city network of urban producer groups
- Training of producers in management and project formulation
- Technical assistance and training
- Provision of quality seed and compost



The establishment of small scale agro-industries is promoted by :

- Training in market analysis and business planning
- Providing access to old infrastructure and supporting its rehabilitation
- Facilitating access to loans (security)



Commercialization is strengthened by :

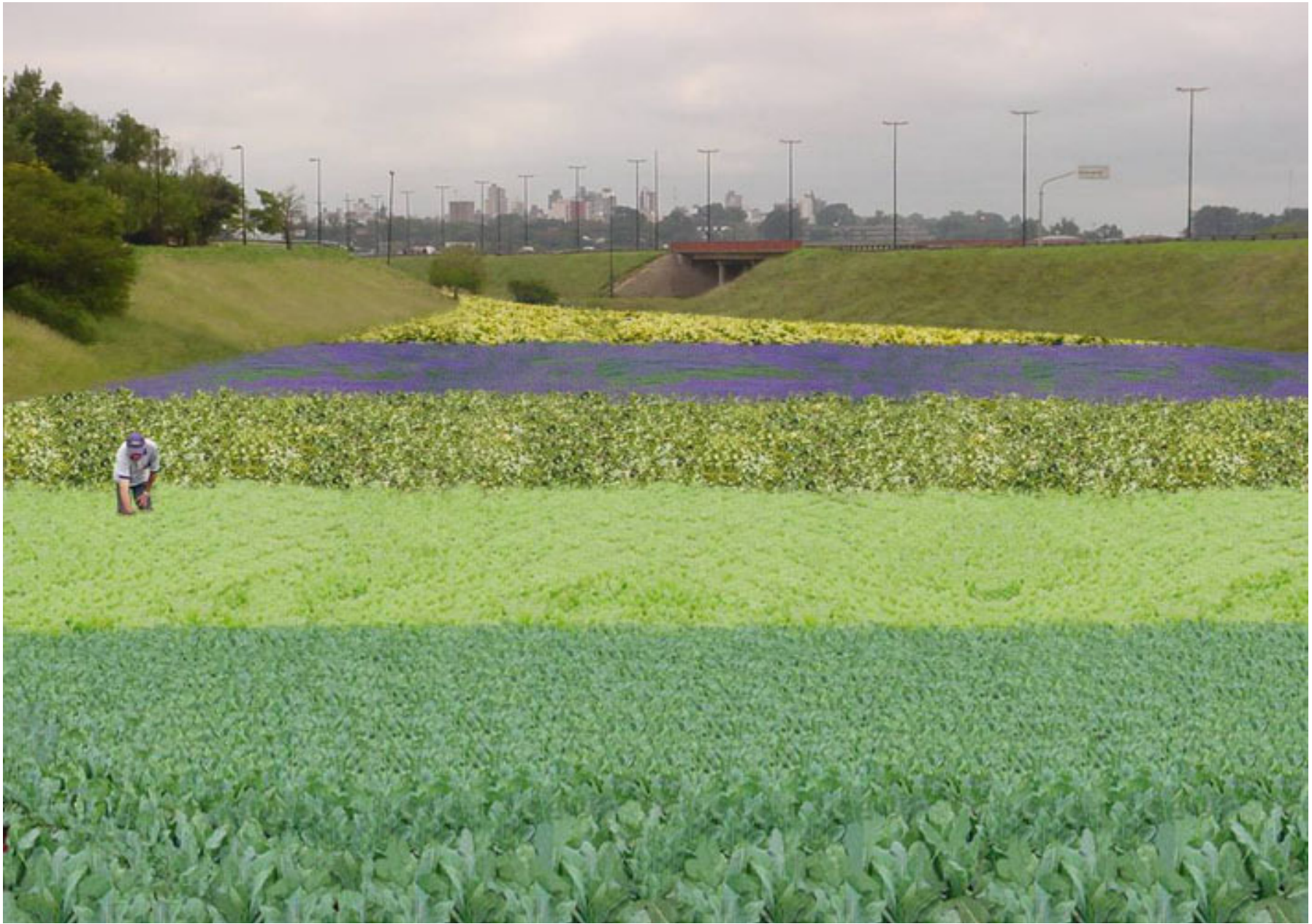
- Training on food safety and hygiene
- Product quality control
- Establishments of “farmers’ markets” and home delivery schemes



Promotion of multi-functional use of open spaces by:

- Participatory design of “productive parks” and “Productive streets”
- Promotion of multi-functional land use in flood zones (production + agro-tourism + water storage + biodiversity and landscape management)





Some impacts

- 10.000 households are participating in the program
- Their food security is secured, diets improved
- They earn an additional 90-150 US\$/ month from their agricultural activities
- Reclaimed waste lands
- Organized urban producers



Many more municipalities are undertaking policy changes and developing programmes like the two cities presented earlier.

However, many constraints to UA still exist....

1. Need for more awareness raising and policy lobbying

- How to reach a larger number of cities/countries?
- UA from a crisis response to a more permanent strategy for sustainable urban management
- UA as a strategy for more resilient cities (incl. climate change adaptation)

2. Municipal initiatives are still often hampered by lack of national support

- Lack of political, financial or technical support
- Limited authority over land and water use and rights
- Municipal mandates do not involve agriculture

3. Other frequent problems

- No permanent zoning for or protection of land (land grabbing by policy makers or industries; urban expansions planned in highly valued agricultural areas- see Dakar)
- Lack of control on (industrial) pollution of land, water and air, threatening the safety of urban food supply
- Lack of financial and technical support (and knowledge) to implement policies and plans



New challenges for policy formulation and support



1. Wider and more explicit integration of urban agriculture in (urban) food security and poverty reduction strategies at national and international level

- > need for awareness raising, lobbying, improved data collection and analysis on (impacts of) urban food production

2. Better integration of urban agriculture in urban development, land use planning, slum upgrading and social housing programmes

- > need for guidelines, technical and methodological support for different UA types
- > need for appropriate financing mechanisms
- > improved access to land and water



3. Better linking of urban and rural regional development (metropolitan agriculture)

- > stronger role of local governments in planning and preserving agricultural land areas
- > promoting multi-functional agriculture
- > understanding and promoting role UA in adaptation to climate change

4. More (co)financing of local urban agriculture initiatives by national and international sources

- > need for more innovative forms of financing UA
- > guarantee fund
- > co-financing fund for urban agriculture

4. Enhancing the training offer on urban agriculture

-> inclusion in University curricula, extension programmes

5. Integrating urban agriculture in the agenda of national research organizations

-> technology development

-> health impact assessment (water quality, air pollution) and monitoring of nutrition, economic and other benefits of UA policies and projects



6. Strengthening urban farmer groups and city networks for enhanced public participation in policy formulation, implementation and evaluation



7. Policy evaluations

- > what has been done, how and with what effects?
- > which strategies are more effective for specific policy goals?

8. More north-south exchange

- > growing interest in the North for development of food strategies and the role of urban agriculture
- > growing interest in the South for sharing and learning

**Let us work
together and
Thank you for your
attention**

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